

## Government Services: Temporary Resident Permits

A potentially trafficked person from another country may apply to be issued a Temporary Resident Permit (TRP) by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to gain or maintain status in Canada.

The trafficked person is not required to assist in any criminal investigation or to testify against their trafficker in order to receive a TRP (or any other immigration status).

Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person **may** have been trafficked, a CIC officer can issue an initial TRP under *Victims of Trafficking in Persons* (VTIP) guidelines. This initial TRP gives the person legal status in Canada for up to 180 days. The CIC officer may instead issue a TRP that's valid for up to three years, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person **is** a trafficked person.

With a TRP, the trafficked person will have access to expanded health care coverage, including counselling, through the Interim Federal Health Program. Trafficked persons with a TRP will also have access to the Immigration Medical Examination for the validity of their TRPs. For a full list of medical benefits provided to trafficked persons with a TRP please visit <https://provider.medavie.bluecross.ca/>.

The person may also apply for a work permit, which legally entitles the TRP holder to work in Canada. In some provinces and territories, a TRP holder may be eligible for income assistance.

There is no fee for the initial 180-day Temporary Resident Permit or work permit.

A trafficked person who wishes to remain in Canada permanently may submit an application to CIC for permanent residence based on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. They may also submit a refugee claim if they have a well-founded fear of persecution, torture, risk of life, or cruel and unusual treatment or punishment in their country of origin.

To contact the CIC's Call Centre, call **1-888-242-2100**, or contact the local CIC Office in your region.



## Obtaining an Initial TRP

To be granted an initial TRP, the trafficked person must be interviewed by an immigration officer. This interview may last a few hours and may include many questions.

The person does not have to prove at this interview that they have been trafficked, but does need to provide enough information for the officer to confirm the **possibility** that they have been trafficked. The trafficked person may bring a lawyer to the interview. They may also be required to bring ID, a passport (if they have one), and three passport sized photos.

It is very important for a trafficked person to understand the TRP process and the implications of being granted or denied a Temporary Resident Permit:

- If the person is issued a TRP, they will have legal status in Canada and the benefits described earlier (health care, counselling services, a work permit) for the duration of the TRP. In B.C. and Alberta (and possibly in other provinces — please check with your provincial/territorial government), a TRP holder may also be eligible to receive provincial benefits such as income assistance.
- If the person is not issued a TRP, they may be required to leave Canada.

