



EMAIL BULLETIN

CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION CANADA (CIC) IMPLEMENTS PILOT PROJECT FOR PRESCREENING WORK PERMIT APPLICATIONS IN ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) recently implemented a new Pilot Project for the pre-screening of work permit applications in the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, thereby extending a program that has proven successful for Tindall & Foster clients in Montreal, Quebec. This Pilot Project was designed to streamline the work permit application process and facilitate the smooth and efficient entry of temporary foreign workers upon their arrival in Canada.

The Canadian immigration system allows certain individuals, including most U.S. citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents, to apply for a work permit directly at the border upon entry into the country, rather than requiring that they apply for and obtain a work permit from the CIC in advance. While this facilitates the flow of foreign workers into the country, the system can cause difficulty if an application is denied at the border. Under the Pilot Project, applicants are able to avoid this uncertainty by requesting a pre-screening of an application prior to entry. The CIC will issue a positive recommendation in writing (also known as a “pre-approval”), which can be presented to officers of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) along with a work permit application, allowing the officers to issue work permits more quickly. The pre-screening process only applies to work permit applications that are exempt from HRSDC-Service Canada’s labor market opinion process and to foreign workers from countries whose citizens do not need a visa to enter Canada to visit, study or work temporarily. It is currently taking the CIC in Calgary and Vancouver approximately five business days to pre-screen a qualifying work permit application.

For more information on the new Pilot Project and to initiate new cases for the preparation and filing of a Canadian work permit application, contact your Tindall & Foster immigration attorney or our Certified Canadian Immigration Consultant, Susan Song. We will be pleased to assist you in developing an appropriate case strategy, preparing the necessary documentation, and filing the work permit application with the CIC.