

# Mobility: Immigration alert

March 2023

## Canada

### New federal permanent residence program

#### Executive summary

On 27 March 2023, Immigration Minister Sean Fraser announced a new federal immigration pathway that will be made available under the federal Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP).

#### Background

Recognizing that there are qualified workers living as refugees or in countries of asylum, in 2018, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced the creation of the EMPP, which is a program aimed at combining refugee settlement and economic immigration. It is a pathway that helps skilled refugees immigrate to Canada through existing economic programs, while giving employers access to a new pool of qualified candidates to fill job openings.

Currently, through the EMPP, IRCC assists convention or country of asylum refugees applying through the following economic immigration programs: the Atlantic Immigration Program, the Provincial Nominee Program, and the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot. Through the EMPP, IRCC facilitates the permanent residence application process, including waiving application fees, providing loans to meet financial requirements, as well as reviewing and processing applications in 6 months or less in most cases.

#### Key Developments

With this latest announcement, the Government of Canada has expanded the possible pathways for refugees to qualify for

becoming a Canadian permanent resident under the EMPP. The new pathway will support both refugees and displaced persons and will allow Canada to accept a target goal of 2,000 eligible refugees and other displaced people in the coming years under the EMPP. Key updates of this new program are as follows:

- ▶ Launching in Summer 2023
- ▶ Employers will now have the opportunity to address shortages for in-demand jobs such as nurse aids, construction workers, personal support workers, long-term care aids, software engineers, web designers, mechanical and electrical engineers and technicians, teachers, tourism and hospitality workers, and truck and delivery service drivers
- ▶ Simpler and quicker procedure, with majority of applications to be approved within 6 months
- ▶ Eligibility expanded to include both refugees, as well as other displaced individuals who require international protection and lack a long-term solution (Details on which displaced populations this applies to have not been announced as of yet)
- ▶ All roles under National Occupation Classification 2021 category TEER 0-5 will qualify under the new pathway

Additional details on the new federal pathway, including eligibility requirements, will be made available in the upcoming weeks.



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## Impact on employers

Canadian employers will have an expanded pool of talent from which to draw to fill their needs. Canada continues to be a global leader in refugee resettlement and labor mobility. The Canadian government continues to acknowledge the labor shortages evidenced in various sectors across the country, while simultaneously supporting the resettlement of refugees and now displaced populations in Canada. Additional details to be announced in the coming weeks.

## Key steps

Should you have any questions with respect to these extended measures, please do not hesitate to contact your EY Law LLP professional.

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[ey.com/en\\_ca](https://ey.com/en_ca)

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

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

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

**Marwah Serag, Partner**  
+1 416 943 2944  
[marwah.serag@ca.ey.com](mailto:marwah.serag@ca.ey.com)

**Author: Kiren Saini, Manager**  
+1 416 943 3034  
[kiren.saini@ca.ey.com](mailto:kiren.saini@ca.ey.com)

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

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

**Nadia Allibhai, Partner**  
+1 613 598 4866  
[nadia.allibhai@ca.ey.com](mailto:nadia.allibhai@ca.ey.com)

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