

# BIOMETRICS

Managed Migration for Today and Tomorrow



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

Canada

# Purpose

- Introduce the expansion of Canada's Biometrics Program
- Outline the new requirements and service delivery framework
- Show how biometrics makes genuine travel to Canada easier while at the same time keeps Canadians safer

# Biometrics today and tomorrow

- **Biometrics**, the measurement of unique physical characteristics like fingerprints, is recognized globally as a reliable and accurate tool for establishing identity and security screening
- **Canada** uses biometrics **today** but is joining many countries around the world by upgrading and expanding biometrics for **tomorrow**



1. **Biometrics Today:** a look at the current role of biometrics
2. **Biometrics Tomorrow:** broader collection and verification
3. **New Requirements:** who needs to provide biometrics, the process
4. **Service Delivery:** accessibility to services ensuring excellent client experience
5. **Key Benefits:** the secure way to welcome newcomers and visitors

## 1. Biometrics today : a look at the current role of biometrics

The Government of Canada has been collecting fingerprints from **refugee claimants since 1993** and digital fingerprints and photos since 2013 as part of the **Temporary Resident Biometrics Program**:

<b>Who?</b>	Temporary residents from 30 nationalities, all asylum claimants, and overseas resettlement applicants, those removed from Canada (e.g. deportees)
<b>How?</b>	Clients pay a fee of \$85 (some exemptions apply) and enrol their fingerprints and photograph overseas at a Visa Application center (VAC), or Application Support Center in the U.S.
<b>Why?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>IDENTIFICATION</b>: Biometrics are recognized as one of the most reliable means for identification</li><li>✓ <b>FACILITATION</b>: make entry easier by quickly and efficiently verifying identity of travellers arriving at Canadian ports of entry</li><li>✓ <b>SECURITY</b>: strengthen the integrity of Canada's immigration program by helping to prevent identity fraud, identifying those who pose a security risk, and preventing known criminals from entering Canada</li></ul>

## 2. Biometrics tomorrow: broader collection and verification

Three components to an expanded biometrics screening program:

### (1) Collection

- Enlarging the population of visitors and newcomers required to provide biometrics to come to Canada
- Expanding the network of biometric collection service points around the world and in Canada

### (2) Verification

- Introducing automated systematic fingerprint verification at major airports in Canada
- Expanding capacity to collect and verify biometrics at 57 Ports of Entry
- Deterring identity fraud by systematically verifying biometrics

### (3) Information Sharing

- Implementing biometric based information sharing with Migration Five partners:
  - Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, U.S.
- Reinforcing identity management and security screening

### 3. New Requirements: who needs to provide biometrics

	Temporary Resident (TR) Applications				Permanent Resident (PR) Applications
	Temporary Resident Visa (visitor visa)	Work Permit	Study Permit	Temporary Resident Permit	
Visa-required nationals	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Visa-exempt nationals	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
US nationals	X	X	X	X	✓

**Introduction of “1 in 10”:** new policy to require biometric enrolment only once every 10 years for TR applications

**Facilitates travel of returning visitors, students, and workers**

### 3. New Requirements: how the process works

#### Application

##### Apply

- online:** receive the Biometric Instruction letter within 24 hours by email
- by paper:** apply by mail and receive a Biometric Instruction Letter by mail
- at a VAC:** apply in person at the nearest VAC and enroll biometrics at the same time
- at a POE:** visa-exempt foreign nationals that are eligible to apply for a study or work permit at the POE can enroll biometrics at the same time.

**Pay the fee:** \$85 biometric fee due at time of application (\$170 maximum family rate)

#### Processing

**Collection:** client enrolls biometrics at the nearest biometric collection service point

**Screening:** fingerprints are encrypted and transmitted to the RCMP for screening and storage

**Information Sharing:** biometric-based sharing of information between Migration 5 partners




**Final Decision:** biometrics lead to enhanced and more confident immigration decision-making

#### Arrival

**By air:** fingerprint verification will be available at 19 Canadian airports with systematic fingerprint verification conducted via self-service kiosks at the eight major airports

**By land or marine:** fingerprint verification capacity will be available at 38 Ports of Entry

## 4. Service Delivery: accessibility to services ensuring excellent client experience

REGION	CURRENT PROGRAM	STARTING IN 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 137 VACs in 95 countries around the world</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 149 VACs in 99 countries around the world</li> <li>• Adding <i>equipment</i> to existing VACs, adding VACs in <i>new countries</i>, and expanding <i>number of VACs</i> in top-source countries (i.e. China is expanding from 5 to 12 VACs)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ports of Entry/IRCC local offices (in-Canada asylum claimants)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service Canada Centres</li> <li>• Ports of Entry/IRCC local offices (in-Canada asylum claimants)</li> <li>• 57 Ports of Entry for eligible clients applying for work permits and study permits</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 135 Application Support Centers in the US</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 135 Application Support Centers in the US</li> </ul>

To ensure accessible services:

- biometric collection service locations are determined based on application volumes and needs;
- additional biometric enrolment equipment will be deployed to some existing and new locations





Starting in 2019, at least 96% of clients will have access to a VAC in-country.

## 5. Key Benefits: the secure way to welcome visitors and newcomers

- **Biometrics are an accurate and reliable way for us to know an applicant's identity**
- **Determining identity is at the core of all immigration decisions**

- ✓ **Mobilizing immigration and border processing:** Biometric collection and screening streamlines immigration processing, and biometric verification at ports of entry allows for reliable authentication of identity and entry of people into Canada
- ✓ **Safety and Security:** biometric information sharing and security screening helps prevent the entry of inadmissible people and detects and deters identity fraud while facilitating genuine travel
- ✓ **International standards:** Maintains and improves the Government of Canada's international reputation by demonstrating to the international community that Canada takes migration program integrity and security seriously

Well managed migration **balances** facilitated entry for genuine travellers with deterring, detecting and stopping entry of those who pose a risk to the health, safety, and security of Canadians

# Maintaining Privacy

## Privacy and protection of client biometric information



- Risks mitigated by clear and transparent legal authority in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* (IRPR)
- Privacy Impact Assessments and consultations with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner ensure that world class privacy protection safeguards are put in place to protect applicants' personal information
- RCMP stores the enrolled digital fingerprints and purges according to a retention policy consistent with the *Privacy Act*
- Robust privacy framework for information sharing agreements with Migration 5 partners (the US, UK, Australia and New Zealand).
  - \* For example, partners send **anonymized fingerprints** to query each other's immigration databases and the receiving country **must purge** these fingerprints after the query is completed.

# Key Timelines

