

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION UPDATE- New Visa Requirement for Mexican and Czech Nationals; Work Permits for Dependent Children; and Expedited Process for Olympic Contractors

Visitor Visa Requirement Imposed on Mexican and Czech Nationals

Effective July 14, 2009, the Canadian government has imposed a visitor visa requirement on Mexican and Czech nationals. Nationals of these countries should consult with visa specialists to understand the new visa requirement and procedures before making Canadian travel arrangements.

Work Permits to Be Granted to Dependent Children of Foreign Workers in Ontario and Alberta

Historically dependent children accompanying work permit holder parents to Canada could not work in Canada. This has now changed in the provinces of Alberta and Ontario. Effective immediately, a dependent child can apply for an open work permit to accept a job with any employer. The work permit will be valid for the duration of the parent's work permit. In Alberta, the dependent child must be between 18 and 22 years old to qualify; and in Ontario, the dependent must be at least 14 years old. The parent holding the principal Canadian work permit must have at least six months' remaining validity on the work permit in order for the child to be issued a work permit.

Expedited Process for Winter Olympic Contractors

With the Winter Olympics and Paralympics taking place in Vancouver in February 2010, Service Canada has put an expedited process in place for companies which have been awarded contracts for the Olympics to hire multiple temporary foreign workers during these events. These expedited processes are also available for subcontractors. Employers must recruit to ensure that Canadians have the first opportunities for available jobs. Service Canada encourages employers to apply early to avoid any unforeseen processing delays.