



Considerations in Crossing the Border: eTA, PR cards, the STCA and more

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Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

- Required by citizens of visa-exempt countries
- OR visa-requiring nationals with a US Green Card
- US citizens do not need eTA



Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

- Valid for 5 years or upon passport expiry
- Associated with passport (so watch data entry!)
- \$7 fee (unless attached to work/study permit)
- Work permit & study permit applications to Visa Offices abroad?
 - eTA automatic → don't need to apply separately
 - BUT extensions through Vegreville do not automatically extend eTA
- Landing permanent residents do not need eTA
- Landing invalidates a former eTA

Online System

- Apply for eTA online
 - Representatives and consultants can submit
- eTA check status tool → *IF you know eTA #!*
- Case Specific Enquiry to ask for unknown eTA # and follow up on delays

eTA considerations

- **Criminality and other inadmissibilities**
 - eTA won't be issued until issue dealt with (i.e. proof of rehabilitation)
 - TRP at the border ... if you can get to a land border
 - Apply at visa post
 - eTA can be cancelled for inadmissibility
- **Past refusals**
 - “Have you ever been refused a visa or permit, denied entry to, or ordered to leave Canada or any other country/territory?”
- **Removal orders**
 - eTA won't be granted until removal order executed
- **Dual citizens**
 - must travel to Canada on Canadian passport
 - Only exception: dual American/Canadian citizens

Scenario #1

Your corporate client asks you to urgently prepare an intra-company transfer work permit application for a British employee at their subsidiary in London. They need her here within a week so would like her to apply at the Port of Entry.

PRs in an eTA World

- Can't fly to Canada without valid PR card in-hand
- US land border work-around
 - Only if able to enter US
- Permanent Resident Travel Document for those abroad
- Current processing times:
 - New PRC: **45 days**
 - Renewal/replacement: **66 days**
- Urgent processing request available for renewal
 - Must be travelling in next 3 months due to work, illness, death in the family
 - 3 weeks minimum to process urgent requests

Scenario #2

Your PR applicant clients are a German family living in Ottawa. The Principal Applicant travels regularly on business. The Confirmations of Permanent Residence arrive, and he excitedly tells you he plans to land right away on his next return from abroad.

The Safe Third Country Agreement



- Claim in first country of arrival, unless exception
- Exceptions:
 - Family member exceptions
 - Unaccompanied minors exception
 - Document holder exceptions
 - Public interest exceptions
- No appeal to RAD if enter via STCA

The Safe Third Country Agreement

- **Proof of family relationship**
 - Have the relative come to the border
 - Provide as much documentation as possible (with translations)
 - DNA test
 - Prepare for interview
- **If refused entry:**
 - Ask for reconsideration
 - JR

Scenario #3

Your former client asks if you are willing to represent her niece, a citizen of Burundi, before the RPD. She tells you her niece is currently in the US and will be making a refugee claim at the Lansdowne Port of Entry in a few days.



Thank you!

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