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<p>THIS ISSUE:</p> <p>Immigration News Updates</p> <p>How to Get A US Visa</p> <p>New Brazilian Consulate in Vancouver</p> <p>Consular Updates</p> <p>Statistics of the Month</p> <p>Letter to the editor: info@immigroup.com</p>	<p align="center">2008 Targets Released for Canadian Immigration</p> <p>2008 targets for Canadian visas have been released to visa offices around the world. Citizenship and Immigration Canada provides its yearly targets for each category of permanent resident visas at every overseas Canadian visa office. A memo received from CIC states that targets are not made randomly. These targets are set to maximize efficiency in processing visas and are set according to processing capacity and the number of applications received.</p> <p>In 2008, Canada looks to welcome between 240,000 and 265,000 new Canadian Permanent Residents from around the world. The following are some general targets specific to region.</p> <p>Africa and the Middle East offices will be shifting focus from skilled workers to refugees. The number of Refugee visa targets has doubled since last year. The Asia and Pacific region will be increasing their skilled worker targets in China, Australia and Malaysia. On the whole, this region will now be processing more visas under the provincial nominee category. Germany and the Ukraine, in Europe will be increasing targets in the skilled worker class as well; however, more attention will be paid to the provincially selected applications for permanent resident visas in the rest of Europe. Skilled worker applications processed in the Americas are on an increase through out the majority of the region. The Buffalo office is the winner in the skilled worker category with almost 15000 applications to be processed in 2008.</p>
<p>NEXT ISSUE</p> <p>Immigration News Updates</p> <p>How to get a SIN card</p> <p>Consular Updates</p> <p>Statistics of the Month</p>	<p align="center">Canadian Employers still shy of Skilled Workers</p> <p>Even though the ever-growing Canadian economy has great demand for new workers, businesses in Canada are not exploring the skilled-worker immigration pool in Canada. The major problems that employers indicate in hiring skilled worker immigrants is their lack of strong communication skills and the fact that their credentials are foreign and so can't be compared to Canadian credentials. The government of Canada has initiatives aimed at these barriers; the gap between the employer and the skilled worker immigrant is stubbornly large.</p> <p>Employers need to understand that by hiring skilled worker immigrants, Canadian businesses, and the economy benefit. The skilled worker is also able to settle into their new Canadian life better.</p>

HOW TO APPLY FOR A US VISA

If you are a permanent resident of Canada, a temporary worker, a visitor, or a student in Canada, and you need to apply for a US Visa to visit the United States, this article will explain how to obtain one from within Canada.

For any person who is applying for a US Visa within Canada, they must have an appointment with an American consulate in Canada. You cannot enter the consulate without having an appointment. To find one, there are two ways you can do so.

- Call the Visa Application Reservation System at 1-900-451-2778. There is a charge of \$1.89 per minute.
- Your second option is to do it yourself through the Visa application website (www.nvars.com). You will have to have your passport in front of you to set up a file, and you will have to continuously login until you have found an appointment.

Once you've obtained an appointment, you will receive a confirmation package online. It will contain the supporting documentation you need and the forms that have to be filled out. For those who live in Canada, we recommend that you produce the following documents: a letter from your employer or a letter from a school or university verifying that you are enrolled in school. You should also come with a copy of a house ownership papers from where you live or a rental agreement. You should also include previous bank statements, bills, and proof of your legal status in Canada.

You must demonstrate to the officer interviewing you that you have strong ties to Canada and have no intention of immigrating. You must demonstrate to the Consular officer

Persons in Canada as visitors are allowed to apply for a visitor's visa from within Canada but chances of success vary. Just like Canadian residents, you must show strong ties to your country of residence by producing similar documents to those listed above.

Before your interview, you need to produce two, identical photographs. These photographs are square and measure two inches by two inches. They must be taken on a white background and must show a clear view of your facial features. Please check take the photo specification page that is included in your confirmation letter to a commercial photographer.

Before you attend your interview you must pay your fees. The fee for a tourist visa is US \$131. These fees must be paid before your interview at a Scotiabank. In your application confirmation package, you will see four payment slips. You take these slips to a Scotiabank teller, and they will take your fee and stamp all pages and return two to you. You will take these stamped pages to the US Consulate on the day of the interview.

You should be on time for your interview. Do not bring any electronics with you to the Consulate (including key chains). Food and water are prohibited inside the building. You are only allowed to bring your documents and passport with you.

STATISTICS OF THE MONTH

category	1997	2002	2006
Family Class	59,538	62,280	70,508
Skilled Workers	104,924	122,706	105,949
Business immigrants	19,924	11,022	12,077
Provincial nominees	47	2,127	13,336
Refugees	23,863	25,111	32,492
Other	3,279	9,208	10,382
All immigrants and refugees	214,293	221,339	251,639

Source: www.cic.gc.ca

This chart shows the immigration category and the number of people awarded visas to Canada in that category.

CONSULATE CORNER

Feature: The US Consulate

There are 7 U.S. Consulates in Canada. They are located in Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver. Each of these Consulates is able to process applications for visitor visas.

The Consulates are very strict as to who and what is allowed inside the Consulate. Only persons who are applying for a visa can enter. Exceptions will be made for persons acting as interpreters or for those assisting a person with medical conditions. Most electronic devices are prohibited inside the Consulate, including electronic key chains. Food and drinks cannot be brought inside as well.

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/>

The Annual Flow of Foreign Workers to Canada by Top Source Countries

Source countries	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Number									
United States	24,642	24,949	24,969	27,903	24,868	21,312	16,567	16,623	17,174	16,841
Mexico	6,133	6,998	8,147	10,084	11,326	11,660	11,332	11,575	12,805	13,933
France	4,265	4,342	4,870	5,615	5,309	4,989	5,034	6,607	7,665	8,681
Philippines	2,072	2,218	2,213	2,272	4,134	4,776	4,958	5,757	6,102	8,529
Australia	3,661	3,720	3,676	4,254	4,881	5,648	5,907	7,202	7,105	7,442
United Kingdom	5,207	5,400	6,428	7,029	7,374	6,645	6,180	7,659	7,607	7,162
Jamaica	5,253	5,074	5,409	5,337	5,781	5,557	5,943	5,953	6,155	6,313
Japan	4,517	4,569	5,061	4,339	4,479	5,415	5,426	5,439	5,812	5,601
Germany	1,863	2,133	2,314	2,511	2,593	2,212	1,947	2,386	2,684	4,008
India	1,063	1,403	1,555	2,431	2,290	2,459	2,772	3,066	3,705	3,821
China, People's Republic of	1,002	1,228	1,779	2,325	3,069	2,864	2,138	1,735	1,523	1,569
Trinidad and Tobago	1,733	1,733	1,648	1,774	1,839	1,678	1,627	1,659	1,606	1,479
Top 10 source countries	59,346	61,136	64,866	71,828	73,814	71,325	66,257	72,267	76,814	82,331
Other countries	16,214	18,919	22,146	25,224	26,807	24,065	22,247	22,956	25,794	30,327
Total	75,560	80,055	87,012	97,052	100,621	95,390	88,504	95,223	102,608	112,658

Source: www.cic.gc.ca

IMMINEWS CONSULATES DIRECTORY

OTTAWA EMBASSY	TORONTO CONSULATE	OTTAWA EMBASSY	TORONTO CONSULATE	GOVERNMENT SERVICES
Afghanistan: (613) 563-4223	(416) 385-1033	Korea: (613) 244-5010	(416) 920-3809	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
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