



Matrixvisa Inc.

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Immigration Law and International Recruitment

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IMMIGRATION NEWS

Arranged Employment Opinions

Permanent job offers that are used for immigration purposes within the Federal Skilled Worker Class must be approved before the permanent residence is requested. The approval is obtained through an opinion called an “Arranged Employment Opinion” or commonly referred to as an “AEO”.

The following was reported in an immigration law publication called Lexbase of July/August2010:

“While there is room for further research, this exercise clearly revealed systemic problems within the business line, and strongly suggests that the AEO program is not meeting its policy intent, which is to fill urgent labour market shortages on a permanent basis with new permanent residents.” “...nearly 90% of AEO applications submitted did not meet the program intent. Fewer than 40% of the applicants contacted were employed for even four months by the AEO employer after arrival, and over 60% of the cases never worked for the prospective employers in Canada. Fewer than 20% of applicants contacted were working for the AEO employer at the time of the review.”

This was written by the Immigration program manager in Delhi, Mr Manicom. He is a veteran of the immigration department and his comments will not go unnoticed within the department. It therefore seems as if many of the Arranged Employment Opinions (AEO) submitted in Delhi are not genuine jobs and as a result it is expected that changes will take place in this AEO program due to increased lack of genuine job offers used for permanent residence applications submitted at certain visa offices. One could expect that changes will take place within this AEO program after these revelations.

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Changes Give Manitoba Competitive Advantage to Retain Best and Brightest

Beginning in 2011, international graduates from a post-secondary educational program of at least two academic years at a Manitoba institution will be able to apply immediately to the Provincial Nominee Program in advance of receiving an offer of employment. Previously, international graduates could only apply to the Provincial Nominee Program after working for a Manitoba employer for at least six months.

As part of the changes, international students applying for the fast-track program will also enrol in an employment-readiness program upon completion of their studies. The program will include job readiness, career coaching and job-matching services.

In 2009, Manitoba welcomed 13,518 newcomers, 75 per cent of whom came through the Provincial Nominee Program. Last year, 203 international students were accepted to the Provincial Nominee Program, three times more than in 2005. The top source countries of International Students nominated to Manitoba are China (65 per cent), India (five per cent), Bangladesh (three per cent), Korea and Pakistan (two per cent each). The Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program has approved over 1,000 international students since 2005. Manitoba had 5,384 international students studying at Manitoba institutions in 2009.

Ontario Opportunities

As of June 14, 2010 Opportunities Ontario was expanded again to allow International Master's graduates from publicly funded Ontario universities to qualify for an Ontario nomination and permanent residence without a job offer. International students who graduated or will soon be graduating from a Master's program from one of Ontario's publicly funded universities, can now apply to Opportunities Ontario for nomination as a permanent resident, under the International Student Category's Pilot Master's Graduate Stream. The student will not require a job offer in order to apply for a nomination.

In order to apply to Opportunities Ontario as an international Master's graduate in Ontario, students must:

- Intend to live and work in Ontario.
- Have graduated from an existing Master's program at an eligible publicly funded university in Ontario.
- Have completed a minimum of one academic year degree program, while studying on a full-time basis.
- Apply within two years of the date on which their Master's degree was granted, or, during the last semester of completing their degree.
- Currently be residing in Ontario.

- Have legal status in Canada (i.e. study permit, work permit, temporary resident visa)
- Demonstrate high official language proficiency (For English language proficiency – IELTS – General test with a minimum band score of 7 or higher) (For French language proficiency – TEF – with a minimum score of 5 or higher).
- Demonstrate a minimum level of savings/income to support themselves and their dependants (currently \$11,086 for a single person)
- Demonstrate at least one year of residence in Ontario in the past two years.
- Not have return obligations under Canadian International Development Agency grants or home country scholarships.
- Pay a non-refundable processing fee of \$1,500 per application.

International students graduating from a publicly-funded college or university in Canada can continue to qualify for an Ontario nomination when they graduate, if they have a permanent, full-time job offer from an Ontario employer.

The recent changes, which allow for Ontario’s PhD/Master's graduates to apply for Opportunities Ontario, are a new way in which international students can access our program and is in addition to program criteria that help all international students qualify for permanent residence in Ontario.

Federal Business Classes

The Federal business programs consist of

- a. Federal Self employed Class
- b. Federal Entrepreneurs Class
- c. Federal Investors Class

The federal business programs is a “no-go area” for people living in South Africa: At the visa office in Pretoria there are 329 cases waiting to be assessed by 31 Dec2009. Only 5 cases were identified to be approved in 2010. At that rate it would take 59 years for all the cases to be completed!

The Self Employed Class is limited to applicants that must have competed at a world class level in cultural activities or sport and must demonstrate how a significant economic contribution can be made in the area where the person will be located, which would be difficult to demonstrate. The self employed class is also intended for farmers.

Business applicants are advised to apply in a provincial business class as that route is significantly faster.

For those that already applied under a federal business program it might be possible to obtain a work permit if the provincial government will support the entrepreneur with letter explaining the significant economic benefit to the province.

Contribution of Immigrants

The Conference Board of Canada released a study that quantified the many ways that immigrants are already making Canada a more innovative country. For example, at least 35 per cent of Canada Research Chairs are foreign-born, even though immigrants make up one-fifth of the population. Immigrants also help boost the value of exports, the number of patents, and foreign direct investment. Immigrants boost trade. The study's models show every one-percentage-point increase in the number of immigrants to Canada can increase the value of imports into Canada by 0.21 per cent, and raise the value of exports by 0.11 per cent. According to the study foreign direct investment into Canada also increase from countries that are well represented in immigration to Canada.

Federal Investor

The federal Investor program was frozen and the new investment amount will be CAD800 000 and the required net-worth will be CAD1,6 million.

Quebec Investor

The Government of Québec announced last week that due to the enormous volume of files received since the closing of the Federal Program and due to the fact that the effective date of the new program as announced by the Government of Canada this summer remains unknown, it is forced to stop accepting files under the current program. Québec files under the current Regulation will be accepted until October 15, at noon (12:00 pm).

WEATHER & SEASONS

Ontario is now in fall (autumn) and the leaves are changing to the most beautiful orange, yellow and red colours. It should be gone within in the next 7-10 days and then only a few weeks will pass before the snow will arrive in Ontario.



GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL NEWS

Last week Canada's new Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honorable Mr David Johnston was sworn in. Mr Johnston was the head of Waterloo University in Ontario and is an ex-law professor. He was appointed by Queen Elizabeth II, The Queen of Canada and is also the queen's representative in Canada. Mr Johnston is her representative in Canada. The website of the Governor General is as follows: <http://www.gg.ca/index.aspx>

News reports by a pollster Mr Jean Leger indicate that support for separation in Quebec has dropped significantly. It now seem as if the Bloc Quebecois only has 40 5 support.

The most recent Canadian news is about the federal government intending to purchase 65 new fighter jets from the USA for CAD9 billion. The liberal opposition is trying to this to criticize the conservative government but the liberal party was involved in negotiations about this purchase when they were still in power.

Generally speaking political news from Canada is normally not very exciting and newsworthy as Canada is a very stable democracy and the essential difference between parties is minor compared to other parts of the world. The Chinese has a saying: “May you live in dull times” On a political front, this phrase captures the political news in Canada.

For those that are trying to follow the news in Canada are some websites

- Toronto Star: <http://www.thestar.com/>
- Globe and Mail: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/>
- Links to nearly all newspapers: <http://www.altstuff.com/newspapr.htm>
- Links to more: <http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/canada.htm>

Best Regards



Cobus (Jacobus) Kriek on behalf of Matrixvisa Inc.
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