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Improvements to Permanent Resident Card Renewal Process

Citizenship and Immigration Canada ("CIC") recently announced two changes that simplify the renewal process for permanent resident cards ("PR Cards").

First of all, permanent residents need no longer include their valid PR Cards when applying to renew them. Previously, valid PR Cards had to be surrendered in the application process. This was a significant issue for permanent residents working overseas: without a valid PR Card in their possession, they could not board commercial transportation back to Canada. Going forward, permanent residents may keep their valid PR Cards until their renewal application is approved, thus facilitating international travel.

Secondly, permanent residents applying to renew their PR Cards need no longer have a guarantor (or sign a statutory declaration in lieu of one). Finding a Canadian citizen guarantor who had known them personally for at least two years had proven difficult for some permanent residents, even though those permanent residents had met the requirements for PR Card renewal. CIC has now recognized that it can verify permanent residents' identity and residence by other means.



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