



Capacity Nova Scotia Newsletter April 2009

Employment and Labour Shortage

CANADA WORKING WITH THE EU ON LABOUR MOBILITY AND FOREIGN CREDENTIAL RECOGNITION

Posted: April 1, 2009

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) Minister Diane Finley has signed three new agreements with her counterparts in the European Union to improve labour mobility between Canada and the EU. The goals of these agreements are to improve foreign credential recognition, facilitate international labour mobility, and strengthen the Canada-EU partnership.

LABOUR MOBILITY ACROSS CANADA AND ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Posted: April, 2009

The free flow of skilled workers across provincial and national boundaries has become increasingly relevant in the age of free-trade markets and globalization. To remain economically competitive with an efficient labour market, Canada has been taking steps to improve labour mobility and foreign credential recognition both at home and abroad. Agreements have recently been signed both at the provincial level, and between Canada and the European Union....

HEALTH CARE RULES CHANGED FOR FOREIGN WORKERS

Posted: April 3, 2009

Effective Thursday, April 2nd, all temporary foreign workers or foreign graduates in Ontario on "open work permits," along with their spouses and dependants can now receive OHIP (Ontario Health Insurance Plan) as long as they are employed full time in Ontario for a minimum of six months and have lived here for at least 153 days.

NEW FOREIGN WORKER RECRUITMENT REGULATIONS IN MANITOBA

Posted: April 9, 2009

New legislation is in effect in the province of Manitoba that seeks to regulate temporary foreign worker recruitment and protect these workers' rights. Manitoba's Worker Recruitment and Protection Act require that all foreign worker recruitment agencies be registered and licensed by the province to do so. It also prohibits recruitment agencies from charging fees to foreign workers.

NEW LEGISLATION FOR FOREIGN WORKER RECRUITMENT PROVIDES BETTER PROTECTION

Posted: April, 2009

The province of Manitoba has implemented new regulations to better protect temporary foreign workers from unscrupulous recruiters and employers that have surfaced in Canada and abroad. The new legislation is designed to prevent any worker from paying to find a job in Manitoba, requiring recruitment agencies be licensed by the province for better regulation. National organizations are calling for similar legislation to be enacted across the country. ...

IMMIGRANT ACCESS FUND PROVIDES SMALL LOANS FOR ACCREDITATION IN ALBERTA

Posted: April 16, 2009

Alberta's Immigrant Access Fund (IAF) was created in Calgary in 2005 to provide small loans to internationally-trained and educated newcomers to help them gain the accreditation they need to work in their fields of expertise.

STUDIES SHOW CANADIAN ECONOMY IN NEED OF IMMIGRATION TO BOOST AGEING LABOUR MARKET

Posted: April 21, 2009

The ageing population of Canada means there are less people to do the jobs needed to keep Canada's economy competitive, with the percentage of people actively in the labour market reducing to 58% by 2035.

Policy Development

CANADA HAS RESCINDED ITS VISAS FOR CROATIAN CITIZENS

Posted: April 1, 2009

The Canadian immigration minister, Jason Kenney, on March 29th, 2009 officially announced that Canada has rescinded its visas for Croatian citizens.

LABOUR MOBILITY ACROSS CANADA AND ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Posted: April, 2009

At the national level, British Columbia (BC) recently became the first province in Canada to introduce legislation to clear the way for full labour mobility for all trades and professions across the country.

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION CANADA PLANS TO MAKE IMMIGRANT

SETTLEMENT MORE EFFECTIVE

Posted: April 29, 2009

With new citizenship regulations recently put into effect, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney has been vocal about improving the immigrant integration and citizenship processes so that newcomers can better integrate into the Canadian mosaic.

Immigration Patterns in Canada

IMMIGRATION FUELS CANADIAN POPULATION GROWTH

Posted: April 2, 2009

Statistics Canada recently released population growth numbers for the last quarter of 2008. The 0.19 per cent increase is the fastest fourth-quarter growth rate since 1992 and can be largely attributed to net international migration.

QUEBEC ANNOUNCES \$6 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR SETTLEMENT SERVICES

Posted: April 8, 2009

Quebec Immigration Minister Yolande James recently announced that the first \$900,000 of Quebec's \$6 million settlement funding will go to nine groups located in Villeray, St. Michel, Ahuntsic-Cartierville and the east of Montreal Island, where there are significant immigrant populations. The goal is to help 600 newcomers secure employment through these community organizations.

SETTLEMENT SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Posted: April 14, 2009

A new guide for immigrant women has recently been released by the province of Manitoba. The guide was developed by a committee of community and government representatives. It offers advice on resources and services and provides information on issues such as legal rights, child care, and housing.

NEW CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP LAW TAKES EFFECT

Posted: April 20, 2009

As of April 17, 2009, Canada's new citizenship law has done two things. Firstly, it has retroactively restored Canadian citizenship to many who had lost it due to obscure and outdated provisions in past legislation. Secondly, it has henceforth limited citizenship by descent to first generation Canadians.

SELF-EMPLOYED? CANADIAN BUSINESS IMMIGRATION SEEKS CULTURAL AND ATHLETIC PROFESSIONALS, AS WELL AS FARMERS

Posted: April, 2009

Though it is one of the three categories of federal business immigration, the Self-Employed Person category is the only one that does not require a monetary investment or a minimum personal net worth. It is simply a fast-track option for those who have relevant experience in an occupation in art, culture, recreation, or sport, as listed by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), and have the ability to become self-employed in Canada. It is also open to people who wish to purchase and run a farm in Canada. ...

CANADA WILL MAINTAIN IMMIGRATION LEVELS FOR 2009

Posted: April 22, 2009

Earlier this year, Citizenship, Immigration, and Multiculturalism Canada Minister Jason Kenney announced that Canada was considering revising immigration targets, given economic uncertainty and rising unemployment in certain parts of the country.

International News

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION VISA OFFICE IN LEBANON NOW OPEN TO PERMANENT RESIDENT APPLICATIONS

Posted: April 6, 2009

Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney has announced that as of March 31, Lebanese citizens applying to immigrate to Canada may choose the visa office in Beirut, Lebanon as their main point of service.

BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES LABOUR MARKET PRESENCE IN PUNJAB

Posted: April 13, 2009

The Canadian province of British Columbia is reaching out to northern Indian business owners and skilled workers interested in immigration to Canada by establishing a BC in-market business investment and skilled liaison representative in the Chandigarh region of the Punjab.

IN THE US ON AN H1B? GET IN ON FAST-TRACK CANADIAN IMMIGRATION WHILE YOU STILL CAN

Posted: April, 2009

The Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (AINP) has announced that the list of qualifying occupations for the popular U.S. Visa Holder category is currently under revision. It is anticipated that a new list of qualifying occupations will likely be more restrictive than the current one. Applicants who qualify under existing requirements are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible, to avoid being subject to new government regulations. ...

INFORMATION

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