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CLIENT GUIDE · CANADA TEMPORARY RESIDENT VISA (VISITOR) · 17 NOVEMBER 2026

Canada Visitor Visa

What IRCC's automated analytics system analyses — and how Meridian strengthens the file on each point, so neither the tools nor the officer find a weakness.

This is a working report for applicants in Pakistan. It is also the standard to which Meridian prepares a Canada visit file. It is not a sample application. The decision is always Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC). Our job is to put a complete, consistent record in front of the tools that sort the file and the officer who decides it.

The legal test, and the systems that sit in front of the officer

A Canada visitor visa — a **temporary resident visa (TRV)** — is decided under **section 179 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations (IRPR)**. The officer shall issue the visa only if, following an examination, it is established that you applied correctly, you **will leave Canada by the end of the period authorized for your stay**, you hold a valid travel document, you meet the visitor-class requirements, and you are not inadmissible.

Most applications from Pakistan are filed **online**. IRCC has published that **advanced data analytics** then help sort overseas visitor-visa applications and can **approve eligibility on routine files**. Those tools **never refuse, and never recommend a refusal**. Every file still goes to an officer, who assesses admissibility and **makes the final decision**. Officers work in the **Global Case Management System (GCMS)**. Many also use **Chinook**, a display aid that does not make or recommend decisions. The burden of proof is on the applicant. The standard is the **balance of probabilities**.

The six points this report is built around

#	WHAT MUST BE SOLID IN THE FILE	WHY IT MATTERS TO THE TOOLS AND TO THE OFFICER
1	**No contradiction in the forms** — IMM 5257, Family Information IMM 5645, travel history, and every previous refusal disclosed.	The application data must tell one story. An undeclared refusal or a missing family member is a weakness in the record itself.
2	**A clear, temporary purpose** — why you are going, for how long, and when you will leave.	The officer's most common refusal line is that the purpose is not consistent with a temporary stay.
3	**Strong funds evidence** — bank history, FBR tax, income that matches, every large deposit explained, and a budget in proportion to income.	Officer notes commonly refuse where balances jump after unexplained deposits, or the trip is not a reasonable expense.
4	**Strong ties at home** — work or business, family who remain in Pakistan, and a life to return to on a named date.	Paragraph 179(b) is the test of whether you will leave. Official eligibility guidance names a job, a home, assets or family as ties.
5	**Travel history** — visas and stamps used as stated, returns on time, and any refusal declared.	IRCC has published that a previous approval to visit Canada in the past 10 years is an example of a file that may be treated as routine. Every history must still be complete and true.
6	**Clean uploads and a letter of explanation** — documents the officer can read, in order, mapped by a letter in the applicant's own voice.	IRCC's Algorithmic Impact Assessment says officers must review all relevant file information, including additional documents, before they decide.

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What IRCC has published that the analytics system actually does

This is the core of the report. It is limited to what IRCC has put on official canada.ca pages, in its Algorithmic Impact Assessment (AIA), and in its transparency material on Chinook. **IRCC does not publish the specific rules the model uses.** The official processing page says those rules are kept internal to help prevent fraud and protect program integrity. The AIA goes further: officers themselves **are not told** the rules used for triage or for an automated positive eligibility determination, they receive **no information about the analysis the system performed**, and the system **does not produce a recommendation** to the officer. We therefore do not invent hidden factors, scores or statistics. What follows is only what the Government of Canada has actually published.

TWO OFFICIAL TOOLS, WITH DIFFERENT JOBS

1. Advanced analytics and triage for overseas visitor visas. IRCC's "Uses of technology" page describes two related models. One **automatically approves eligibility of routine applications**, then sends the file to an officer to assess admissibility and make the final decision. The other is a **triage** tool that **assigns visitor-visa applications based on file properties**. Both use **rules developed by officers and advanced analytics**. An Algorithmic Impact Assessment has been completed for them.

2. Chinook. This is a processing aid, not a decision tool. IRCC says it is a Microsoft Excel–based display of information already in GCMS, first used in 2018. It does **not** make or recommend decisions, and it does **not** itself use advanced analytics or artificial intelligence. After the officer reviews the file, the decision and any refusal reasons can be imported from Chinook into GCMS, which remains the system of record. Chinook can **display annotations, or notes, that come from advanced analytics or other automated tools** — IRCC's examples are whether the application is for a minor, or whether the client has other open applications.

What the analytics system is published to analyse

The official AIA for "Advanced Analytics Triage of Overseas Temporary Resident Visa Applications" (posted on the Open Government portal) describes the system as follows.

WHAT IRCC HAS PUBLISHED	WHAT THAT MEANS FOR THE FILE
The system **assesses data elements in applications submitted to IRCC** in order to triage files and, on some files, to automate a positive eligibility determination.	The answers on the forms — identity, purpose, dates, family, work, funds, travel and refusal history — are the record the tools assess. A contradiction in that data is a weakness in the record itself.
The system's rules **only use data elements with a clear link to legislative and regulatory requirements**. The AIA says the rules were reviewed so that they are aligned with **established eligibility criteria**.	The legal test the file must meet is still section 179 of the IRPR, including that you will leave Canada at the end of the authorized stay. We build the file against that test, not against invented "system scores."
The system **identifies routine applications for streamlined processing** and **sorts applications into tiers based on their level of complexity**. IRCC's published example of a routine file is **certain clients who have been previously approved to visit Canada in the past 10 years**.	A previous Canada visa, used as stated and completed on time, is a fact we put clearly in the forms, the letter and the passport copies. We do not claim that this guarantees a routine-tier outcome. IRCC has not published a full list of what makes a file "routine" or "complex."
On a routine file, the system may **determine only that the applicant is eligible**. It **does not make any ineligibility determination**, **does not assess admissibility**, **never refuses**, and **never recommends a refusal**.	A refusal is always an officer's decision. Strengthening the file is about leaving no weakness in the data the tools sort **and** in the documents the officer must read before deciding.

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WHAT IRCC HAS PUBLISHED	WHAT THAT MEANS FOR THE FILE
Every application is referred to an officer for an admissibility assessment and a final decision. The AIA says officers are **required to review all relevant file information, including the information provided in additional documents**. An officer who finds information that may affect a positive eligibility determination **may revisit eligibility**.	Supporting documents and the letter of explanation are not optional decoration. They are part of the record the officer is required to review, and they can change the outcome even if eligibility was first treated as routine.

WHAT IRCC HAS NOT PUBLISHED — AND WHAT WE WILL NOT INVENT

IRCC's official processing page says the rules the tools use are **kept internal** to help prevent fraud. The AIA says officers are **not aware of those rules** and receive **no readout of the system's analysis**. We therefore do not list secret factors, do not invent a scoring formula, and do not quote unofficial "approval rates." Official statistics we can cite are only these: advanced analytics has been used since 2018 to help sort and process **more than 1 million** TRV applications; IRCC has said that routine files can be assessed **87% faster**; the AIA rated the system's impact as **moderate (level 2)**; officers can overturn an eligibility determination; and a proportion of files selected for a positive eligibility determination are redirected for full human review as a quality check. Chinook, IRCC says, has increased processing volumes by **up to 35%**, depending on the office, compared with GCMS alone. None of those figures is a promise about any one application from Pakistan.

How a strong file satisfies both the system and the officer

Because the published rules must be tied to legislative and regulatory requirements, and because the officer reviews the whole file and makes every final decision, Meridian builds the same six points for both audiences. The tools assess **data elements in the application**. The officer then reads those answers **against the documents**. If the forms, the letter and the papers do not agree, the officer can see it — and, under the AIA, can revisit eligibility. The rest of this report takes each of the six points in turn: what is being analysed, where a weakness usually appears, and exactly how we make that part of the file strong.

POINT	WHAT THE RECORD MUST SHOW THE TOOLS	WHAT THE OFFICER MUST BE ABLE TO CONFIRM IN THE DOCUMENTS
1. No contradiction	One identity, one family, one travel and refusal history, on IMM 5257 and IMM 5645.	The same names, dates and answers, with every refusal disclosed, matching the passports and the papers.
2. Clear purpose	A temporary purpose and dates that agree across the form and any invitation.	A dated plan with a clear end, matching approved leave and the letter.
3. Strong funds	Income, payer and funds that are stated consistently on the form.	Bank history, FBR tax, a source for every large deposit, and a cost that is a reasonable expense.
4. Home ties	Work, family and who is travelling, stated completely on the forms.	An employer or business record, family evidence, and a named date of return.
5. Travel history	Previous visas and refusals answered truthfully, including any prior Canada visa.	Passport stamps, timely returns, and any refusal letter, honestly explained.
6. Clean uploads and letter	A complete, readable package, not a jumble of unmatched files.	A letter in the applicant's voice that maps every important figure and fact to a document the officer can open.

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Point 1 — No contradiction in the forms

What is being analysed. The AIA says the analytics system assesses **data elements in the applications submitted to IRCC**. Those elements are the answers on **IMM 5257** (the Temporary Resident Visa application) and, for each applicant aged 18 or over, the **Family Information form IMM 5645**. Official IMM 5645 instructions require a complete list of spouse or partner, parents, all children (including children already in Canada), and brothers and sisters, with a clear yes or no for who will travel. The statutory questions on previous refusals, overstays and immigration history are part of the same record. Subsection **16(1) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)** requires that those answers be truthful. Official refusal letters on form IMM 5621GEN use this wording when the officer is not satisfied: "I am not satisfied that you have truthfully answered all questions in the documents you have submitted in support of your application, as required by subsection 16(1) of the IRPA."

Where a weakness appears. Two names for the same person, a date of birth that does not match the passport, a relative left off IMM 5645, a household that appears to be travelling together with no one remaining in Pakistan and no explanation, or a previous refusal — including a refusal by another country — that was not declared. An undeclared refusal is often more damaging than the old refusal itself. IRCC's public refusal-help page is clear that leaving out important information, even if it was unintentional, can be treated as misrepresentation, and that you are responsible for everything in the application, even if a representative completed it.

How Meridian makes this point strong. Before anything is uploaded, we read IMM 5257 and IMM 5645 against the passport, the NADRA family record, the bank and tax papers, and every previous decision letter the applicant holds. One spelling of the name, one date of birth, one passport number, everywhere. Every required family member is listed, with who travels and who stays. Every previous visa refusal or overstay is declared on the statutory questions and explained in the letter of explanation. We never hide a refusal in the hope that the tools or the officer will not find it. If a fact looks unusual, it is explained in one or two plain sentences, with a document behind it. The aim is that the data elements the system assesses, and the documents the officer is required to review, tell the same true story.

CHECK IN THE RECORD	WHAT A STRONG FILE SHOWS
Name, date of birth, passport number	An exact match on IMM 5257, IMM 5645, the letter and every document.
Family Information (IMM 5645)	A complete list, including children already in Canada, and a clear answer for who is travelling.
Work, income and who is paying	The same figures as the bank statements and the FBR return.
Family or a host in Canada	Declared honestly, with the invitation and the host's status if there is a host.
Previous travel and refusals	Every refusal, for Canada or any other country, declared on the statutory questions and in the letter.

Point 2 — A clear, temporary purpose

What is being analysed. Official eligibility guidance requires the officer to be convinced that you are coming temporarily for the reason you describe, and that you will leave Canada at the end of the visit. The purpose and the dates are data elements on IMM 5257. If there is a host, IRCC may ask for a **letter of invitation**. Official instructions say the letter does not guarantee a visa. It should include the visitor's name, date of birth, address, relationship, purpose, length of stay, where the person will stay, how the trip will be paid for, and when the person plans to leave Canada; and, about the host, name, date of birth, Canadian address and telephone, job title, citizenship or permanent-resident status, and a copy of a document proving that status.

Where a weakness appears. Current official refusal letters use this line: "The purpose of your visit to Canada is not consistent with a temporary stay given the details you have provided in your application." IRCC's public refusal page also refers to this concern as "Inconsistent Purpose" or "Inconsistent with a temporary stay." It is used when the plan is vague, when the length of stay does not fit the purpose, when the dates on the form, the letter and any invitation do not agree, or when the trip does not sit easily with the applicant's work or income.

How Meridian makes this point strong. The form, the letter of explanation and any invitation state **one** clear, temporary purpose, the exact dates, and a short day-by-day or city-by-city plan with a closed return date. Approved leave and the first day back at work are in the employer letter and are repeated in the explanation letter. If there is a host, the invitation is limited to those dates and contains the details IRCC lists. We do not dress up a different intention as a holiday. We do not buy tickets that cannot be cancelled before the visa is granted. The aim is that the purpose in the application data, and the plan in the documents the officer reviews, are the same temporary stay with a clear end.

Point 3 — Strong funds evidence

What is being analysed. Official eligibility guidance says you must have enough money for your stay. The amount depends on how long you will stay and whether you will stay in a hotel or with friends or relatives. There is **no official fixed sum** that guarantees a visa. Visa-office checklists used for applications from Pakistan ask for bank statements covering at least the past three months, and, if someone else is paying, that person's letter, identification and proof of funds. The officer, who must review the additional documents, looks at the pattern of the account, not only the closing balance.

Where a weakness appears. Current official letters use this line: "Your assets and financial situation are insufficient to support the stated purpose of travel for yourself (and any accompanying family member(s), if applicable)." IRCC's refusal page also refers to this as "Assets." Officer decision notes commonly record concern where balances swing from very low to high, where a high closing balance sits just after several large deposits, where the origin of the funds is not shown, or where the proposed visit does not appear to be a **reasonable expense** given the applicant's establishment.

How Meridian makes this point strong. We include a continuous bank history — Meridian uses about **six months**, which is longer than the three months some checklists ask for — so that regular income is visible, not only a closing balance. Salary or business credits match the employer letter, the salary slips and the **FBR** income tax return. Every large or unusual credit has a short explanation and a source document (for example a term-deposit maturity advice, a sale deed, or a documented gift). The letter of explanation contains an evidence index, so that every important figure can be ticked off against the bank statement and the FBR return. The estimated cost of the trip is stated, and it is shown as a reasonable expense against regular income and genuine savings — not a one-time pile of money. If someone else is paying, we include that person's letter, identification, bank evidence and the relationship. The aim is that the funds story in the application data is the same story the officer can verify, deposit by deposit, in the papers.

THE OFFICER'S QUESTION ON THE MONEY	HOW MERIDIAN REMOVES THE WEAKNESS
Is this a real, current account in the applicant's name?	A bank-issued statement, in the applicant's name, covering a recent continuous period of about six months.
Does the income on the form actually arrive in this account?	Salary or business credits that match the employer letter, the slips and the FBR return. The same figures appear in the letter of explanation.
Is there an unexplained large deposit, or a balance that jumped just before the application?	Every unusual credit is explained and tied to a source document. We do not leave a "parked" deposit for the officer to guess at.
Is this trip a reasonable expense?	A realistic cost for this stay, in proportion to regular income and genuine savings.
If someone else is paying, can that person actually pay?	A signed letter, identification, bank evidence, and a clear description of the relationship.

Point 4 — Strong ties at home

What is being analysed. Paragraph **179(b)** of the IRPR is the test of whether you will leave Canada at the end of the authorized stay. Official eligibility guidance says you must convince an officer that you have ties — such as a **job, a home, financial assets or family** — that will take you back to your home country. On the forms, that record is your employment or business, your family on IMM 5645, who is travelling, and any family or host in Canada. Current official refusal letters use two related lines: "Your current employment situation does not show that you are financially established in your country of residence," and "You do not have significant family ties outside Canada." Officer decision notes also record concern when all immediate family members are travelling together, which may be treated as diminishing ties to the country of residence, and when there are strong pull factors in Canada.

How Meridian makes this point strong. The letter of explanation names the employer or business, the start date, the role, the income, and the **date the applicant must be back at work**. The file holds an employer letter on headed paper confirming those facts, salary slips, and FBR evidence that is consistent with the same income. For a business owner, we include registration, tax returns and bank statements that show the business is real and continuing in Pakistan. IMM 5645 is complete. The letter names who travels and who remains in Pakistan, with NADRA family-registration evidence. Any family in Canada is declared. If there is an invitation, it is limited to a temporary stay and includes the host's status. An invitation is never treated as a substitute for ties in Pakistan. Property is included only if it is real and relevant — not a pile of weak papers. The aim is that the ties stated in the application data are the ties the officer can confirm, with a named day of return.

Point 5 — Travel history

What is being analysed. Travel history is part of the officer's whole-picture assessment of whether you will leave at the end of the stay. It is also one of the few points on which IRCC has published a direct link to the analytics system: the official January 2022 notice says the system helps to identify routine applications for streamlined processing, **"such as those from certain clients who have been previously approved to visit Canada in the past 10 years."** That is an official example, not a complete list, and it is not a guarantee. A first trip to Canada, or limited travel, is not by itself a reason to refuse. What matters is an honest history, including every previous refusal, and whether past visas were used as stated and completed on time.

How Meridian makes this point strong. The statutory questions on previous visas and refusals are answered truthfully. The letter of explanation includes a short travel-history table — country, visa, dates, and the fact of a timely return — and the passport pages with visas and stamps are uploaded in full (the biographic page and all pages that are not blank, as official apply guidance asks). Any previous Canada visa is set out clearly, with the dates it was used. Any refusal or overstay, for Canada or for any other country, is declared and explained, with the decision letter if the applicant holds it. We never hide a refusal. The aim is that the history in the application data is the same history the officer can read in the passports.

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Point 6 — Clean uploads and a letter of explanation

What is being analysed. The AIA is explicit: even where the system has made a positive eligibility determination, **officers are required to review all relevant file information, including the information provided in additional documents**, and they may revisit eligibility if those documents raise a concern. Official "after you apply" guidance also says IRCC will check that the documents are complete, and may ask for an interview, more information, a medical examination or a police certificate. Documents that are not in English or French need a certified translation. A jumble of unmatched, unreadable or unexplained uploads is a weakness the officer can see, even if the form answers looked tidy.

How Meridian makes this point strong — the uploads. We upload a complete, readable package, in a stable order, with no paper that does not earn its place: the letter of explanation; current and previous passports; the IMM 5257 confirmation and IMM 5645; proof of purpose (the plan in the letter, and an invitation with the host's status only if there is a host); employment or business papers; bank statements and a deposit-explanation letter; FBR tax evidence; family evidence; and travel and refusal history. Names and dates on every file match the forms. No non-refundable ticket is bought before a decision.

How Meridian makes this point strong — the letter of explanation. The letter is the officer's map of the file. We write it in the **applicant's own voice**, in calm human language — not in legal jargon, and not as a sales pitch. It can be read in a few minutes and still answer paragraph 179(b). It states who the applicant is, the exact dates, the work or business with the return-to-work date, the purpose and a short plan, how the trip will be paid for (with every large deposit explained and every important figure matching the bank and the FBR return), why the applicant will return, the travel history including any refusal, and a list of the documents in the same order as the uploads. We use the same figures as the forms. We do not round them into a different story. We do not use copied "humble request" language, emotional appeals, or claims that are not in the file. This report does not include a sample application or a sample letter. The standard is the six points above, applied to the applicant's real facts.

> **WHAT WE WILL NOT PUT IN THE FILE UNLESS IT EARNS ITS PLACE**
>
> A pile of weak property papers, unexplained last-minute deposits, an invitation that promises more than the host can show, a relative left off IMM 5645, a refusal that is not declared, or tickets that cannot be cancelled. Official guidance is to submit the documents on the personalized checklist. We follow that advice, and we make sure every document that is submitted can be read against the letter and the forms.

Before the file is submitted — Meridian's six-point check

- ☐ **1. Forms.** IMM 5257 and IMM 5645 match the passport, the family evidence and each other. Every previous refusal is declared.
- ☐ **2. Purpose.** One temporary purpose, exact dates, a plan with a clear end, matching any invitation and approved leave.
- ☐ **3. Funds.** Bank history included; every large credit explained and sourced; figures match the FBR return; the cost is a reasonable expense.
- ☐ **4. Ties.** Work or business confirmed, with a return date. Family who remain in Pakistan are evidenced. Any family in Canada is declared.
- ☐ **5. Travel history.** Passport visas and stamps included. Any previous Canada visa, and every refusal, set out honestly.
- ☐ **6. Uploads and letter.** The letter maps the file, page by page, in the applicant's voice. The uploads are complete, readable, and in order. No non-refundable ticket has been bought.

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What the officer writes when not satisfied

Only an IRCC officer can refuse. The wording below is the official wording of current refusal letters, and how it maps back to the six points in this report.

Because the analytics system **never refuses and never recommends a refusal**, the refusal letter is always an officer's document. Current letters are issued on form **IMM 5621GEN (08-2025)**. Since 29 July 2025, IRCC has also included **officer decision notes** (form **IMM 0276**) with most temporary-resident refusal letters. Those notes are the officer's own reasons as recorded in IRCC's system. The ground that appears most often on visitor-visa letters is paragraph **179(b)** of the IRPR.

THE STANDARD OPENING ON A CURRENT 179(B) REFUSAL LETTER

"I am not satisfied that you will leave Canada at the end of your stay as required by paragraph 179(b) of the IRPR. I am refusing your application because you have not established that you will leave Canada, based on the following factors:"

The letter then lists one or more official factor lines. IRCC's public page on understanding a refusal also tells applicants that this concern may appear as "Inconsistent Purpose," "Inconsistent with a temporary stay," or "Assets." A new application should answer the factors that were listed, with evidence, not only with a longer letter.

OFFICIAL WORDING ON THE LETTER	THE POINT IN THIS REPORT IT TESTS	HOW A STRONG FILE ANSWERS IT
"The purpose of your visit to Canada is not consistent with a temporary stay given the details you have provided in your application."	Point 2 — clear purpose	One temporary purpose, exact dates, a plan with a clear end, matching the forms, the letter and any invitation.
"Your assets and financial situation are insufficient to support the stated purpose of travel for yourself (and any accompanying family member(s), if applicable)."	Point 3 — strong funds	Bank history, every large deposit explained, FBR consistency, and a cost that is a reasonable expense.
"Your current employment situation does not show that you are financially established in your country of residence."	Point 4 — home ties (work)	Employer or business papers, income in the bank and in the FBR return, and a named return-to-work date.
"You do not have significant family ties outside Canada."	Point 4 — home ties (family)	A complete IMM 5645, evidence of who remains in Pakistan, and an honest declaration of any family in Canada.
"I am not satisfied that you have truthfully answered all questions in the documents you have submitted… as required by subsection 16(1) of the IRPA."	Point 1 — no contradiction, and point 5 — travel history	Every refusal declared; the forms, the letter and the documents tell the same true story.

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FURTHER SECTION · OFFICIAL REFUSAL WORDING · CONTINUES

Other grounds that may appear on the same letter

Inadmissibility. Section 179(e) requires that the applicant is not inadmissible. Official eligibility and help-centre pages list, among other things, criminality, security, human-rights violations, organized crime, medical and financial grounds. If a refusal is based on inadmissibility, IRCC advises that you may need to take steps to overcome it before you apply again. That is a different problem from a 179(b) "will not leave" refusal.

Medical or other requirements in section 179. The officer must also be satisfied that the application was made correctly, that you hold a valid travel document, that you meet the visitor-class requirements, and, where they apply, that medical-examination requirements are met. Incomplete applications may be refused.

Dual intent. Subsection 22(2) of the IRPA says that the fact a person intends to become a permanent resident does not, by itself, preclude them from becoming a temporary resident, if the officer is satisfied that they will leave Canada at the end of the authorized stay. A future or pending permanent-residence plan is therefore not, on its own, a reason to refuse a visitor visa. The officer must still be satisfied on paragraph 179(b).

Travel history and immigration status are part of the officer's whole-picture assessment even when they are not printed as a separate official line on the current letter. That is why point 5 in this report is built as carefully as the lines that do appear as tick-box wording.

If you have been refused — how to read the letter, and what the options are

Read the refusal letter by its official wording, and read any officer decision notes that came with it, not only by a short summary. Since 29 July 2025, IRCC has included officer decision notes with most temporary-resident visa refusal letters, including visitor visas. In some cases portions of the notes may be removed to protect secure, private or other sensitive information.

OPTION	WHAT IT IS, FACTUALLY	WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND
Read the letter and the notes	The letter lists the legal ground and the official factor lines. The officer decision notes are the officer's reasons as recorded in IRCC's system.	A new application should answer the factors that were listed, with evidence, not only with a longer letter.
GCMS notes through ATIP	The Global Case Management System file, including officer notes, can be requested from IRCC under the Access to Information Act. The fee is $5. The requester must be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident, or an individual or corporation currently in Canada. An applicant outside Canada typically has a person who meets that test submit the request, with a signed Consent form IMM 5744 for each adult.	An ATIP request does not pause any Federal Court deadline. Since officer decision notes are now included with most visitor-visa refusals, start with those notes. A fuller GCMS release can still be useful where more of the record is needed.
Reapply with new evidence	IRCC's help centre is clear: there is no formal appeal of a temporary-residence refusal. You can apply again if your situation has changed significantly, or if you have new information that addresses the reasons in the refusal letter. The new application is assessed on its own merits, with a new fee. Applying again with the same information, even with a representative, will likely not change the decision.	Hiring a representative does not, IRCC says, increase the chance of approval or change a previous decision. Nobody can guarantee a visa.

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If you have been refused — continued

OPTION	WHAT IT IS, FACTUALLY	WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND
Asking IRCC to look at the decision again	This is not a formal right and not a formal appeal. Some applicants write to the office that made the decision, often through the IRCC web form, if a document already on the file was clearly overlooked or there is a clear clerical error. IRCC is not required to reopen the decision.	This request does not stop the Federal Court clock. Official IRCC advice on getting a new decision remains: reapply with new information, or seek judicial review if you believe the decision is unreasonable or there was an error of law or fairness.
Judicial review in the Federal Court	Under subsection 72(2)(b) of the IRPA, an application for leave and judicial review must be served and filed within **15 days**, in the case of a matter arising in Canada, or within **60 days**, in the case of a matter arising outside Canada, after the day on which the applicant is notified of or otherwise becomes aware of the matter. A judge may, for special reasons, allow more time. This is a review of whether the decision was lawful, reasonable and fair. It is not a fresh assessment of the visa application, and it is not an appeal on the merits.	The deadline runs even if you have asked for GCMS notes or have asked IRCC to look at the decision again. If judicial review may be relevant, take advice on the deadline at once. IRCC also says that if you apply for leave and judicial review, you should indicate that you have not received the complete reasons, even if you received an officer decision note, so that the Court can request the complete reasons under Rule 9 of the Federal Courts Citizenship, Immigration and Refugee Protection Rules.

This section is factual only. It is not legal advice, and it does not start a court or ATIP process. Deadlines are short. If you are considering judicial review, speak to a lawyer who is licensed in Canada about the date you were notified and the time that remains.

> A visa in the passport is not a guarantee of entry to Canada. Official guidance says a border services officer must still be convinced, on arrival, that you are eligible and that you will leave at the end of your authorized stay.

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Official sources

The legal tests, the description of IRCC's analytics and Chinook, the official letter wording and the options after a refusal are taken from the following official sources, all checked on 17 November 2026. No unofficial "system score" or unpublished rule is used in this report.

1. IRPR, section 179: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/sor-2002-227/section-179.html.
2. IRPA, including subsection 16(1), subsection 22(2) and section 72 (15-day and 60-day time limits): https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/i-2.5/section-72.html.
3. IRCC, Who can apply for a visitor visa: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eligibility.html.
4. IRCC, How to apply, and after you apply: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/apply-visitor-visa.html; https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/after-apply-next-steps.html.
5. IRCC, Guide 5256, Family Information form IMM 5645, and letter of invitation: Guide 5256; IMM 5645; invitation letter.
6. IRCC, Advanced data analytics to help officers sort and process TRV applications (24 January 2022 notice; previous approval to visit Canada in the past 10 years as an example of routine processing; only an officer can refuse): https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/notices/analytics-help-process-trv-applications.html.
7. IRCC, Uses of technology across the department, and advanced analytics and automation for processing applications: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/transparency/digital-transparency-advanced-data-analytics/uses-technology.html; https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/transparency/digital-transparency-advanced-data-analytics/processing-applications.html.
8. IRCC, Processing aids — Chinook and GCMS: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/transparency/digital-transparency-advanced-data-analytics/processing-aids.html.
9. Algorithmic Impact Assessment — Advanced Analytics Triage of Overseas Temporary Resident Visa Applications (Open Government, May 2022): https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/6cba99b1-ea2c-4f8a-b954-3843ecd3a7f0.
10. IRCC, Officer decision notes (included with most temporary-resident refusals since 29 July 2025): https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/transparency/officer-decision-notes.html.
11. IRCC, If your application was refused, and Help Centre answers on reapplying and on the absence of a formal appeal: https://ircc.canada.ca/visit-visiter/en/refusal-visa-application; qnum=1485; qnum=1675.
12. IRCC Help Centre, Access to Information requests (who may request, the $5 fee, consent form IMM 5744): https://ircc.canada.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=458.

Meridian Visa Consultancy prepares each file carefully against these official tests. We do not guarantee that a visa will be granted. The decision always rests with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

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