



Making a Refugee Claim in Canada



Start here

If you make a refugee claim at the U.S.-Canada border without proof of an STCA exception, you will get a one-year exclusion order and be ineligible for a refugee hearing in Canada. You can avoid this by withdrawing your claim.

Some people enter Canada at an informal crossing such as Roxham Road. For information about Roxham Road, see:

<http://www.bridgesnotborders.ca/info-1.html>

Were you directed back from Roxham Road to the U.S. during the COVID-19 border closure? See:

<https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/refugee-asile-covid-eng.html>

Do you meet **an exception** to the Safe Third Country Agreement?

No

Yes

You are **not eligible** to enter at an official land port of entry

You are eligible to make a refugee claim at an official land port of entry

If you enter Canada, you can make an inland refugee claim

Canada will check if you have ever filed a refugee claim in a **'5 eyes' country**

No

Yes

You may be eligible for a full refugee hearing and decision

You may be found ineligible for a refugee hearing; you can have your case evaluated via a Pre-Removal Risk Assessment (PRRA)



Your claim is more likely to be successful if you have a lawyer.
You may be eligible for legal aid.

Find out if you meet an exception:
http://www.bridgesnotborders.ca/uploads/1/3/2/0/13208493/stca_doc_final_english.pdf

You can ask a refugee support organization to check your documents that prove your exception to the Safe Third Country Agreement.

'5 eyes' countries: USA, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada

40% of PRRAs were successful among people ineligible to make a refugee claim in Canada due to a previous refugee claim in another 5 eyes country.