

ARE YOU INADMISSIBLE TO CANADA?

What it means to be “inadmissible”

Some people aren’t allowed to come to Canada. They’re “inadmissible” under [Canada’s immigration law](#).

A Canadian immigration officer will decide if you can enter Canada when you:

- apply for a visitor visa (TRV) or an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) or
- when you arrive at a port of entry.

There are different [reasons you may not be let into Canada](#), such as security, criminal or medical reasons.

If you’re inadmissible to Canada

Normally, if you’re inadmissible to Canada, you won’t be allowed to enter the country. If you have a valid reason to travel to Canada that is justified in the circumstances, you may be issued a [Temporary Resident Permit](#).

If you’ve committed or been convicted of a crime, you have a few options to [overcome your criminal inadmissibility](#).

Penalties for driving while impaired

If you **drive while impaired** by alcohol or drugs, including cannabis, you may be inadmissible for **serious criminality**. This means:

- you won’t be able to enter or stay in Canada unless you are issued a [temporary resident permit](#)
- you’ll have to pay the CAD \$200.00 processing fee for the permit and there’s no guarantee you’ll be allowed to enter or stay in the country

Why you could be found inadmissible

If you're found inadmissible, you'll be denied a visitor visa or an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), refused entry to, or removed from Canada.

You could be found inadmissible for a number of reasons, such as:

- security reasons, including
- espionage
- subversion (attempts to overthrow a government, etc.)
- violence or terrorism
- membership in an organization involved in any of these
- human or international rights violations, including
- war crimes
- crimes against humanity
- being a senior official in a government engaged in gross human rights violations or subject to international sanctions
- committing a crime, including driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol^{Footnote 1}
- organized crime, including membership in an organization that takes part in organized criminal activity, people smuggling or money laundering
- medical reasons – this includes medical conditions that:
 - endanger public health
 - endanger public safety or
 - causes excessive demand on health or social services (some applicants are exempt)
- financial reasons – if you're unable or unwilling to support yourself and your family members
- misrepresentation, which includes providing false information or withholding information directly related to decisions made under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)
- failure to comply with any provision of IRPA^{Footnote 2} or
- having an inadmissible family member.

If you have a valid reason to travel to Canada

If you're otherwise inadmissible but have a reason to travel to Canada that is justified in the circumstances, you may be issued a temporary resident permit.

To be eligible for a temporary resident permit, your need to enter or stay in Canada must outweigh the health or safety risks to Canadian society, as determined by an immigration or a border services officer. Even if the reason you're inadmissible seems minor, you must demonstrate that your visit is justified.

There is no guarantee that you'll be issued a temporary resident permit.

How to apply for a temporary resident permit

If you're eTA - required

If you're a citizen of an eTA-required country, your application for an eTA was refused, you may be issued a temporary resident permit. This depends on the nature and circumstances of the inadmissibility and why you need to travel to Canada.

The visa office responsible for your country or region may have its own application form for temporary resident permits. You should check the visa office to find out exactly how to apply.

If you're visitor visa (TRV) - required

You must apply for a visitor visa and include supporting documents to explain why you're inadmissible and why it may be justified for you to enter Canada.

You may have to attend an interview so that an officer can assess your application.

How long you can stay in Canada

A temporary resident permit is usually issued for the length of your visit to Canada—for example, 1 week to attend a conference. You must leave Canada by the expiry date of the permit, or get a new permit before your current one expires.

This permit may be cancelled by an officer at any time.

The permit is no longer valid once you leave Canada, unless you have specifically been authorized to leave and re-enter.

Fees

[Pay your fees online \(canada.ca\)](#)

You must pay a fee (CAD \$200.00) to cover the cost of processing your application for a temporary resident permit. The fee will not be refunded if the permit is refused.

If you've committed or been convicted of a crime

You have a few options to overcome your criminal inadmissibility.

Penalties for driving while impaired

If you drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs, including cannabis, you may be inadmissible for serious criminality. This means you won't be able to enter or stay in Canada unless we issue you a temporary resident permit.

Overcome Criminal Convictions- What Can you do?

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/inadmissibility/overcome-criminal-convictions.html>

Depending on the crime, how long ago it was, and how you have behaved since, you may still be allowed to come to Canada, if you:

- convince an immigration officer that you meet the legal terms to be [deemed rehabilitated](#), or
- [applied for rehabilitation](#) and were approved, or
- were granted a [record suspension](#) or
- have a [temporary resident permit](#).