



Recent Changes to Canadian Immigration

Our efforts to keep you informed are ongoing. Recently, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration has been announcing changes almost weekly. Below is a summary of changes that may be relevant to you.

•Restructuring of Processing Locations in North America

With the closure of the Canadian Consulate General in Buffalo, there has been a redistribution of where files are handled in the North American region.

Pending permanent resident files that were being processed at the Canadian Consulate General in Buffalo office have been redirected to the Case Processing Pilot Office located in Ottawa, Ontario. All new applications will continue to be submitted to the Central Intake Office in Sydney, Nova Scotia for the first phase of processing.

For the processing of temporary status applications, the filing protocol is that the following visa posts will have jurisdiction as noted below:

Canadian Consulate General New York – new study or work permit applications from individuals residing east of the Mississippi River, in Puerto Rico, Bermuda, US Virgin Islands and Miquelon; temporary resident visas; travel documents for permanent residents.

Canadian Consulate General Los Angeles - new study or work permit applications from individuals residing west of the Mississippi River; temporary resident visas; temporary resident permits/rehabilitations for individuals west of the Mississippi River; travel documents for permanent residents

Canadian Embassy Washington – temporary resident permits/rehabilitations for individuals residing east of the Mississippi River, in Puerto Rico, Bermuda, US Virgin Islands and Miquelon.

Canadian Consulate General Detroit – temporary resident visas; travel documents for permanent residents.

Canadian Consulate General Seattle - temporary resident visas; travel documents for permanent residents.

•Embassy and Consulate Closings

Since April 2012, a number of Canadian visa offices around the world have closed. The visa post in Tehran, Iran closed and all of its business lines were transferred to the Regional Program Centre at the Canadian Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. Shortly after that announcement, Citizenship and Immigration Canada advised that the visa offices in Berlin, Dhaka, Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo would be closed. Applications for individuals residing in Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland now must be filed at the visa office in Vienna; application from Bangladesh should be filed in Singapore; applications from Malaysia should be filed at Singapore; and, applications from Japan must be filed at the Canadian Embassy visa office in Manila. The visa office in Belgrade also closed. All applications for people



residing in Montenegro, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina are now filed at the visa office in Vienna. The final announcement involved the closure of the Canadian Consulate General in Buffalo. Details concerning how those applications will be distributed is noted above.

•Amalgamation of Temporary Foreign Worker Units

Prior to June 13, 2012, Temporary Foreign Worker Units were available in Vancouver, Calgary, Moncton, Toronto and Montreal. Citizenship and Immigration Canada has amalgamated these offices into two regional offices with one in Toronto and the other in Montreal. The Toronto office will have jurisdiction over Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The Montreal office will make decisions concerning applications destined for Quebec, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador.

•Federal Immigration Program News

On July 1, 2012, Citizenship and Immigration Canada introduced a temporary pause on the acceptance of new applications in the Federal Skilled Worker Program stream. This does not include individuals applying in the PhD eligibility stream or individuals who are applying with an offer of arranged employment. It does affect individuals who wished to apply in the “29 Occupations” category. In addition, the Federal Immigrant Investor Class has been put on temporary hiatus until further notice.

•Pilot Project for the Issuance of Temporary Resident Visa Counterfoil from within Canada

For individuals who are in Canada and holding valid study or work permits, in certain circumstances it is now possible to make application for a new temporary resident visa counterfoil at an internal processing centre.

•Extension of Pilot Project for Working-Age Dependents of Temporary Skilled Workers Destined to Ontario or Alberta

Both of these programs have been extended for one year until July 31, 2013. If the dependent qualifies, he or She can apply for an open work permit that is valid until the same duration of the principal work permit holding parent.

Should you have any questions concerning the ways in which these changes may impact you, your foreign workers or your business, feel free to contact lawyer, Ms. Lainie M. Appleby, at 416 363 1234 ex. 212 or lainie@ggilaw.com.

This document is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice.