

GUBERMAN GARSON LLP IMMIGRATION LAW

Immigration Update – April 2018



Welcome to the Guberman Garson LLP Immigration Update. Our goal is to provide you with on-going information relating to immigration issues.

Canadian Immigration Authorities to Expand Use of Biometrics

Since 2013, Canada has required biometrics from foreign nationals of twenty-nine visa requiring countries if the foreign nationals were intending to enter Canada as temporary residents to study, visit or work. Recently, the Canadian government announced they will be expanding the program significantly such that most foreign nationals entering Canada will require biometrics, including those who are citizens of countries that do not require visas to travel to Canada.

Everyone who is not otherwise exempt will need to provide biometrics when applying for a visitor visa, study permit or work permit. As well, those applying for permanent residence will need to provide biometrics.

The expanded program will begin in the summer of 2018 and will be introduced in two phases. Starting July 31, 2018, this will apply to applicants from Europe, the Middle East and Africa. As of December 31, 2018, it will be extended to include applicants from Asia, Asia Pacific and the Americas. In 2019, the program will apply to foreign nationals from within Canada who are applying for temporary or permanent status.

Those who are exempt from these requirements include the following:

- Canadian citizens, citizenship applicants (including passport applicants), or existing permanent residents
- U.S. citizens
- children under the age of 14
- applicants over the age of 79 (there is no upper age exemption for asylum claimants)
- visa-exempt nationals coming to Canada as tourists who hold a valid Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) ;
- heads of state and heads of government
- cabinet ministers and accredited diplomats of other countries and the United Nations, coming to Canada on official business
- U.S. visa holders transiting through Canada
- refugee claimants or protected persons who have already provided biometrics and are applying for a study or work permit
- temporary resident applicants who have already provided biometrics in support of a permanent resident application that is still in progress

Currently, one can give biometrics at Visa Application Centres (that support Canada's immigration program). As well, it will be possible to have biometrics done at some ports of entry including eight of Canada's major airports and most land ports of entry, though the exact details have yet to be announced. Those who already hold visas will be exempt until they apply for a new visa.

As more details are announced, we will continue to keep you informed. In the meantime if you have any questions feel free to contact any of the lawyers at Guberman Garson LLP.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or would like to schedule a call to discuss these changes, please contact your immigration lawyer at Guberman Garson LLP Immigration Law (416 363 1234).

This document is for general information only and should not be construed as specific legal advice.

Main office

**22 Adelaide Street West
9th Floor
Toronto, ON
M5H 4E3
416-363-1234
immlaw@ggilaw.com**

Calgary

**850-2nd Street S.W.
Suite 700
Calgary, AB
T2P 0R8
416-363-1234
immlaw@ggilaw.com**

Vancouver

**1055 Dunsmuir Street
28th Floor
Vancouver, BC
V7X 1P4
778-395-7810
immlaw@ggilaw.com**

