

GUBERMAN GARSON LLP IMMIGRATION LAW

Immigration Update – CANADA Changes to the *Citizenship Act*



Citizenship Bill (“Bill C-6”) Receives Royal Assent

On June 19, 2017, Bill C-6, an Act to amend the *Citizenship Act* received Royal Assent.

Some changes to the *Citizenship Act* will take effect immediately while others will take effect at a later date.

Amendments Effective Immediately

Some of the main changes to the *Citizenship Act* that take effect immediately are as follows:

1. Applicants are no longer required to continue to live in Canada once granted citizenship; this provides more flexibility to Canadians who may decide to live outside of Canada for personal reasons;
2. Repealing the provision that allows for revocation of citizenship from dual citizens convicted of crimes against the national interest. Dual citizens living in Canada who are convicted of these crimes will face the Canadian justice system.

Amendments Effective Later this Year

Other changes that are expected to come into force this autumn include the following:

1. Reducing the time permanent residents must be physically present in Canada to three out of five years (instead of four out of six years) before applying for citizenship;

2. Amending the age range for people to meet the language and knowledge requirements for citizenship from 14-64 years to 18-54 years;
3. Counting some of the time applicants spend in Canada as temporary residents or protected persons toward their physical presence requirements for citizenship;
4. Strengthening the citizenship revocation process by having the Federal Court as the decision-maker on most cases, thereby enhancing the procedural fairness of the process.

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.

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