

# Immigrating to Canada: A Guide for Immigrants & Refugees Living on Prince Edward Island

 **Justice Avenues**  
Legal Supports for Racialized Communities



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**The information in this publication is not legal advice and does not replace guidance from a lawyer.**

Justice Avenues



# Introduction

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This publication answers common questions about Canadian immigration law, criminal law, healthcare, family law, sponsorship, and employment. It is for immigrants and refugees living on Prince Edward Island, Canada.

## About Us

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[Justice Avenues](#) offers free legal support for racialized people living on PEI who are dealing with criminal, family, or immigration matters. Through this program, you can get:

- Up to 4 hours of free legal advice from a lawyer.
- Plain language legal information.
- Support navigating the justice system.
- Referrals to community services.

Justice Avenues is a program of Community Legal Information. This program is funded by Justice Canada.

[Community Legal Information](#) is a registered charity. We provide plain-language legal information, low-cost lawyer referrals, and referrals to other community services.

### Justice Avenues

- [www.justiceavenues.ca](http://www.justiceavenues.ca)
- [info@justiceavenues.ca](mailto:info@justiceavenues.ca)
- 782-772-0957 (call/text)

### Community Legal Information

- [www.legalinfopei.ca](http://www.legalinfopei.ca)
- [info@legalinfopei.ca](mailto:info@legalinfopei.ca)
- 902-892-0853



# Immigration Basics

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## What are the different types of immigration status?

A **temporary resident** is a person who has permission to stay in Canada for a limited time. A temporary resident includes someone who holds a visitor visa, Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), Temporary Resident Permit (TRP), study permit, or work permit.

A **permanent resident** is a person who is allowed to live in Canada for as long as they like.

A permanent resident has the same rights as a citizen except the right to vote or run for office.

A permanent resident may lose their status if:

- They stay outside of Canada for too long. To keep their status, a permanent resident must have been in Canada for at least 730 days of the last five years at any given time.
- They are found guilty of certain crimes. For example, violent crimes and impaired driving.

Information about permanent resident status and requirements is available on the [Government of Canada's website](#).

### Understanding permanent resident status

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/new-immigrants/pr-card/understand-pr-status.html>

A **refugee claimant** is a person who has asked Canada for protection and is waiting for the decision. A refugee claimant is also called an asylum seeker.

A **protected person** is a person who is granted Canada's protection. For example, an accepted refugee.

A **person without status** is a person who is not authorized to stay in Canada. If you are a person without status, you may be detained and removed from Canada.

## How do I apply for citizenship?

You must meet eligibility requirements, pass a citizenship test, and prove your English or French language skills.

Information about how to apply for Canadian citizenship is available on the [Government of Canada's website](#).

### Apply for Canadian citizenship

**i** <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/canadian-citizenship/become-canadian-citizen/eligibility.html>

**Understanding permanent resident status**




**Apply for citizenship**



## Where can I find information about PEI's immigration streams?

You can find information about immigrating to PEI from the [PEI Office of Immigration](#). Some of the PEI immigration streams are mentioned below.

### Office of Immigration


 <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/office-immigration>

### Atlantic Immigration Program (AIP)

The Atlantic Immigration Program (AIP) is a pathway for skilled workers and international graduates from a recognized post-secondary institution in Atlantic Canada who want to live and work in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland and Labrador.

Information about the AIP is available on the [PEI Government's website](#).

### Atlantic Immigration Program

 <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/atlantic-immigration-program>

#### Atlantic Immigration Program



#### PEI Office of Immigration



## PEI's Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)

There are three PNP streams to immigrate to PEI. They are:

1. Prince Edward Island Express Entry
  - Federal Skilled Worker
  - Federal Skilled Trades
  - Canadian Experience Class
2. Prince Edward Island Labour Impact
  - Critical Worker
  - Intermediate Experience
  - Occupations in Demand
  - Skilled Worker
  - International Graduate
3. Prince Edward Island Business Impact
  - PEI Work Permit

Each stream has a different application process and eligibility criteria.

Information about PEI's immigration streams is available on the [PEI Government's website](#).

### Office of Immigration

 [www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/office-immigration](http://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/office-immigration)

## What support services are available to people who want to immigrate to PEI?

For a list of support services, see page 35. Services include free legal advice programs, settlement services, and more.



# Removal Orders

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## What is a removal order?


A **removal order** is a notice that you are legally required to leave Canada. The Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) or the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) may issue a removal order for many reasons, including criminal offences, violations of immigration laws or regulations, etc. If you don't follow a removal order, you could be deported.

There are three types of removal orders:

- Departure order
- Exclusion order
- Deportation order

Detailed information about removal orders is available on the [Canadian Border Services Agency's website](#).

### Removal from Canada

 <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/security-securite/rem-ren-eng.html>

## Can I appeal a removal order?

Yes, in most cases.

Removal orders are usually time sensitive. If you get a removal order, talk to a lawyer as soon as possible to learn about your options.

After you appeal a removal order:

- The removal order may be cancelled, and you may be allowed to stay in Canada.
- Your appeal may be dismissed, and you may have to leave.
- You may get a stay of removal. A **stay of removal** means the removal order is suspended for a certain period of time. You must follow certain conditions during this time.

You may not be allowed to appeal a removal order if you were convicted of a serious crime. A **serious crime** is a crime that is considered severe under the [\*Immigration and Refugee Protection Act\*](#). Violent crimes and impaired driving are examples of serious crimes.

**Impaired driving** means driving while your ability to do so has been affected by drugs, alcohol, or both.

Removal from Canada



# Can I make a refugee claim while in Canada?

It depends. In some cases, you may have the right to make a refugee claim while in Canada.

Get legal advice before making a refugee claim. Advice from a lawyer can help you understand:

- If you are [eligible for refugee status](#).
- The risks and benefits of making a refugee claim.

Making a refugee claim can impact other immigration programs you may be eligible for.

If you are an international student or worker in Canada and make a refugee claim, it could impact your ability to work and/or study. It is always important to seek guidance from a professional first, especially in this situation.

A lawyer can help you prepare for your refugee hearing and represent you during the hearing. They can help you understand the consequences if your claim is refused.

Information about eligibility for refugee status is available on the [Government of Canada's website](#).

## Claim refugee status from inside Canada

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/claim-protection-inside-canada/eligibility.html>

### Claim refugee status from inside Canada



### NB Refugee Clinic



### Halifax Refugee Clinic



### Justice Avenues



### Community Legal Information



## What if I cannot hire a lawyer?

You have options even if you do not have a lawyer.

The [New Brunswick Refugee Clinic](#) and the [Halifax Refugee Clinic](#) support people living on PEI. They provide free English and French legal services to refugee claimants who cannot afford a private lawyer.

[Justice Avenues](#) offers free legal support for racialized people living on PEI and dealing with criminal, family, or immigration matters.

[Community Legal Information](#) provides free legal information and a lawyer referral service.

### **New Brunswick Refugee Clinic**

- <https://nbrc-crn.ca/>
- [info@nbrc-crn.ca](mailto:info@nbrc-crn.ca)
- 506-204-5781

### **Halifax Refugee Clinic**

- [www.halifaxrefugeeclinic.org](http://www.halifaxrefugeeclinic.org)
- [halifaxrefugeeclinic@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxrefugeeclinic@gmail.com)
- 902-422-6736

### **Justice Avenues**

- [www.justiceavenues.ca](http://www.justiceavenues.ca)
- [info@justiceavenues.ca](mailto:info@justiceavenues.ca)
- 782-772-0957 (call/text)

### **Community Legal Information**

- [www.legalinfopei.ca](http://www.legalinfopei.ca)
- [info@legalinfopei.ca](mailto:info@legalinfopei.ca)
- 902-892-0853

## How do I prepare to meet with a lawyer?

Tips to prepare for your meeting:

- Make a list of important questions you want to ask the lawyer during your meeting.
- Make a list of all relevant information and evidence.

Tips for the meeting:

- If you do not understand something, ask the lawyer to explain it.
- Ask the lawyer what the options are for working with them. How much do they charge? Do they have a payment plan for representation?

## Where can I find more information?

For more information, see these resources:

### **Guide to claim refugee status (Government of Canada)**

- [i https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/claim-protection-inside-canada.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/claim-protection-inside-canada.html)

### **Claimant's Kit (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada)**

- [i https://irb.gc.ca/en/refugee-claims/Pages/ClaDemKitTro.aspx](https://irb.gc.ca/en/refugee-claims/Pages/ClaDemKitTro.aspx)

### **Removals process guide (Romero House)**

- [i https://romerohouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Know-your-rights.pdf](https://romerohouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Know-your-rights.pdf)

# Criminal Law

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## What if I am charged with a crime?

If you are charged with a crime, the police will investigate and look for evidence to prove that you are guilty of the crime or not. Most immigration processes are suspended during this time. Get legal advice as soon as possible.

## What if I am convicted of a crime?

If you are convicted of a crime, you may get a removal order. It depends on the type of crime and your immigration status.

## What if I get a removal order for a criminal conviction?

Get legal advice as soon as possible.

In some cases, you may be able to appeal the removal order. In other cases, there may be other options to stay in Canada. Your options depend on many factors, including your immigration status and the type of crime.

[Guide to claim refugee status](#)



[Claimant's kit](#)



[Removal process guide](#)



## What if I am the victim of a crime?

In most cases, reporting a crime will not impact your immigration process.

If you're experiencing family violence or abuse, there are special rules to help you.

You can apply for a Temporary Resident Permit (TRP) based on these rules if all of the following are true:

- You have applied or want to apply for status in Canada.
- You are being abused by your spouse, or you've been depending on your relationship with your spouse for your application to be successful.

This is a process meant to protect family violence victims who are in situations where their immigration status depends on them staying in an abusive relationship.

Get legal advice to find out if you're eligible and if you should apply for a Temporary Resident Permit.

If you are the victim of a crime, you may choose to report the crime to the police. You can report a crime by contacting your local police or RCMP office. If you are in an emergency, call 911.

### **Municipal Police**

- ☎ Charlottetown: 902-629-4172
- ☎ Summerside: 902-432-1201
- ☎ Kensington: 902-836-4499

### **RCMP**

- ☎ Queens: 902-368-9300
- ☎ East Prince: 902-436-9300
- ☎ West Prince: 902-853-9300
- ☎ Montague: 902-838-9300
- ☎ Souris: 902-687-9300

## Victim Services

[Victim Services](#) is a free and confidential provincial program that can support you during the criminal justice process. Victim Services can support you at any point, even if charges have not been laid or if you do not want to report to the police. Victim Services can connect you with other parts of the criminal justice system, including the police and the Crown Attorney. Victim Services works with victims of all genders.

Victim Services provides:

- General information about the criminal justice system.
- Information about your case.
- Safety planning.
- Court preparation and court accompaniment.
- Help write your victim impact statement.
- Referrals to other community organizations and agencies.
- Emotional support and short-term counselling throughout the process.

Victim Services does not provide legal advice.

### Victim Services – Charlottetown office

- ✉ [victimservicescharlottetown@gov.pe.ca](mailto:victimservicescharlottetown@gov.pe.ca)
- ☎ 902-368-4582

### Victim Services – Summerside office

- ✉ [victimservicessummerside@gov.pe.ca](mailto:victimservicessummerside@gov.pe.ca)
- ☎ 902-888-8218



# Detention

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## What is immigration detention?

**Immigration detention** is when a person is held by authorities for immigration reasons. You may be detained when you haven't committed a crime. If you are detained, you will be held in an immigration holding center or a provincial detention facility.

You may be detained if:

- You are charged with a crime and officials think you will try to run away.
- You are found guilty of a crime.
- You did not comply with immigration requirements, including attending all immigration processes.
- Your identity is questioned.
- You have links to organized crime or human trafficking.
- You are considered a danger to the public for any reason.

## What should I do if I am detained?

Get advice from a lawyer immediately. Make sure you understand your legal rights and options.

# Healthcare

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## Can I access PEI's Provincial Healthcare System?

You may access PEI's Provincial Healthcare System if:

- You have proof of legal status in Canada and plan to stay in PEI for at least six months.
- You are an international student, enrolled full-time at your designated learning institution, and legally able to work off-campus, as shown on your study permit.

To access the PEI Provincial Healthcare System, you must apply for a PEI Health Card. You can apply for a PEI Health Card as soon as you get to PEI.

To apply for a Health Card as a temporary resident, you must show proof of legal status in Canada and proof of intent to stay in PEI for at least six months.

Proof of legal status may include your:

- Permanent Resident Card
- Study Permit
- Work Permit

Proof of intent to stay in PEI for at least six months may include:

- An employment contract
- A signed rental agreement
- Proof of enrollment in school

Once you have a PEI Health Card, you are entitled to all services covered by Health PEI, including:

- Walk-in clinics
- Family doctor visits
- All medically necessary hospital services
- Other basic healthcare services

If you have children and/or a spouse, you can include them in your Health Card application.

While Canada is known to provide free healthcare, it is only free to those who have a provincial health card. Without a health card, accessing health services can be expensive. If you have health insurance, make sure that you are familiar with your coverage, what it includes, and how to access it.

More information is available on the [PEI Government's website](#).

## **What happens when my health card expires?**

You must apply for a new health card before the old one expires. There may be consequences if you try to access health services without a valid health card or insurance coverage. More information is available on the [PEI Government's website](#).

### **PEI Health Card**



### **PEI Health Card**

- <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pe/pei-health-card>

## Can I access private health insurance?

You can apply for private health insurance when you have a PEI Health Card. Private health insurance covers more than the basic services covered by Health PEI.

Some PEI employers provide private health insurance to their employees.

Educational institutions provide additional health insurance to students. If you are an international student, your educational institution may require you to have additional health insurance. Fees for additional health insurance are often part of student fees.

Health insurance for international students often provides extended health coverage for services that the PEI Health Card provides for free. Once you have received a PEI health card, you can choose to opt out of extended health coverage, if eligible, which may save you money. Your institution may require that you continue to have some insurance coverage for some health services that the PEI Health Card does not cover.

You must still apply for a PEI Health Card if you are a student.



## Is my use of provincial healthcare limited?

It depends on your immigration status. If you are a permanent resident, your use of provincial healthcare is not limited. If you have a work permit or a study permit, you may need to be more careful. You should be especially careful if you are between statuses. For example, when you are waiting for status approval.

Anyone can access health care services and should access them, as required. For those in Canada with temporary status, it's important to know that Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) reviews immigration applications for medical inadmissibility.

**Medical inadmissibility** means that if someone is found to be a danger to public health, public safety, or is overusing health or social supports to a level that impacts others, it could affect their immigration.

If found to be medically inadmissible to Canada, you could have your application refused or face deportation. If you are concerned about your medical admissibility, get legal advice as soon as possible.

No matter what your status is, it is important to make sure you have a valid health card if you are eligible. There may be consequences if you try to access health services without a valid health card. If you do not have a valid PEI Health Card, you will be billed for hospital and physician services, which can be expensive.

## **Can I receive medical care without my consent?**

There are situations where you may receive medical care without your consent. For example, if you:

- Are unconscious and someone calls an ambulance.
- Have a mental health crisis and the police bring you to the hospital without your consent.

If the police bring you to the hospital without your consent for a mental health crisis, the hospital can conduct a psychiatric assessment.

The police must inform you about:

- Where you are being detained,
- The reason for your detention, and
- Your rights. This includes your right to see a lawyer and get legal advice.

If police bring you to the hospital without your consent, they mark it as an arrest. There will be a police record listing the details of your arrest.

If you have been arrested, talk to a lawyer when you plan to do an immigration application.

# Family Law

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This section answers common questions about immigration and family law issues. For more context and detail, read Community Legal Information's publication [\*Family Law Essentials\*](#).

## What is family violence?

**Family violence** is any violence by one family member against another.

Family violence can include:

- Hitting, punching, scratching, biting.
- Threatening injury or property damage.
- Forcing someone to stay in a room.
- Sexual activity without consent.
- Emotional abuse.
- Depriving food, clothing, medical attention, shelter, transportation, or other necessities of life.

Anyone of any gender or age can be a victim of family violence.

**Intimate partner violence** is violence or abuse in a romantic relationship. Intimate partner violence is a type of family violence.

**Family Violence  
Prevention Services**



## Family Violence Prevention Services (FVPS)

You may wish to contact Anderson House Emergency Shelter or an outreach worker with [Family Violence Prevention Services](#) (FVPS). Anderson House can be reached 24 hours a day. FVPS staff can be reached Monday to Friday between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. Although men cannot stay in the shelter, FVPS staff can provide outreach services, referrals, and other assistance to men.

### Anderson House

- ☎ 1-800-240-9894 (toll-free)
- ☎ 902-892-0960 (Charlottetown)

### Family Violence Prevention Services

- 📄 [www.fvps.ca](http://www.fvps.ca) (chat available)
- ☎ West Prince: 902-859-8849
- ☎ East Prince: 902-436-0517
- ☎ Eastern PEI: 902-838-4600, ext. 23
- ☎ Queens: 902-566-1480 ext. 224

For more information, read Community Legal Information's publication, [Family Violence and the Law](#).

## If I am not a citizen, can I use the family courts on PEI?

Yes. Immigrants have the right to use Canadian courts to deal with family law issues.

You can still apply for spousal support if you separate from your spouse during your immigration process.



## **I married in another country or province. Can I get divorced on PEI?**

Yes, you can get divorced on PEI if:

- Your marriage is valid on PEI, and
- You or your spouse have lived on PEI for at least 12 months (one year).

If you married in another country, that country may not recognize your Canadian divorce.

## **I divorced in another country or province. Is my divorce valid on PEI?**

Yes. Your divorce is valid on PEI if you or your spouse lived in that country or province for one year or more before you divorced.

More information about separation and divorce is in CLI's publication [\*Family Law Essentials\*](#).

# Sponsorship

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This section applies only if your sponsorship is already approved. It does not apply to anyone who is waiting for their sponsorship to be approved.

## **What are my rights if my sponsor fails to support me?**

A **sponsor** is a person responsible for supporting you during part of your immigration process.

If you are a permanent resident, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will not take any action against you if your sponsor fails to support you. You will not be deported. Talk to an immigration lawyer for legal advice.

## **Can my sponsor make me leave Canada?**

Your spouse, partner, or sponsor cannot make you leave Canada. Only Canadian immigration officials can order you to leave the country. This can only happen after an immigration hearing takes place. You will not get a removal order just because your sponsor wants you to leave.

Get legal advice if your sponsor is threatening you.

## **What if my spouse is my sponsor and we separate or divorce?**

If your spouse is your sponsor, you still have the right to end your relationship.

If you are a permanent resident, immigration officials will not ask you to leave Canada if you separate from your spouse. The only exception is if immigration officials think the marriage was not genuine. This usually means that immigration officials think you got married only for immigration reasons.

Your sponsor was required to sign a sponsorship undertaking. This means that your sponsor must continue to support you for three years. Separation or divorce does not change this commitment.

## **What if my sponsor is deported for a crime?**

Your immigration status is separate from a sponsor's deportation. Make sure you stay up to date with your immigration steps.

## **What if I'm not a permanent resident and I leave my spouse?**

Get advice from an immigration lawyer about how a change in your marital status may affect your right to stay in Canada.

# Employment

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## **What is the difference between an open and a closed work permit?**

An **open work permit** allows you to work for any employer and in any position for a specified period.

A **closed work permit** allows you to only work for one employer in one position for a specified period. To apply for a closed work permit, you must already have an offer of employment from an employer in Canada.

## **Is it legal for my employer to take my passport or identity documents?**

No, it is illegal for your employer to take your passport or other identity documents from you.

## Can my employer deport me?

No, your employer cannot deport you. Threats or intimidation from your employer are abuse.

File a complaint with [Employment Standards](#), [PEI Office of Immigration](#) and/or use the [Reporting Abuse Tool](#) by Employment and Social Development Canada if your employer threatens you with deportation. Contact Employment Standards for more information or to file a complaint.

This could also be grounds for a human rights complaint. Contact the [PEI Human Rights Commission](#) for more information or to file a complaint.

### Employment Standards Complaint

- <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/file-formal-complaint-under-pe-i-employment-standards-act-non-union>
- 1-800-333-4362

### PEI Office of Immigration

- [immigratepei@gov.pe.ca](mailto:immigratepei@gov.pe.ca)
- 902-620-3628

### PEI Human Rights Commission

- [www.peihumanrights.ca](http://www.peihumanrights.ca)
- [contact@peihumanrights.ca](mailto:contact@peihumanrights.ca)
- 902-368-4180

### Reporting Abuse Tool

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/foreign-workers/report-abuse/tool.html>

## What if my employer fires me?


Your employer is not allowed to fire you because you:


- Complained about health and safety violations.
- Refused to do unsafe work.
- Reported them to [Employment Standards](#).

If you were fired for these reasons, file a complaint with Employment Standards.


Options and supports may be available in other situations too. For more information, call the free Temporary Foreign Workers Association Hotline.

### Employment Standards Complaint

 <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/file-formal-complaint-under-pe-i-employment-standards-act-non-union>

 1-800-333-4362

### Temporary Foreign Workers Association Hotline

 1-888-366-0194

## I'm a migrant worker. Where can I get more information about my rights?

The [Cooper Institute](#) provides guides that explain key issues that affect migrant workers. The guides are available in English, Spanish, and Simplified Chinese.

### Guides For Migrant Workers: Living and Working in PEI

 <https://www.cooperinstitute.ca/Migrant-Workers>

### Employment Standards Complaint



### Human Rights Commission



### Reporting Abuse Tool



### Guides for Migrant Workers



## What is workplace sexual harassment?

**Workplace sexual harassment** is unwanted sexual comments or behaviour at work or at work-related functions.

For example:

- Requests to perform sexual acts in exchange for a benefit or reward.
- Instruction to wear sexy clothing.
- Unwanted sexual jokes or comments.
- Unwanted attention about your body or appearance.
- Discussions about your sexuality, sex life, or relationships without your permission.
- Exclusion or poor treatment because of your sex, gender, or sexuality.
- Unwanted sexual advances. For example, sexual gestures or being asked out repeatedly.
- Unwanted physical contact. For example, someone rubbing your shoulders.
- Sexual content shared with you without consent. For example, pornography.

## What if I experience workplace sexual harassment?

**RISE Program**



[RISE](#) offers free legal support for victims of sexual or intimate partner violence, and workplace sexual harassment.

You can get:

- Up to four hours of free legal advice from a lawyer.
- Plain language legal information.
- Support navigating the justice system.
- Referrals to other community services.

For more information, read the RISE Program's publication [\*Addressing Workplace Sexual Harassment: A Guide for Employees\*](#) or contact the RISE Program.

### **RISE Program**

-  [www.risepei.com](http://www.risepei.com)
-  [rise@legalinfopei.ca](mailto:rise@legalinfopei.ca)
-  902-218-6143 (call/text)

## **What if I am accused of workplace sexual harassment?**

If you are accused of workplace sexual harassment:

- Learn about the impacts of workplace sexual harassment.
- Review your employer's process for resolving workplace sexual harassment.

Workplace sexual harassment is not always a crime. Sometimes, the workplace resolves workplace sexual harassment. In some cases, the person you harmed may decide to take you to court for a civil trial. This means they are seeking money to compensate for the harm you caused.

Sometimes workplace sexual harassment is a crime. When a person reports a crime, police investigate. This starts a criminal process.

You have the right to legal representation for a civil or criminal process. You may also be eligible for support services.

[Legal Aid](#) provides free legal advice and representation to youth and adults who live on a low income. Call Legal Aid to see if you are eligible.

[Justice Avenues](#) offers free legal support for people who are racialized, living on PEI, and dealing with criminal, family, or immigration matters.

[Community Legal Information](#) provides free legal information and a lawyer referral service.

### **Legal Aid**

- <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/justice-and-public-safety/legal-aid>
- 902-368-6043 (Charlottetown)
- 902-888-8219 (Summerside)

### **Justice Avenues**

- [www.justiceavenues.ca](http://www.justiceavenues.ca)
- [info@justiceavenues.ca](mailto:info@justiceavenues.ca)
- 782-772-0957 (call/text)

### **Community Legal Information**

- [www.legalinfopei.ca](http://www.legalinfopei.ca)
- [info@legalinfopei.ca](mailto:info@legalinfopei.ca)
- 902-892-0853 or 1-800-240-9798 (toll-free)

# Glossary

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## **Closed work permit**

Allows you to work for only one employer in one position for a specified period.

## **Family violence**

Any violence by one family member against another.

## **Immigration detention**

When a person is held by authorities for immigration reasons.

## **Impaired driving**

Driving while your ability to do so has been affected by drugs, alcohol, or both.

## **Intimate partner violence**

Violence or abuse in a romantic relationship. Intimate partner violence is a type of family violence.

## **Medical inadmissibility**

Someone is medically inadmissible if they are found to be a danger to public health, public safety, or is overusing health or social supports to a level that impacts others. This could affect their immigration.

## **Open work permit**

Allows you to work for any employer and in any position for a specified period.

## **Permanent resident**

A person who is allowed to live in Canada for as long as they like.

[Legal Aid](#)



[Justice Avenues](#)



[Community Legal Information](#)



**Person without status**

A person who is not authorized to stay in Canada.

**Protected person**

A person who is granted Canada's protection. For example, an accepted refugee.

**Refugee claimant**

A person who has asked Canada for protection and is waiting for the decision. A refugee claimant is also called an asylum seeker.

**Removal order**

A notice that you are legally required to leave Canada.

**Serious crime**

A crime that is considered severe under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. Violent crimes and impaired driving are examples of serious crimes.

**Sponsor**

A person responsible for supporting you during part of your immigration process.

**Stay of removal**

The suspension of a removal order for a certain period of time.

**Temporary resident**

A person who has permission to stay in Canada for a limited time.

**Workplace sexual harassment**

Unwanted sexual comments or behaviour at work or at work-related functions.

# Support Services

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## Legal Services

### Community Legal Information

-  [www.legalinfopei.ca](http://www.legalinfopei.ca)
-  [info@legalinfopei.ca](mailto:info@legalinfopei.ca)
-  902-892-0853




We provide legal information, referrals, publications about legal topics in English and French, public speakers, and presentations on legal topics. This is a free, confidential service. We also offer the Lawyer Referral Service, which provides a short consultation with a lawyer for a small fee.

### Justice Avenues

-  [www.justiceavenues.ca](http://www.justiceavenues.ca)
-  [info@justiceavenues.ca](mailto:info@justiceavenues.ca)
-  782-772-0957 (call/text)

Offers free legal support for racialized people living on PEI who are dealing with criminal, family, or immigration matters. Justice Avenues is a program of Community Legal Information.

### New Brunswick Refugee Clinic

-  <https://nbrc-crn.ca/>
-  [info@nbrc-crn.ca](mailto:info@nbrc-crn.ca)
-  506-204-5781

Free English and French legal services to refugee claimants who cannot afford a private lawyer. The New Brunswick Refugee Clinic will support people living on PEI.

### **Halifax Refugee Clinic**

- [www.halifaxrefugeeclinic.org](http://www.halifaxrefugeeclinic.org)
- [halifaxrefugeeclinic@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxrefugeeclinic@gmail.com)
- 902-422-6736

Free education, legal, and settlement services to refugee claimants who cannot afford a private lawyer. The Halifax Refugee Clinic will support people living on PEI.

### **Legal Aid**

- <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/justice-and-public-safety/legal-aid>

Legal Aid provides free legal representation for some family law and criminal issues. There are criteria that you must meet to qualify for this service.

### **PEI Family Legal Aid**

- Charlottetown: 902-368-6656
- Summerside: 902-888-8066

### **PEI Criminal Legal Aid**

- Charlottetown: 902-368-6043
- Summerside: 902-888-8219


### **Victim Services**

- <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/justice-and-public-safety/victim-services>

Helps victims of crime on PEI or those who have experienced a crime on PEI navigate the criminal justice system.


### **Victim Services – Charlottetown office**

 [victimservicescharlottetown@gov.pe.ca](mailto:victimservicescharlottetown@gov.pe.ca)

 902-368-4582

### **Victim Services – Summerside office**


 [victimservicessummerside@gov.pe.ca](mailto:victimservicessummerside@gov.pe.ca)

 902-888-8218

## **Settlement Services**

### **Immigrant and Refugee Services Association PEI (IRSAPEI)**


 [www.irsapei.ca](http://www.irsapei.ca)


 902-628-6009


Provides short-term settlement services, and long-term inclusion and community integration programs for new immigrants on Prince Edward Island.

### **PEI Community Navigators**

 [www.peicommunitynavigators.com](http://www.peicommunitynavigators.com)

 Western PEI: 902-853-3636

 Central PEI: 902-853-3636


 Eastern PEI: 902-969-5989

Help and support newcomers settling in rural PEI.

### **La Coopérative d'intégration francophone de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard (CIF)**

 <https://tonile.ca/fr/>




 [services@cifipe.ca](mailto:services@cifipe.ca)

 1-888-954-5888

CIF provides programs and services that help Francophone newcomers settle and get involved in Prince Edward Island.

# Advocacy

## **BIPOC USHR**

-  [www.bipocushr.org](http://www.bipocushr.org)
-  [connect@bipocushr.org](mailto:connect@bipocushr.org)
-  902-892-5681 (call/text)


Provides a network, community, forum, and collective voice of solidarity for the BIPOC communities on PEI. BIPOC USHR engages in educational, advocacy, and supportive practices.

## **Prince Edward Island Members of Parliament**

-  [www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search?province=PE](http://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search?province=PE)

PEI Members of Parliament (MPs) can provide support and advocacy for any person living within their constituency. MPs provide support on a case-by-case basis. Contact your MP's office to ask them for support.

## **Cooper Institute**

-  [www.cooperinstitute.ca](http://www.cooperinstitute.ca)
-  [ann@cooperinstitute.ca](mailto:ann@cooperinstitute.ca)
-  902-894-4573

Provide a network, community, engagement, and education on the impacts of Canadian migrant workers programs, and the barriers to human rights faced by the migrant workers living and working on PEI.




### **Black Cultural Society**

-  [www.bcspei.ca](http://www.bcspei.ca)
-  [info@bcspei.ca](mailto:info@bcspei.ca)
-  902-367-3390




Serve, uplift, advocate for resources, and provide services to protect and strengthen the development of PEI's Black community.

### **Other Services**

#### **Holland College International Student Services**




-  [www.hollandcollege.com/admissions/International/](http://www.hollandcollege.com/admissions/International/)
-  [international@hollandcollege.com](mailto:international@hollandcollege.com)
-  1-800-446-5265

#### **UPEI International Student Office**

-  [www.upei.ca/international-students/iso](http://www.upei.ca/international-students/iso)
-  [irostu@upei.ca](mailto:irostu@upei.ca)
-  902-566-0576

Provides a variety of services for international students at UPEI, including immigration services, assistance with study permits, and other support.

#### **PEI Office of Immigration**

-  [www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/office-immigration](http://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/office-immigration)
-  [immigratepei@gov.pe.ca](mailto:immigratepei@gov.pe.ca)
-  902-620-3628

Provides information about PEI's immigration programs for current and prospective immigrants, and sponsors and employers.





# More Resources

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Community Legal Information also offers these publications:

- [\*Parenting and the Law\*](#)
- [\*Family Law Essentials\*](#)
- [\*Family Violence and the Law\*](#)
- [\*Resolving Conflict Outside of Court\*](#)
- [\*Court Orders for Your Protection\*](#)
- [\*How to Go to Family Court Without a Lawyer\*](#)
- [\*A Parenting Plan for PEI Families\*](#)
- [\*Criminal Trial Procedure\*](#)
- [\*Sentencing\*](#)


We also have publications on other legal topics. All publications are free and can be found on our website.

Contact us for paper copies.

## **Community Legal Information**

 [www.legalinfopei.ca](http://www.legalinfopei.ca)

 [info@legalinfopei.ca](mailto:info@legalinfopei.ca)

 902-892-0853

**Community Legal  
Information**





Justice Avenues is a program of Community Legal Information. Community Legal Information is a charitable organization that receives funding from Justice Canada, the Law Foundation of PEI, the Law Society of PEI, the PEI Department of Justice and Public Safety, and other sources.

Community Legal Information provides Islanders with understandable and useful information about the law and the justice system in Prince Edward Island.

For more information on other legal topics, visit [www.legalinfopei.ca](http://www.legalinfopei.ca), email us at [info@legalinfopei.ca](mailto:info@legalinfopei.ca), or call us at **902-892-0853** or **1-800-240-9798**. You can also find us on social media.

Donate to support our work at [www.legalinfopei.ca/donate](http://www.legalinfopei.ca/donate).

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