



PR STATUS AND PR CARDS

[November 2018]

Understanding PR Status

Once you become a PR, some conditions will apply:

- You will remain a permanent resident until you become a Canadian citizen, as long as you spend at least two (2) years of each five (5) year period in Canada. Otherwise you will lose your status.
- You may leave and re-enter Canada as often as you wish. NB: Be sure you have your Permanent Resident Card if you plan to travel outside Canada.

The Permanent Resident Card

All new permanent residents will be issued a card as part of the process. Cards will be mailed to your home address (in Canada) after you become a permanent resident. Most cards are valid for five years.

The permanent resident card (PR card) is the official proof that you are a permanent resident of Canada. You use this wallet-sized plastic card to show you can enter and stay in Canada when you return from another country.

You must show this card when you re-enter Canada on a commercial vehicle, such as an airplane, boat, train or bus. Note the transportation carrier (bringing you back to Canada) will not likely allow you to board without your PR card.

If you return to Canada in a private vehicle (for example you drive from the USA in your own car), there are other documents you *may* be permitted to use. Contact IRCC.

[Application to get, renew, or replace a PR card](#)

Traveling without a PR Card

If you plan to leave Canada, check your card's expiry date to make sure that it will still be valid when you return.

If you are outside of Canada, have lost your PR card, and need proof of your status to return to Canada, see [here](#) for information on obtaining a Permanent Resident Travel Document.