

**From:**

**COMM Media Relations / Relations médias COMM (IRCC)**

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RE: Query re immigration application  
October 1, 2021 at 6:17 PM  
Bruce Wark bruce.wark@bellaliant.net

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Hello Bruce:

Apologies for the delay. On behalf of my colleague here is our response. Thanks.

Due to privacy laws, we cannot comment on a specific case without the signed consent of the individual.

IRCC has taken quick action and come a long way since the onset of the pandemic – providing additional resources where they are needed most, streamlining our processes and ramping systems back up. One of the very first things we did was implement priority processing for those who need it most, like vulnerable people, family members seeking to reunite and those in essential services. We are processing those as quickly as possible.

We expanded our office in Sydney, Nova Scotia by 62 new staff to help reunite families faster. These will help us return to the one year processing standard for spousal sponsorship. We've improved technology and digitized more of our operations, and increased the amount of processing happening virtually. This includes our permanent resident landings process, which has now actually reduced the amount of time it takes to land a permanent resident compared to the pre-pandemic process.

While processing times for spousal sponsorship are approximately one year, COVID-19 has required us to make changes in our processing that have meant we can't give accurate processing times for most applications at this time.

Processing times are tracked by line of business and posted on our website <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/check-processing-times.html>.

Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis on the specific facts presented by the applicant in each case. Processing times will vary based on factors such as:

- the type of application submitted
- if the application is complete
- how easily IRCC can verify information provided by applicant
- how long applicant takes to respond to any requests or concerns