

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION UPDATES

Mexican Citizens Must Now Have Visas to Travel to Canada

Citizenship & Immigration Canada (CIC) recently implemented a new visa requirement for Mexican citizens traveling to Canada. In addition to a valid passport, all Mexicans traveling to Canada must now have a valid Canadian visa. The abrupt implementation of this new requirement is expected to cause significant delays for all visa applicants at the Canadian Embassy in Mexico City. Applicants are advised to apply well in advance of their desired travel dates.

Children of Skilled Foreign Workers in Alberta & Ontario May Now Apply for Open Work Permits

Pursuant to pilot programs recently implemented in the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Ontario, dependent children of certain foreign workers may now apply for open work permits. Ordinarily employers must secure a Labor Market Opinion (LMO) before extending an offer to a foreign national. To obtain an LMO, employers must demonstrate reasonable but unsuccessful efforts to recruit and hire a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident before extending the offer to a foreign national. With the pilot programs in Alberta and Ontario, dependent children of most skilled, temporary foreign workers will now be exempt from this requirement and may apply for open work permits.

For more information on securing a visa for travel to Canada, or an open work permit under one of the new pilot programs, please contact your Foster Quan immigration attorney. Foster Quan's Global Immigration Practice Group, which includes an experienced Certified Canadian Immigration Consultant, will be able to evaluate eligibility and assist in securing these and other Canadian immigration benefits for qualifying applicants.