



~ IMMINEWS ~

Your source for Immigration News
Updates

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Letter to the editor:
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Canadian Immigration to undergo Legislative Changes

Citizenship and Immigration Canada has proposed changes to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) in the federal budget for 2008 to resolve the problem of heavy backlogs in applications. The IRPA states that Citizenship and Immigration Canada must process every application that enters the system causing the processing times to increase. The proposed budget implementation bill includes changes that allow the immigration minister to limit new applications when the backlog reaches a certain size.

Even if the bill passes, the affects may not be known for some time but would help to process backlogged cases faster. Budget 2008's \$22 million over the next two years to implement this modernization of the immigration system is aimed at reducing wait times and improving service. Canada is working towards the goal of a "just-in-time" immigration system to process skilled immigrant applications quickly so that they can make an immediate contribution to the economy.

However, placing a limit on the number of new immigration applications is an area of concern given Canada's declining birthrate, aging population, and labour shortages.

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada; The Canadian Press

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Canada Reviews Visa Requirements for the European Union

Citizenship and Immigration Canada's Immigration Minister has recently announced that people traveling from Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Lithuania will no longer need to apply for Temporary Resident Visas to visit Canada. These nations have been granted membership to the European Union. Canada is currently reviewing visa requirements for countries that are part of The European Union. The immigration minister has stated "We are committed to the free and secure movement of people between the EU and Canada. We are also committed to the objective of visa-exempt status for all EU members." For the EU's twelve most recently added New Member States, Canada initially required visitor visas for seven of them. These requirements were lifted for citizens of Estonia in 2006 and the Czech Republic and Latvia in 2007. With the requirements now removed for Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Lithuania, there are only two EU countries for which citizens are still required to obtain a visa. CIC will be working with these two countries, Bulgaria and Romania, to determine if visa requirements for its citizens can be removed as well.

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

HOW TO APPLY FOR A SIN CARD

Persons in Canada who are authorized to work must be in possession of a Social Insurance Number (SIN). The SIN is used to manage various government programs as well as for tax purposes. This is for persons who wish to get a first SIN card or to replace a lost or stolen one.

Persons in Canada who were in the country on a temporary basis and will now be obtaining permanent status will need to obtain a new number.

Persons in Canada who are under a temporary work permit or study permit will have a SIN card that expires. If they renew their status they must also renew their SIN card. Once they obtain permanent status in the country

There are three ways to apply for a SIN number: 1) in person; 2) By mail; 3) Over the phone (only in New Brunswick).

The required documents for a SIN Card are: completed application form and proof of status in Canada.

Proof of status in Canada will defer depending on each case. For persons born in Canada, they can submit a birth certificate. Naturalized Canadian citizens can submit their citizenship card. Permanent Residents of Canada can include either their Permanent Resident Card or their passport with the *Confirmation of Permanent Residence*. Persons who are in Canada under a work permit or study permit must send their permits.

Applicants **must send the original of these documents.**

Persons who have had a name change must include proof their new name. This includes women who got married and wish to adopt their husband's surname.

The fee for a SIN Card is \$10.

Applicants who wish to apply in person must do so at a Service Canada office. Applicants who bring all their documents will be able to have a new Social Insurance Number on that very day and will receive their card approximately 5 business days later.

Applicants submitting their application through the mail must send their form and documents to:
Service Canada, Social Insurance Registration Office.

P.O. Box 7000

Bathurst, New Brunswick

E2A 4T1.

Applicants who are approved for SIN Card will receive their new cards in approximately 3 weeks.

Persons who suspect that their SIN is being misused or has been lost or stolen are urged to notify Service Canada and local police as soon as possible.

STATISTICS OF THE MONTH

CIC projections for Immigration population demographics: 2017

Canada: African-Canadians will be the 3rd largest minority group

Toronto: 33% visible minorities will be South Asians

Vancouver: 50% of the visible minorities will be Chinese

Montreal: 19% of the visible minorities will be Arabs

Source: CBC news

CONSULATE CORNER

Feature: The Indian Consulate

There are 3 Indian Consulates in Canada. They are located in Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver. Each of these Consulates is responsible for different jurisdictions.

The consulates of India only accept certified cheques, bank drafts, or money orders. Debit, credit and cash are not accepted.

All Indian Nationals arriving in Canada are requested to register themselves with the Consulate General.

Consular Updates

Korean Consulate: New Visa requirements for persons entering to Korea as teachers
<http://www.koreanconsulate.on.ca/en/>

Brazil Consulate in Vancouver now open; services Canada's western region
http://www.consbrastoronto.org/1024/main_eng.htm

Belgian Consulate in Toronto will not handle immigration applications. The Consulate in Montreal processes this application.
<http://www.diplomatie.be/toronto/>

Myths and Facts about Refugees

MYTH	FACT
Real refugees are those who wait in refugee camps overseas. Those who make a claim in Canada jump the line and are not as deserving	Refugees are people who have been forced from their homes by human rights abuses. All refugees have a right to protection, wherever they are. Saying that some refugees are more deserving than others is the same as saying that some human beings are of less value than others.
Real refugees don't travel on false documents	International law recognizes that refugees often have no choice but to enter a country of asylum illegally. The Refugee Convention therefore prohibits governments from penalizing refugees who enter or remain illegally in their territory
Canada does more than its share to assist refugees and asylum seekers when compared to other countries	Only a small minority of refugees and asylum seekers make claims in the world's richest countries, including Canada. In 2006, Tanzania alone hosted more refugees than Canada, France, Australia, the United States, Germany, Spain and Japan combined.
Refugee claimants pose threats to Canada's security	Refugee claimants are seeking security and protection from threats to their own lives. Refugee claimants all go through a front-end security screening. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service checks all refugee claimants on arrival in Canada.
Canada respects the rights of all refugees and immigrants living in Canada	The Canadian record is not spotless. Canada has been criticized by the United Nations Committee against Torture and the UN Human Rights Committee for not recognizing our responsibility as a signatory to the Convention against Torture not to return a person to a country where there is a risk of torture, without exception

Source: Canadian Council for Refugees

IMMINEWS CONSULATES DIRECTORY

OTTAWA EMBASSY	TORONTO CONSULATE	OTTAWA EMBASSY	TORONTO CONSULATE	GOVERNMENT SERVICES
Afghanistan: (613) 563-4223	(416) 385-1033	Jordan: (613) 238-8090		Immigrating to Canada Citizenship and Immigration Canada 1-888-242-2100 www.cic.gc.ca Canadian Passport Passport Canada: 1 800 567-6868 www.passport.gc.ca Filing Taxes Canada Revenue Agency: 1-800-387-1193 www.cra.gc.ca Refugee Claims Immigrant and Refugee Board 416-954-1000 www.irb-cisr.gc.ca Ontario Driver's License Ministry of Transportation: 1-800-268-4686 www.mto.gov.on.ca Ontario Health Card Ministry of Health: 1-800-268-1153 www.health.gov.on.ca Ontario Birth Certificates Ministry of Government and Consumer Services: 416-326-1234 www.mcgs.gov.on.ca Social Insurance Number Service Canada 1 800 206-7218 www.servicecanada.gc.ca Travel Warnings Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1800-267-6788 www.voyage.gc.ca US Visa Appointments NVARs 1-900-451-2778 www.nvars.com Free Legal Assistance Legal Aid Ontario 1-800-668-8258 www.legalaid.on.ca City Services City of Toronto 416-338-0338 www.toronto.ca
Albania: (613) 236-4114	(416) 236-1879	Kenya: (613) 563-1773		
Algeria: (613) 789-8505		Korea: (613) 244-5010	(416) 920-3809	
Angola: (613) 234-1152		Kuwait: (613) 780-9999		
Argentina: (613) 236-2351	(416) 955-9075	Latvia: (613) 238-6014	(416) 932-8725	
Armenia: (613) 234-3710		Lebanon: (613) 236-5825	(416) 530-2121	
Australia: (613) 236-0841	(416) 323-1155	Lesotho: (613) 234-0770		
Austria: (613) 789-1444	(416) 967-3348	Libya: (613) 230-0919		
Azerbaijan: (613) 288-0497		Lithuania: (613) 567-5458	(416) 538-2992	
Bahamas: (613) 232-1724	(416) 233-6776	Macedonia: (613) 234-3882	(416) 322-2196	
Bangladesh: (613) 236-0138		Madagascar: (613) 567-0505		
Barbados: (613) 236-9517	(416) 214-9805	Malaysia: (613) 241-5182	(416) 504-6111	
Belarus: (613) 233-9994		Mali: (613) 232-1501	(416) 489-4849	
Belgium: (613) 236-7267	(416) 944-1422	Mexico: (613) 233-8988	(416) 368-2875	
Benin: (613) 233-4429		Mongolia: (613) 569-3830	(416) 643-6924	
Bolivia: (613) 236-5730		Morocco: (613) 236-7391		
Bosnia: (613) 236-0028		Myanmar: (613) 232-9990		
Brazil: (613) 237-1090	(416) 922-2503	Netherlands: (613) 237-5031	(416) 598-2520	
Bulgaria: (613) 789-3215	(416) 696-2420	Niger: (613) 232-4291		
Burkina Faso: (613) 238-4796	(416) 867-8669	Nigeria: (613) 236-0521		
Burundi: (613) 789-0414	(416) 947-0455	Norway: (613) 238-6571	(416) 920-5287	
Cameroon: (613) 236-1522		Caribbean States: (613) 236-8952		
Chile: (613) 235-4402	(416) 924-0106	Pakistan: (613) 238-7881		
China: (613) 789-3434	(416) 964-7260	Panama: (613) 236-7177		
Colombia: (613) 230-3760	(416) 977-0098	Paraguay: (613) 567-1283		
Congo: (613) 230-6391	(416) 315-1549	Peru: (613) 238-1777	(416) 963-9696	
Costa Rica: (613) 562-2855	(416) 865-3382	Philippines: (613) 233-1121	(416) 922-7181	
Côte d'Ivoire: (613) 236-9919	(416) 366-8490	Poland: (613) 789-0468	(416) 252-5471	
Croatia: (613) 562-7820		Portugal: (613) 729-0883	(416) 217-0966	
Cuba: (613) 563-0141	(416) 234-8181	Romania: (613) 789-3709	(416) 585-5802	
Czech: (613) 562-3875		Russia: (613) 235-4341	(416) 962-9911	
Denmark: (613) 562-1811	(416) 962-5661	Rwanda: (613) 569-5420		
Dom. Republic: (613) 569-9893	(416) 369-0403	Saudi Arabia: (613) 237-4100		
Ecuador: (613) 563-8206	(416) 968-2077	Senegal: (613) 238-6392	(416) 944-1531	
Egypt: (613) 234-4931		Serbia: (613) 233-6289	(416) 487-5776	
El Salvador: (613) 238-2939	(416) 975-0812	Slovak: (613) 749-4442	(416) 862-1270	
Eritrea: (613) 234-3989		Slovenia: (613) 565-5781	(416) 201-8307	
Estonia: (613) 789-4222	(416) 461-0764	South Africa: (613) 744-0330	(416) 944-8825	
Ethiopia: (613) 235-6637		Spain: (613) 747-2252	(416) 977-1661	
European Union: (613) 238-6464		Sri Lanka: (613) 233-8449	(416) 323-9133	
Finland: (613) 288-2233	(416) 964-0066	Sudan: (613) 235-4000		
France: (613) 789-1795	(416) 847-1900	Sweden: (613) 244-8200	(416) 963-8768	
Gabon: (613) 232-5301		Switzerland: (613) 235-1837	(416) 593-5371	
Germany: (613) 232-1101	(416) 925-2813	Syria: (613) 569-5556	(905) 564-0955	
Ghana: (613) 236-0871	(416) 848-1015	Tanzania: (613) 232-1500		
Greece: (613) 238-6271	(416) 515-0132	Thailand: (613) 722-4444	(416) 367-6750	
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Guinea: (613) 789-8444	(416) 769-8262	Trinidad Tobago: (613) 232-2418	(416) 495-9442	
Guyana: (613) 235-7249	(416) 494-6040	Tunisia: (613) 237-0330		
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Holy See: (613) 746-4914		Uganda: (613) 789-7797		
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India: (613) 744-3751	(416) 960-4668	U.S.A.: (613) 238-5335	(416) 595-1700	
Indonesia: (613) 724-1100	(416) 360-4020	Uruguay: (613) 234-2727	(416) 730-1289	
Iran: (613) 235-4726		Venezuela: (613) 235-5151	(416) 960-6070	
Iraq: (613) 236-9177		Vietnam: (613) 236-0772		
Ireland: (613) 233-6281	(416) 366-9300	Yemen: (613) 729-6627		
Israel: (613) 567-6450	(416) 640-8500	Zambia: (613) 232-4400		
Italy: (613) 232-2401	(416) 977-1566	Zimbabwe: (613) 237-4388		
Jamaica: (613) 233-9311	(416) 598-3008			
Japan: (613) 241-8541	(416) 363-7038			