



GUIDE FOR SPONSORED PERSONS

FAMILY CLASS

Information

Read this guide carefully before completing the Application for a Selection Certificate – Family class. If you need more information, consult the Immigration-Québec website.

www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

*Immigration,
Diversité
et Inclusion*

Québec 

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This document does not constitute an interpretation of the wording of the Act respecting immigration to Québec and the Regulation on the selection of foreign nationals. For specific information of a legal nature, consult the Act and the Regulation.

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INTRODUCTION

A close relative in Québec wants to sponsor you? Read this guide carefully. It explains the scope of the immigration process that you and your sponsor are initiating. You will also find important information to help you prepare, starting immediately, for your arrival in Québec.

Your sponsor is making a formal commitment in sponsoring you. He signs a document that testifies to his or her obligations towards you. In exchange for this commitment, you have a moral obligation to do your utmost to integrate into Québec society. You are the sole person responsible for the success of your immigration plan.

Québec welcomes immigrants with their know-how, skills, language, culture and religion. Québec provides services to help you integrate and participate fully in Québec society. Integrating into Québec society means being prepared to learn about and to respect its common values. Please consult information on the common values of Québec society at www.valeurscommunesduquebec.gouv.qc.ca.

1. DEFINITIONS

Read the following definitions carefully. They will help you to understand what follows in the guide and complete your forms correctly.

Sponsor

A person who, by contract with the government, undertakes to provide for the basic needs of the individuals who he or she sponsors. The sponsor must have a kinship relationship with the principal sponsored person.

Spouse

A person at least 16 years of age, of the same or the opposite sex, who is married with the sponsor or the principal sponsored person.

A person who:

- at the time of marriage was the spouse of another person; or
- is the de facto spouse of another person and has been living apart from his or her spouse for at least one year, is NOT considered a spouse.

De facto spouse

A person at least 16 years of age of the same or the opposite sex who has:

- been living maritally for at least one year with the sponsor or the principal sponsored person;
- had a marital relationship for at least one year with the sponsor or the principal sponsored person but who may not live with him or her because of persecution or penal control.

Conjugal partner

A person 16 years of age or over of the same or the opposite sex who has maintained with the sponsor a marital relationship for at least one year and who is living outside Canada.

Dependent child

The biological child of either parent, who has not been adopted by any person other than the spouse or de facto spouse of one of his or her parent; or the adopted child of either parent.

This child is:

- under 19 years old, and neither married (he or she is single, widowed, or divorced) nor a de facto spouse; or
- still substantially dependent on the financial support of a parent, and is 19 years of age or older, and has been unable to support himself or herself since at least his or her 19th birthday, owing to a physical or mental disability.

This definition also extends to the child of a dependent child.

Family member

In relation to the sponsor and the principal sponsored person:

- a spouse or de facto spouse, who must be at least 16 years old;
- a dependent child and, if applicable, that child's dependent child.

2.WHO CAN BE SPONSORED?

To be sponsored, a close relative must belong to the family class. In other words, he or she must be:

- a spouse, de facto spouse or conjugal partner;
- a dependent child;
- a father, mother, grandfather or grandmother;
- an orphaned brother, sister, nephew, niece, grandson or granddaughter under 18 years of age and neither married nor a de facto spouse;
- a child to be adopted (international adoption).

The sponsorship undertaking covers this close relative and his or her accompanying family members, if any.

3. WHAT ARE MY SPONSOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS?

Responsibilities and obligations towards the government

A sponsorship is a contractual commitment between your sponsor and the Québec government.

If you or an accompanying member of your family collects government aid in the form of social assistance or special benefits (e.g.: glasses, dental treatment, hearing aids), your sponsor will be required reimburse these amounts.

Your sponsor may also have to pay substantial accommodation costs if you stay in a public long-term care facility.

In short, your sponsor makes a commitment that you and your accompanying family members will not be a financial burden on the host society.

Responsibilities and obligations towards yourself

In sponsoring you, your sponsor undertakes to provide for your basic needs (food, clothing, personal necessities and housing costs) for **the entire duration** of the undertaking. Insofar as it is reasonable, you could be required to live under the same roof as your sponsor.

Your sponsor also has a duty to give you all the information necessary to facilitate your integration into Québec society.

4. WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

You must keep your sponsor informed on how your basic needs are being met and notify him or her of any change of address.

You must also inform your sponsor of any steps taken with the intention of obtaining social assistance.

You must do your utmost to integrate into Québec society.

5. WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THE UNDERTAKING?

Your sponsor is bound by his or her undertaking as soon as his or her application is approved. His or her obligations as sponsor take effect when you obtain permanent resident status¹.

Sponsored person	Duration of sponsorship	Remarks
Spouse, de facto spouse or conjugal partner	3 years	—
Child under 13 years of age	Minimum 10 years	The sponsorship undertaking has a duration of 10 years or until the child reaches legal age (18 years), whichever period is longer.
Child 13 years of age or older	Minimum 3 years	The sponsorship undertaking has a duration of 3 years or until the child reaches age 22, whichever period is longer
Other relatives	10 years	—

6. WHAT STEPS ARE INVOLVED IN BEING SPONSORED?

Your sponsor is responsible for most steps involved in sponsoring you. However, certain steps are yours to take.

Fill out an Application for a Selection Certificate

Complete and sign the *Application for a Selection Certificate – Family Class*.

Carefully read the instructions as they will help you fill out the required form with complete and accurate information. This form is necessary for the examination of the undertaking application submitted by your sponsor.

Useful advice

You can also obtain this form by downloading it from the “Sponsors and Sponsored Persons” section of the Immigration-Québec website: www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca.

You can fill it out directly on the screen (dynamic PDF) and then print it, which will ensure the legibility of your application.

¹ However, if you are admitted under a temporary resident permit, the sponsorship obligations take effect on the issue date of this permit if the residence application is submitted in Québec, or else on the date of your arrival in Québec if the application is submitted abroad.

After filling out the form, return it to your sponsor by mail or fax as quickly as possible.

Remember, you and each member of your family aged 18 years or more who accompanying you in Québec have the obligation to:

- read the section – Statement on common values of Québec society and Section 6 – Declaration of sponsored persons;
- enter the date and place of signature for each statement;
- sign the statements in the spaces provided for this purpose.

In the absence of the required signatures, your application will be returned.

7. WHAT COME'S NEXT?

Your application examined by the MIDI

As soon as your sponsor receives your completed and signed *Application for a Selection Certificate – Family Class*, he can send his sponsorship application and all the required documents and forms to the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Diversité et de l'Inclusion (MIDI). Any tardiness on your part will automatically result in delays.

The MIDI may verify or have a third party verify the accuracy of the information given in your application. It may refuse an application that contains false or misleading information or documents. It may also refuse to examine an Application for a Selection Certificate from a person who has given false or misleading information or documents within the past five years.

Decision rendered by the MIDI

One of two decisions will be rendered after your application is examined.

Undertaking approved

If the undertaking application is approved, your sponsor will receive a letter in the mail confirming its acceptance, a copy of the approved application and an envelope containing the Québec selection certificate that he or she must send to you.

The decision of the MIDI will be sent directly to the CIC office that is handling your application for permanent resident status.

Undertaking refused

If your sponsor does not satisfy all applicable requirements, his or her undertaking application will be refused.

Undertaking rejected

If the undertaking application contains false or misleading information or documentation, it may be rejected.

The MIDI may initiate legal proceedings against an individual who provides false or misleading information. It may also refuse to examine the undertaking application of any individual who, in the past two years or less, has provided it with false or misleading information or documentation.

The application may also be rejected if your sponsor do not respond to the MIDI's requests and fail to provide the documents demanded.

Application to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for permanent residence

This step falls under the jurisdiction of the government of Canada.

You and your family members (accompanying you or not) must satisfy Canadian government requirements with respect to health, criminal activity and security in order to be granted permanent residence.

The Canadian government charges a fee to process an application for permanent residence. You must also pay the fees for medical exams.

Information

To learn more about the Sponsorship application in the family class and the Application for permanent residence as a sponsored person, consult the website of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC): www.cic.gc.ca.

8. HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR INTEGRATION INTO QUÉBEC SOCIETY?

You are abroad

You will soon join your sponsor in Québec. Take advantage of the intervening period to prepare before leaving for Québec. Along with facilitating your integration into Québec society, this will save you time, energy and money.

The guide ***Learning about Québec: Guide for my successful integration*** provides a summary of the most important steps that you can take before joining your sponsor in Québec, within the first few days of your arrival, and throughout your process of integrating into Québec society.

Depending on your personal and family situation, it would be useful to:

- become familiar with Québec society;
- learn about your responsibilities and those of the host society;
- improve your knowledge of French, if necessary;
- learn about the Québec job market and how to look for a job;
- start procedures with a regulatory body for permission to practice a regulated trade or profession, if necessary;
- request a comparative evaluation for studies done outside Québec, if necessary;
- gather the documents that you must bring to Québec;
- find out about programs and services offered in Québec to new immigrants.

Moreover, you can learn about the common values of Quebec society by visiting the website www.valeurscommunesduquebec.gouv.qc.ca.

You may also be eligible for French courses given in Québec in educational institutions or online French courses. For more information in this regard, visit the website <http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/langue-française/index.html>. Subject to

certain conditions, you may even qualify for reimbursement of the cost of French courses taken at an educational institution prior to arriving in Québec.

As soon as you arrive in Québec, one of your priorities must be to speak French. French courses for beginners or more advanced students, on a full-time or part-time basis, may meet your needs. All courses are free and available whenever there is a sufficient number of registrations.

If you arrive at Montréal-Trudeau airport, we recommend that you go to the MIDI's **Service d'accueil à l'aéroport** after clearing customs. The **Service d'accueil** section is located across from the Citizenship and Immigration Canada offices. In addition to providing useful documents and information, the information officers will offer you an appointment with the Service Immigration-Québec office nearest your place of residence in order to assist you during your first efforts to settle in Québec. They will give you a copy of *Learning about Québec* if you do not already have one. This guide is also available on the Immigration-Québec website at www.apprendrelequebec.gouv.qc.ca.

If you do not arrive at the airport, we recommend that you contact the Immigration-Québec service located nearest your place of residence in order to make an appointment. To obtain the contact information of the Service Immigration-Québec office nearest your place of residence, you can call the **Service des renseignements généraux** at 514 864-9191 from the Montréal region, or 1 877 864-9191 from other regions of Québec.

You are already in Québec

If your application for permanent residence is processed within Canada, you can benefit from certain government services even before obtaining permanent resident status. Consult the *Learning about Québec* guide for directions on how to:

- enroll in French courses given by partners of the MIDI;
- obtain a Québec health insurance card from the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ).

The Québec Health Insurance Plan

Access to the Québec Health Insurance Plan is governed by rules that, with some exceptions, provide for a three-month waiting period following registration before a person can benefit from coverage under the plan. Consequently, if you are accepted, we recommend that you register with the plan in your first days after arriving in Québec by contacting the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec. However, if your application for permanent residence is processed in Canada, it is to your advantage that you register as soon as you receive your selection certificate and the letter from Citizenship and Immigration Canada confirming that your application for permanent residence is being processed within Canada.

The Régie will determine if an exemption from the waiting period applies to you or anyone accompanying you. Be advised, however, that persons under age 18 in the family class are exempt. Moreover, the waiting period generally does not apply to immigrants from countries that have signed a social security agreement with Québec, including Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal and Sweden. If necessary, proof of insurance from a social security plan of the country of origin will be required.

Individuals subject to the waiting period must pay for their own health services or else buy private insurance coverage.

Information

Québec Health Insurance Plan

Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec

From abroad or from Montréal: 514 864-3411

From Québec City: 418 646-4636

From elsewhere in Québec (toll free): 1 800 561-9749

www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca

Private insurance

Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association

www.accap.ca

Ombudsman des assurances des personnes

Montréal : 514 845-6173

From elsewhere in Québec (toll free): 1 800 361-8070

www.olhi.ca/fr/whois_olhi.html

Frequently Asked Questions

As a sponsored person, do I have access to the reception and integration assistance services offered to newcomers?

Like all newcomers, you are entitled to reception and integration assistance services adapted to your specific needs, including French language instruction, training about the common values of Québec society or on workplace realities and a set of employment insertion measures that the Québec government offers in conjunction with its partners.

Can I lose my permanent resident status if my relationship with my sponsor deteriorates?

Since November 25, 2012, if you are being sponsored as a spouse, de facto spouse or conjugal partner, Citizenship and Immigration Canada informs you, when you obtain permanent resident status, if your status is conditional. You could be required to live under the same roof as your sponsor for the two years following your arrival otherwise your permanent resident status could be revoked.

Only the government of Canada can revoke this status and the terms and conditions of such withdrawal are strictly defined by the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. For more information consult the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website www.cic.gc.ca.

What are my rights?

Once you obtain permanent resident status, you obtain the same rights as all individuals already established in Québec. You have the right to freely choose your lifestyle, opinions and religion, while respecting the rights of others.

You have the right to travel freely, sign contracts (e.g., to obtain a credit card, open a bank account, rent an apartment), take legal action and obtain services or benefits based on your personal and family situation: health care, child day care, social services, etc.

What are my obligations?

You must keep your sponsor informed on how your essential needs are being met and notify him of any change of address or any step taken to obtain social assistance.

Although your sponsor has made a commitment to the government to meet your essential needs, you must take charge of your integration process and start it as soon as possible using the means placed at your disposal.

Since you have made a commitment by signing your *Application for a Selection Certificate*, you must respect the common values of Québec society and learn French, if you do not already speak it.

You are responsible for obeying all laws, even if they are incompatible with your personal values or beliefs. You are personally responsible for adhering to contracts that you sign and commitments that you make.

Does obtaining Canadian citizenship or divorce terminate my sponsor's commitment towards me?

The commitment is not cancelled by acquiring Canadian citizenship, divorce or separation of spouses or even the annulment of the marriage or the fact that the marriage was contracted in bad faith, in particular for purposes of immigration. It also

remains in effect even if the financial situation of your sponsor deteriorates or if your sponsor moves to another part of Canada.

As a sponsored person, can I receive social assistance in case of need?

You must first meet the eligibility conditions for social assistance. It is up to the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale (MESS) to rule on this matter.

Your sponsor made a contractual commitment to support your essential needs and reimburse the government for any social assistance that might be paid to you or an accompanying member of your family. If you apply for social assistance, the MESS will first contact your sponsor to ask him to take charge of you.