



RECENT CHANGES TO CANADA'S REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

RESOURCE SHEET

Networking Forum • May 2014

Many of our network members have expressed concerns about the sheer volume of changes to Canada's refugee and immigration system that have been introduced in the last 2-3 years alone.

We have begun compiling a list of practical resources on the most recent changes, which may be useful for front-line service providers and advocates working with women who have precarious immigration statuses.

To add your organization's resources to this list, please contact rightsofnonstatuswomen@gmail.com

Most Recent Changes in 2014 (Federal)

Bill C-24: Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act

- *Status: Introduced in parliament February 2014; currently sitting with CIC parliamentary committee*
- *Many changes to citizenship rules including longer residency requirement to 4 years (previously 3); language testing for applicants aged 14-64 (previously 18-55); and new powers for government officials to deny granting of citizenship and to revoke citizenship of naturalized Canadians in specific cases.*
- *Resource: Legal Primer on Bill C-24 by the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers (CARL) "Under new proposed law, citizenship is harder to get and easier to lose"*
<http://carl-acadr.ca/articles/70>

Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP)

- Minister Kenney recently announced a moratorium on the fast food and restaurant sector, leaving many workers stranded. His statement can be accessed here: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=842269>
- Upcoming in 2015: Start seeing major impact of the four-years in/ four-years out rule, or Cumulative Duration regulation, which came into effect on April 1, 2011. See the CIC's operational bulletin: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/manuals/bulletins/2013/ob523.asp>

Parliamentary Study: Strengthening the protection of women in our immigration system

- *Status: New study being conducted by the Citizenship and Immigration Canada parliamentary committee of the House of Commons February-April 2014*
- Transcripts of the hearings are available on-line:
<http://openparliament.ca/committees/activities/4923/>

Useful Resources for Frontline Workers

on working with the recent changes implemented before 2014

Bill C-43: Faster Removal of Foreign Criminals Act (*came into effect June 19, 2013*)

- Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) fact sheet on how permanent residents may be deported from Canada if they commit a crime.
<https://ccrweb.ca/files/criminalitybackgroundunderen.pdf>
- Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) fact sheet on criminal charges in Canada and your immigration status
<http://www.cleo.on.ca/en/publications/stat-en>
- Legal primer on the Bill, produced by Canadian Association for Refugee Lawyers
<http://www.carl-acadr.ca/our-work/issues/bill-c43#Primer Bill C-43>

Bill C-31: Protecting Canada's Immigration System (*came into effect June 28, 2012*)

- Includes many changes to the refugee determination system including accelerated timelines; new categories of claimants from Designated Countries of Origin (DCO); new ministerial authority to declare groups of 'irregular' arrivals as Designated Foreign Nationals (DFN); and cessation of refugee status in some cases.
- CCR practical resources for frontline workers, including legal overview of Bill C-31, diagram of changes, and chart of new timelines for processing refugee claims:
<https://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-reform>
- CLEO resource website for front-line workers on Refugee rights in Ontario:
<http://refugee.cleo.on.ca/en/refugee-rights-ontario>
- University of Ottawa Refugee Assistance Project: resources for frontline workers
<https://ccrweb.ca/en/uorap/resources>

IFH Cuts:

- Canadian Doctors for Refugee Care (CDRC) on the cuts: <http://www.doctorsforrefugeecare.ca/the-issue.html>
- Read about the legal challenge to the cuts by doctors and lawyers (CDRC and CARL) in 2013
<http://www.carl-acaadr.ca/our-work/issues/IFHP>

Conditional Permanent Residence:

- CCR resource for frontline workers: <https://ccrweb.ca/en/conditional-permanent-residence-resource>
- CLEO resource on family violence when a woman is sponsored by a spouse or partner:
http://www.cleo.on.ca/sites/default/files/book_pdfs/famvio.pdf
- CRIAW fact sheet on Violence Against Women in Canada (2014)
<http://criaw-icref.ca/new-criaw-fact-sheet-violence-against-women-canada>

City Level (*Toronto*):

- In February 2013, Toronto city council re-affirmed its commitment toward access without fear to city services for all residents.
- Solidarity City Network: resources for service providers
<http://solidaritycity.net/learn/resources-for-service-providers/>

Upcoming:

- May 15, 2014: No One Is Illegal Toronto film launch and discussion "Confronting Authority"
<http://toronto.nooneisillegal.org/> The film presents a compilation of strategies that migrants can use to defend themselves against detentions.
- June 5, 2014: National Symposium on intersections of violence against women and precarious immigration status. Hosted by Migrant Mothers Project and WomanACT:
<http://migrantmothersprojectsymposium.weebly.com>
- June 16, 2014: 3rd National day of action for refugee health care <http://www.doctorsforrefugeecare.ca/>

NOTES:

If you are a woman in crisis or know someone who is being abused, please contact the Assaulted Women's Helpline at
1-866-863-0511 or 1-866-863-7868 (TTY)

Pour les services en français, veuillez appeler FEM'AIDE (Ligne de soutien pour femmes violentées)
1-877-336-2433 or 1-866-860-7082 (ATS)