

Visitors, international students and temporary workers to Canada:

Make sure you know and follow our laws, including our tough new rules for impaired driving and marijuana-related crimes.

If you don't, you could face serious legal and immigration consequences.



Whether you want to **visit, study or work temporarily in Canada**, or are already doing so, it is important to know what you can and cannot do. For example, you **cannot enter or stay** in Canada if you **commit a serious crime, whether inside or outside the country**. This includes Canada's tough new impaired driving and cannabis-related rules.

How could the new laws affect my ability to come temporarily to Canada?

In fall 2018, Canada is imposing **tough new penalties** for anyone who **drives while under the influence of alcohol or drugs**, including marijuana (cannabis), or **commits a cannabis-related crime**.

These types of offences are **serious crimes in Canada** with **serious immigration impacts**. Not only could you face a fine, criminal charges or even jail, but you may **not be able to come to or stay in Canada, including to visit, study or work temporarily**.

What if I receive the minimum fine for impaired driving and no one is hurt? Could this affect my ability to visit, study or work temporarily when the rules take effect?

When the **new impaired driving rules take effect in December 2018**, most infractions will be considered serious.

If you are convicted in Canada of impaired driving, or commit a similar offence outside the country, you could be **found inadmissible for serious criminality** and **may not be able to enter or stay in the country**.



Hasn't Canada legalized cannabis? Are there similar immigration impacts for cannabis-related crimes?

Canada has made cannabis legally available to adults, but under a strict legal framework. The tough penalties, which took effect at the same time as the new framework, help deter criminal activity and keep our kids and streets safe.

If you commit a cannabis-related crime, such as illegally producing or selling cannabis, whether in, outside or when seeking entry to Canada, you could be found **inadmissible for serious criminality** under our immigration laws. In these situations, you **may not be able to enter or stay in Canada**.

If I am inadmissible for serious criminality, are there any options to enter or stay in Canada?

If you want to come to Canada temporarily, you may be issued a **temporary resident permit** if the reason for travel is justified in the circumstances.

If you have been removed from Canada for serious criminality, you will not be able to return to Canada without obtaining written authorization from an immigration officer.

To note, there is no guarantee that you will be allowed to enter or return to Canada.

If you want to overcome your inadmissibility on a more permanent basis, you can apply for a process known as **rehabilitation** when and if you are eligible to do so. Generally, you can only apply for rehabilitation after **five years has passed** since you completed your sentence.

For more information, please see this web notice: New impaired driving and marijuana-related penalties could affect immigration status for permanent permanent and temporary residents

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/notices/impaired-driving-cannabis-penalties-affect-immigration-status.html>

