



Matrixvisa Inc.

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Immigration Law and International Recruitment

Newsletter: 14 February 2011

VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

We will again visit South Africa from 24 Feb to 4 March. Our schedule will be as follows

- 24 Feb -28 Feb: Johannesburg
- 28Feb -4 March; Cape Town

Interviews need to be scheduled in advance by contacting the Office Manager at info@matrixvisa.com.

During the visit Cobus Kriek can be reached on 076—381-0053.

IMMIGRATION NEWS: PROCEESING TIMES AND QUOTAS

During the past couple of months we have had many inquiries about processing times. It is important to remember that processing times is a direct result of the size of immigrations targets (or quotas) for a specific immigration class and the number of people wanting to immigrate in a specific immigration class.

A few clients have mentioned that they heard through the grapevine that another applicant obtained their permanent residence in 24 weeks but their own case might be in progress for 40

weeks without medical instructions being issued. The erroneous conclusion is that something is wrong with their case. It is not that simple as apples cannot be compared to pears. For example:

- A Federal Skilled Worker case of a foreign worker in Canada with a permanent job offer that was submitted in Pretoria 2 years ago was completed as quick as 8 weeks and most within **4 months**. A Federal Skilled Worker case of a foreign worker in Canada with a permanent job offer that was submitted in Buffalo 2 years ago was only completed in about **12 months or longer**. The same immigration class and situation but different processing centre resulted in radical differences in processing times.
- The same kind of Federal Skilled Worker Class application in Pretoria will take at least 18 months if submitted after March 2010. This we only figured out in Dec 2010 and January 2011. Why ? Well many clients received letters from the Canadian High Commission February 2010 stating that these clients would have to wait 4-6 months before they will receive any feedback. Twelve months later we have not yet received any feedback and essentially clients felt as if they have been misled. Furthermore there is now also a Central Intake Office process in Nova Scotia that is taking about 4 months to be completed. Recent e-mails from the High Commission indicated that processing for Skilled Worker Class cases of foreign nationals in Canada with permanent job offers will be completed in 6-12 months. However the norm has now become 12 months or more for this specific Class and for this specific visa office.

Through the Federal Access to Information Act we obtained the **actual inventories** (people waiting in line) as well as the **quotas** for each immigration class at all visa posts of the Canadian government. These actual copies of the government's file can be seen here:

- For 2010: <http://www.matrixvisa.com/images%202/2010targets&objectives.pdf>
- For 2011: <http://www.matrixvisa.com/images%202/2011targets&objectives.pdf>

We use access to statistics in the governmental records to attempt to project accurate processing times for different classes in different visa posts. Our calculations for some immigration classes for the Pretoria Visa Office are as follows:

Federal Skilled Worker Class cases for the Visa office in Pretoria:

It is expected that **processing in the Federal Skilled Worker Class will probably shorten in Pretoria** as the quota for the Federal Skilled Worker Class has nearly doubled to **470 people** for 2011 from **250 in 2010**. These are not cases but rather people (applicants, spouses and children). On 31 Dec 2010 there were 3225 people in the inventory (people waiting for visas) in this class in Pretoria. Therefore on average the processing time would be 6,8 years or 82 months *if everyone is approved*. Obviously there will be refusals and that would speed up the process.

However those that applied after February 2008 (so called Bill C-50 cases) will get preferential treatment and probably be completed first and any “left-overs” of the quota will be given those that applied before Feb 2008, which means these “older” applications could expect longer processing times. This is based on the fact that the Minister indicated that applicants that applied under the new Skilled occupation lists (after February 2008) will be prioritized. This is also mentioned on the website of the High Commission. For those that applied before February 2008, the High Commission indicated on its website that it is presently assessing cases from 2005 which is roughly 6 years ago. I expect these pre Feb 2008 cases to take even longer as the existing quota of 470 people is being absorbed by the new priority occupation list.

According to records 599 people in the Federal Skilled Worker Class inventory applied after Feb 2008 and will receive priority assessment during 2011. Only after that inventory of 599 people has been depleted, will the visa office in Pretoria assess pre- Feb 2008 cases. **If** the present quota of 450 for 2011 is absorbed by those that applied after Feb 2008, not a single client from the time before Feb 2008 will receive a visa which will result in longer processing times for our older clients (pre Feb 2008).

Federal Skilled Worker Class cases for a selection of other offices:

As a comparison the following visa offices can be used to compare to the Pretoria Visa Office:

Moscow: 1600 people in the inventory and the quota is 800 people

Vienna: 1270 people in the inventory and the quota is only 90 people which should result in roughly 10 years of processing

London: 59719 people in the inventory and the quota is 17 500 people which should result in roughly 3 years of processing.

Buffalo: 10049 people are in the inventory and the quota is 7500 people which should result in just over 14 months of processing.

It is assumed that the success rate in Buffalo will be higher as most applicants are American or foreign national already working in Canada. At other visa posts the success rate might be much slower.

It is also important to remember that those foreign nationals in Canada with permanent job offers (arranged employment) would probably receive faster processing than other applicants in the Federal Skilled Worker Class at the same office. This exception is believed to be valid for the visa office in London but not in Buffalo as each visa post have unique processing priorities.

Federal Business Class Cases at the Visa Office in Pretoria:

The website of the visa office indicates the following: “ **Business Class**: We are currently assessing cases received in **April 2005.**” I would take that with a pinch of salt: The records show that there are 300 people in the queue for this class but only 5 are being issued. Simple math would

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Calgary: 403-441-2706, 403-206-7781 (F)
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show that it would take roughly 60 years to work through all the files. If only a third of the cases is approved it would take **20 years** to move through the existing inventory. We now advise clients not to submit a single case in the Federal Entrepreneur class at the Visa Office in Pretoria.

Family Class (Parents) at the Visa Office in Pretoria:

There are 138 people in that inventory and the quota was decreased from 120 people during 2010 to 40 for 2011. That means if the quota remain the same the average processing time would increase to **3 years** from the projected 18 months during 2010. The website of the High Commission still shows processing times to be 18 months, which is incorrect.

The international quota for parents decreased from 16200 parent to 11200 people.

Provincial Nominee Class at the Visa Office in Pretoria:

In the Provincial Nominee Class, provinces nominate skilled workers. Once the nomination certificate is issued, the submission is made in the Provincial Nominee Class at a Foreign Visa post.

The quota dropped from 250 in 2010 to **175 people in 2011** which is 30% decrease in this quota. On 31 Dec 2010 there were **145 people waiting for visas in this class**. This is obviously the fastest immigrant class at present.

This can be compared with Buffalo where there are 12 237 people in the Provincial Nominee Class in inventory in the Provincial Nominee Class and the quota is 12600. Therefore processing time should be roughly 12 months in this class in Buffalo which is slightly longer than Pretoria.

However before a file can be submitted to the visa office in Pretoria the foreign national must first be nominated by the province he or she is living in or intend to live. Every province is different and in each province there are differences in processing times between classes:

- The processing times for the Provincial Nominee Class in Ontario seems to be about 5 months
- The processing times for the Provincial Nominee Class in Alberta for Compulsory Trades and Engineers seems to be 5 months, 1 month for doctors and the rest about 9-11 months.
- The processing times for the Provincial Nominee Class in Saskatchewan seems to be about 8-10 months. Apparently processing times increased drastically from 4 months during 2010 to about 8-10 months for 2011 as about 10 000 people applied and there is only quota of 7000. The downside is that foreign nationals must work in Saskatchewan for 6 months before they may apply to be nominated in the Provincial Nominee Class.

Overall Quota at the Visa Office in Pretoria:

For 2010, 1515 people were targeted to become permanent resident through the Canadian visa office in Pretoria. This was decreased to 1420 which is **6 % decrease in number of permanent residence visas.**

Best Regards



Cobus (Jacobus) Kriek on behalf of Matrixvisa Inc.

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