

# Mobility: immigration alert

April 2020

## Canada

### Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) processing fees increase for Permanent Residency applications

#### Executive summary

On 30 April 2020, at 9:00 AM EDT, IRCC is increasing the processing fees for foreign nationals seeking to become permanent residents.

Permanent resident processing fees for economic class applications will increase as follows:

- ▶ Fees for principal applicants of the Economic business class (including self-employed, start-up visa, Quebec investor, Quebec entrepreneur, and Quebec self-employed) will increase from \$1,050 to \$1,575 (an increase of 50%);
- ▶ Fees for principal applicants of other Economic processing classes (for example, Skilled Worker or Canada Experience categories) will go from \$550 to \$825 (an increase of 50%). This increase will not apply to fees for principal applicants and their families in the Caregivers programs, which will remain unchanged;
- ▶ Fees for spouses or common-law partners of all Economic classes will go from \$550 to \$825 (an increase of 50%);
- ▶ Fees for dependent children of all Economic classes will go from \$150 to \$225 (an increase of 50%); and
- ▶ The right of permanent resident fee will increase from \$490 to \$500 (an increase of 2%).

Completed applications received before 09:00 am EDT on 30 April 2020, will be processed in accordance with the fee schedule in place prior to 30 April 2020.

Applications received on or after this date and time, will be processed in accordance with the new fee schedule. Evidence of the correct fee payment will need to be included in any application for a permanent resident program submitted to IRCC.

IRCC states that as the number of permanent residency applications and admissions grow, so do costs and expenses. Further, as Permanent Residency fees have not increased since 2002, IRCC claims that these fees are no longer commensurate with the total cost of managing and implementing permanent residence programs. IRCC also claims that as a result of inflation over the past 18 years, fees have lost 34% of their value and total fees collected from Permanent Resident applicants now cover roughly 35% of the total costs of services provided.

Fees are expected to increase again in 2022, in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.

IRCC will not increase fees for permanent resident cards, permanent resident travel documents and certification or replacement immigration documents.



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**George Reis, Managing Partner**  
+1 416 943 2535  
[george.reis@ca.ey.com](mailto:george.reis@ca.ey.com)

**Alex Israel, Partner**  
+1 416 943 2698  
[alex.d.israel@ca.ey.com](mailto:alex.d.israel@ca.ey.com)

**Batia Stein, Partner**  
+1 416 943 3593  
[batia.j.stein@ca.ey.com](mailto:batia.j.stein@ca.ey.com)

**Christopher Gordon, Partner**  
+1 416 943 2544  
[christopher.d.gordon@ca.ey.com](mailto:christopher.d.gordon@ca.ey.com)

**Roxanne Israel, Partner**  
+1 403 206 5086  
[roxanne.n.israel@ca.ey.com](mailto:roxanne.n.israel@ca.ey.com)

**Jonathan Leebosh, Partner**  
+1 604 899 3560  
[jonathan.e.leebosh@ca.ey.com](mailto:jonathan.e.leebosh@ca.ey.com)