

Pathways to Permanent Residency Workshop

October 30, 2025



Presented during Islamic
History Month by:



Muslim Legal
Support Centre



Land Acknowledgment

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbors, partners and caretakers.



WELCOME AND WHY THIS SESSION

- Raise awareness about pathways to permanent residence for newcomers with temporary or precarious status in Hamilton.
- Answer general questions about ways to stay permanently in Canada.
- Connect you to the resources and supports, including legal advice, available in Hamilton.
- Find out what other information you need to inform our future sessions.



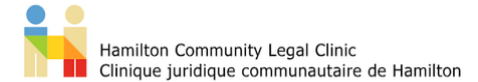
Islamic History Month



Canadian Islamic History Month is celebrated every October to recognize the significant contributions of Muslim communities to Canadian society and to promote understanding of Islamic history and culture. This month provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Muslim Canadians in various fields, such as arts, sciences, and sports, while also highlighting ongoing challenges like Islamophobia. Activities and events are held across the country to build a sense of connection and to work toward a more inclusive Canada.

Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council

- Established in 2009, now one of 80 Local Immigration Partnerships across Canada.
- Collaborator and convener.
- Funded by Federal Government (IRCC) and embedded in Economic Development.
- Membership includes a diversity of sectors and organizations.
- More than half of Council members have lived experience of immigration.



Mishka Social Services

Our agency aims to bridge the gap between current services and Muslims, as well as other newcomers, immigrants, and refugees. However, everyone is welcome regardless of faith

The word “Mishka” is an Arabic word describing a niche in a wall where lamps are placed, radiating light to the surrounding areas. Our name embodies the principles that drive us as an agency. We strive to be a beacon that empowers our clients to light up the world around them.

Programs:

- Case management
- Counselling
- Halal Food bank
- Youth Supports
- Thrift Store
- Computer Literacy Education
- Friendly Visiting
- Parenting Support Groups
- Respite




Feedback Form

**Let us know how we did and what other topics
you're interested in for future sessions!**



**Paper copies
available**



Pathways to Permanent Residency in Canada

with Halime Turkmen
on October 30th 2025

Agenda

MLSC

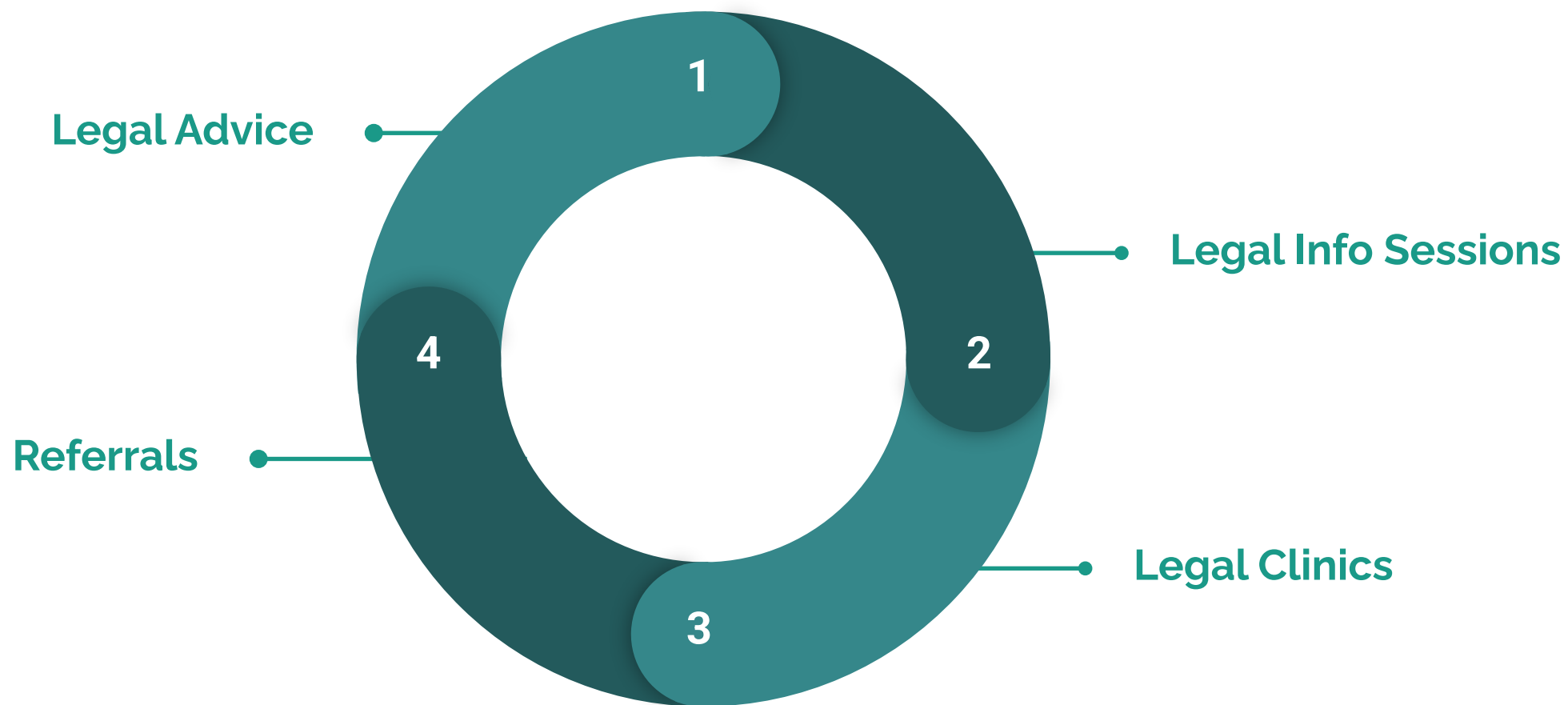
Speaker Introduction

Presentation

Question Period



MLSC Services



Meet Our Speaker



Halime Turkmen
MLSC Staff Lawyer



PATHWAYS TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY IN CANADA

with **Halime Turkmen, MLSC Staff Lawyer**
on **October 30, 2025**

OVERVIEW

- Work-based programs
- Regional programs
- Family sponsorship
- Refugees
- Special programs

OVERVIEW OF IMMIGRATION CATEGORIES



Temporary	Permanent
Students	Family Sponsorship
Visitors	Economic Immigration
Workers	Humanitarian and compassionate applications
Temporary Measures for Crisis (Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, etc.)	Refugee applications: in Canada or overseas sponsorship

REFUGEE PROTECTION PROGRAMS

- 1) Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program
- 2) In-Canada Asylum Program

REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

- For people who need protection from outside Canada
- You must be referred. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), a designated referral organization, or a private sponsorship group can refer you.
- You cannot apply directly.
- To be referred, you must be outside your home country, and unable return there due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, political opinion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group. Examples: gender, sexual orientation, etc.
- Can be sponsored by
 - Government of Canada (government-assisted refugees)
 - A group of people or an organization (private sponsorship)
 - Group of five – currently paused
 - Community Sponsor – currently paused
 - Sponsorship Agreement Holders - OPEN
 - A Mix of both (blended visa office-referred refugees)

IN-CANADA ASYLUM PROGRAM

For people who making refugee protection claims from within Canada

- individuals who
 - have a well-founded fear of persecution (convention refugee) or
 - are at risk of torture, or cruel or unusual punishment in their home countries (person in need of protection)

The Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) decides refugee claims that are made in Canada.

IN-CANADA ASYLUM PROGRAM

- Submit claim through IRCC portal
- 90 days to submit application
- After you send in your claim online, IRCC will review it to make sure it is complete.
- Acknowledgement of Claim letter, which will help you get services and programs.
- Medical Report form and instructions for getting an Immigration Medical Exam
- Letter about your next appointment (eligibility interview)
- If you're found eligible to make a refugee claim, you have a right to a hearing at the IRB.
- Interpreter at hearing (no cost)
- Hearing Ready Tours: free virtual (online) information sessions that can help you prepare for your refugee hearing.
 - <https://myrefugeeclaim.ca/en/ready-tours/hearing-ready-tour/>

IN-CANADA ASYLUM PROGRAM

Documents

- Basis of Claim Form along with other IMM forms
- Identity documents
- Proof of your arrival and entry to Canada
- Proof of membership in political organizations, unions, or other groups
- Police or medical reports
- Business records
- Proof of ill treatment
- Any other documents that could support your claim for refugee protection
- An explanation of any difficulties you had in submitting or providing information in the Portal

IN-CANADA ASYLUM PROGRAM

- **If your claim is successful**, you're found to be a protected person and you can apply for permanent residence.
- The RPD will send you a written Notice of Decision. The RPD will also send you an explanation of the reasons why your claim was allowed.
- The IRCC and the CBSA will receive copies of the decision as they may wish to appeal a positive decision to the Refugee Appeal Division (RAD) or seek leave and judicial review at the Federal Court.
- **If your claim is rejected**, the RPD will send you a written Notice of Decision and an explanation of the reasons why your claim was rejected.
- The Notice of Decision will tell you whether you can appeal the decision to the RAD or file an application for leave and for judicial review with the Federal Court.

HUMANITARIAN AND COMPASSIONATE APPLICATION

- When you make an H&C application, you're asking IRCC to allow you to apply for permanent residence from inside Canada for humanitarian and compassionate reasons.
- The decision on an H&C application is “discretionary”. This means that an immigration officer has a lot of freedom when they decide on an H&C application.
- Usually no interview: strong written application is crucial

Basis for an H&C application

- Almost anything that makes others feel compassion and want to help can be the basis for a successful H&C application.

HUMANITARIAN AND COMPASSIONATE APPLICATION

IRCC can consider

- How long you've been in Canada, level of integration into Canadian society
- Any medical conditions you may have
- Hardships you may face if removed
- **Must** consider Best interests of the child

HUMANITARIAN AND COMPASSIONATE APPLICATION

Examples:

- Victims of family violence or abuse, especially when returning would expose them to further danger
- Parents of Canadian-born children who require urgent or long-term medical care unavailable abroad
- Individuals who have suffered trauma, political instability, or humanitarian crises in their home country
- **Must** be backed by compelling evidence
 - Medical reports from Canadian physicians or specialists
 - Psychological evaluations in cases of trauma, abuse, or PTSD
 - Letters of support from Canadian employers, educators, or religious leaders
 - Proof of community ties such as volunteering, long-term employment, or children in Canadian schools
 - Evidence of danger or instability in your home country

FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

- You can sponsor certain relatives to come to Canada if you're at least 18 years old and:
 - Canadian citizen or
 - person registered in Canada as an Indian under the Canadian Indian Act or
 - permanent resident of Canada
- You can sponsor:
 - Spouse and dependent children under 22 (no minimum income)
 - need to show genuineness and that you can handle it financially
 - Parents or grandparents (but with high financial requirements)
 - These categories have been determined by a lottery system in the past few years

ECONOMIC IMMIGRATION: EXPRESS ENTRY

Express Entry is a system used to manage applications from skilled workers that assesses your score using a Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS).

- **Canadian Experience Class:** for skilled workers who have Canadian work experience and want to become permanent residents
 - Minimum 1 year paid work experience must have been gained in the 3 years before you apply
 - TEER 0, 1, 2 or 3
- **Federal Skilled Worker Program:** for skilled workers with foreign work experience who want to immigrate to Canada permanently
 - Must meet criteria for education and other factors
 - At least 1 year paid work experience must have been obtained within the last 10 years, in Canada or abroad
- **Federal Skilled Trades Program:** for skilled workers who want to become permanent residents based on being qualified in a skilled trade
 - Must have a valid job offer or a certificate of qualification
 - at least 2 years of full-time work experience in a skilled trade within the 5 years before you apply
- **Must create profile and receive Invitation to Apply (ITA)**

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PERMANENT RESIDENT

- You have the right to stay and live in Canada as long as you would like
- You have the right to work anywhere in Canada
- You can sponsor family members like your spouse and parents, and minor children
- Avoid leaving Canada for long periods of time. PRs must reside in Canada at least 2 years during a 5-year period. The two years doesn't need to be continuous.
- Must renew your **PR CARD every 5 years** OR instead **apply for citizenship if you qualify**

RECOGNIZING IMMIGRATION SCAMS

General Tips:

- Always keep your status valid to avoid inadmissibility or deportation issues
- Keep documentation of work, studies, family ties, and community involvement
- No one can guarantee an outcome
- Fees paid directly online
 - IRCC will not ask for deposits into personal accounts
- Verify qualification of your representative: Law Society, CICC
- Official IRCC Emails end with @cic.gc.ca, @canada.ca, @international.gc.ca
- Usually from “do not reply” accounts with reply instructions
- IRCC encourages use of IRCC Web form for correspondence tracking

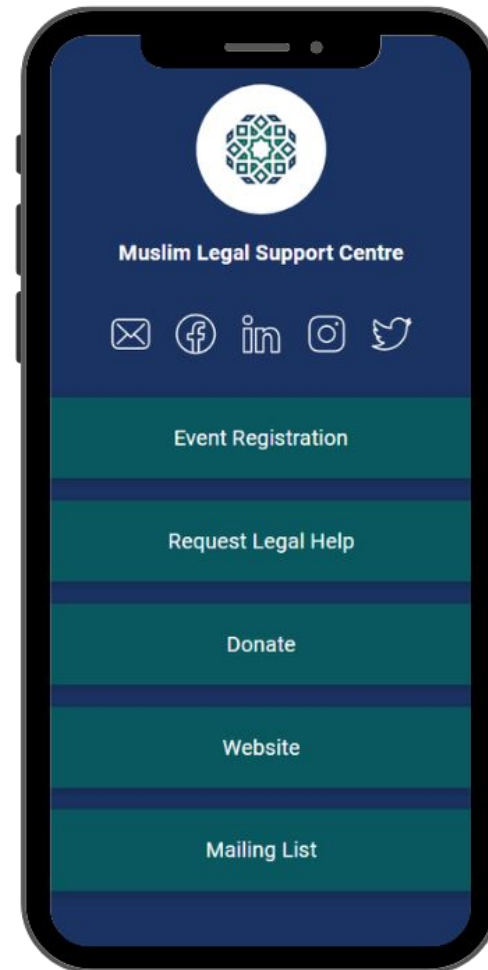


Questions?



Contact Us For Legal Support

- Email:
info@muslimlegalcentre.ca
- Links:
www.linktr.ee/muslimlegalsc
or scan the QR code to the right



SCAN ME





Thank you for attending!