



## **Our Office is Moving (ORAT on the move)**

Our office is moving its location in early October of this year. We are moving from our present office location at 1220 Yonge Street, to our new location at 830 Bathurst Street, Toronto. Our new office is located just north of Bloor Street on the west side of Bathurst, adjacent to Bathurst Subway Station and St. Peter’s Catholic Church. We are excited about our move and look forward to continuing the important work of coming to the aid of suffering refugees, and assisting with their resettlement to Canada. We will be joined by the Office for Catholic Youth and by some of the staff of the Archdiocese’s Archives Department. While our email address remains the same ([oratrefugeeoffice@archtoronto.org](mailto:oratrefugeeoffice@archtoronto.org)), the telephone numbers of staff have changed. We will announce our new central telephone number at a later date.



The mailing address of our new office is:  
Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto  
830 Bathurst Street, Suite 104  
Toronto, ON  
M5R 3G1

## **A Catholic Response to the Afghan Refugee Crisis**

We were riveted to the images of the Taliban’s speedy takeover of Afghanistan. We have watched the events unfold in disbelief and with great sadness. Many who helped western governments with their work in Afghanistan are now living in great fear as they wait for the expected retribution from the Taliban. Some have managed to flee the country. Others remain, unable to escape.

dioceses across the country, including our own, to ask for our help in this effort. If they do so, I am convinced that the Catholic community will respond with great generosity as it has in the past with other refugee situations. In the event that we are asked to assist, we plan to approach parishes to ask for their assistance with this effort.

As a Catholic community, we are moved to pray for those who are suffering. Some, following the example of the Good Samaritan who demonstrated love for his neighbour by bandaging the wounds and caring for the one robbed and beaten, will respond by coming to their assistance in practical ways. The Canadian Government has indicated that it wishes to resettle 20,000 Afghan refugees to Canada. It is unknown at this time whether the Canadian Government will reach out to Catholic

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## Update on Canada's Travel and Entry Restrictions

Date Posted: July 7, 2021

The following is taken from RSTPs' Bulletin dated July 2, 2021

**Question:** What changes did the new Orders in Council make to the travel restrictions and the entry requirements?

**Answer:** The latest Orders in Council (OICs) came into effect on June 21, 2021. A summary of the relevant changes is below:

- Persons whose application for permanent residence was approved and have received written notice of approval can enter
- [As of July 05, 2021](#), fully vaccinated travellers who have [proof](#) that they received a [full series of accepted vaccines, or a combination of accepted vaccines](#), at least 14 days prior to entering Canada are exempted from the quarantine and the Day 8 testing requirements.

There are currently no exemptions for partially vaccinated travellers and fully vaccinated travellers entering Canada before July 05, 2021 still have to comply with the quarantine and Day 8 testing requirements. For more information, please click [here](#).

A new version of ArriveCAN will be released on July 05, 2021 that will enable travellers to provide their proof of vaccination, quarantine and travel information. To read the OICs in full, please click [here](#) and [here](#).



**Question:** Will the changes to the travel restrictions allow more sponsored refugees to enter Canada?

**Answer:** The changes will enable refugees sponsored under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) and the Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) programs to enter Canada if their application has been approved and they have a written notice of the approval.

Previously, only those persons whose permanent residence applications were approved on or before March 18, 2020 were able to enter Canada.

However, IRCC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will only be able to arrange travel for sponsored refugees if all the below conditions are met:

- Conditions in the refugee's country of residence allow for internal travel considering any restrictions, lockdowns and curfews that may be in effect;
- Foreign government offices are open and can process/issue exit permits;
- Flights to Canada are available, including connecting flights;
- The IOM has the capacity to facilitate travel and deliver pre-departure services including the mandatory pre-departure COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the scheduled departure time; and,
- Canadian Visa Officers can access their offices, generate documents (i.e., Single Journey Travel Documents, visas and the Confirmation of Permanent Residence document) and transmit them to the IOM while respecting movement restrictions/lockdowns.

# Government of Canada Offers Refuge to Afghans who Assisted Canada

Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada



Ottawa, July 23, 2021—Many brave Afghans made incredible contributions to Canada’s efforts in Afghanistan—often at great personal risk. While over 800 were able to resettle in Canada over the past decade, many are still in Afghanistan. With the situation in the country deteriorating rapidly, many have become Taliban targets due to their work.

The Government of Canada is seized with the urgency of the situation, and are working quickly to help those who put themselves at great risk to help Canada. That’s why the Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, the Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of National Defence, today announced a special

program to resettle the Afghans who were integral to Canada’s efforts in Afghanistan. In recognition of their service to Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is implementing special immigration measures that will offer a path to protection in Canada for those at risk due to their work. The work at Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the Department of National Defence (DND) is well underway to identify and assist individuals eligible for resettlement to Canada. Operational teams from IRCC, GAC and DND are currently on the ground in Afghanistan to support these efforts. Starting immediately, IRCC will begin processing individuals referred to them by GAC and DND.

For the full article please click [Here](#).

## Special Program for Afghans Who Assisted Canada

In response to the unfolding situation in Afghanistan; Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) initiated a special program to help Afghans. This program aims to resettle Afghan nationals from within Afghanistan whose employment involved a significant and/or enduring relationship with the Government of Canada, which could be, but is not limited to:

- Interpreters who worked with the Canadian Armed Forces
- Local staff who currently or used to work at the Embassy of Canada in Afghanistan



Recently, IRCC has updated the eligibility requirements for this special program. Right now, Afghan nationals do not need to currently be in Afghanistan to apply for this program. If they and/or their family members leave or have left Afghanistan (on or after July 22, 2021), they may still apply if invited to do so, and their application will still be processed under the Government-Assisted Refugees Program.

Applicants do not need to return to Afghanistan to finalize their application or to provide biometrics or have a medical exam.

For more information please click [Here](#).

## Education Updates

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ORAT has moved all of its information sessions to an on-line webinar platform. Until further notice, the office will not be holding any in person information sessions.

A webinar is an on-line virtual event. It is an educational or instructive session that includes audio and visual communication between a speaker and attendees.

The initial registration will continue to be done through ORAT's Eventbrite. Registered attendees will receive a confirmation link 48 hours before the webinar begins.

**Eventbrite**

## Join us on Facebook

Become a member of the ORAT Facebook Page to get the latest news and updates on resettlement issues. Please click [Here](#).

## ORAT Website

Please visit ORAT's website to find details about our mandate, goals, and policies, as well as to obtain immigration forms and info session materials. <http://www.orat.ca>

## Your input is welcome

If you would like to contribute an article to ORAT's newsletter, have any feedback on past articles, or have suggestions for future articles, please email us at: [orateducator@archtoronto.org](mailto:orateducator@archtoronto.org)

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