



Matrixvisa Inc.

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Immigration Law and International Recruitment

The Honourable Brad Wall,
Premier of Saskatchewan
Room 226,
2405 Legislative Drive,
Regina, SK,
Canada,
S4S 0B3

7 Feb 2012

URGENT PROBLEM FOR FOREIGN TRAINED INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIANS TO ENTER SASKATHEWAN

Dear Mr. Wall

I assisted on your constituents Mr Brett Wellsch with an immigration law service to bring a farm supervisor into the country from South Africa and Mr Wellsch suggested that I contact you direct.

Matrixvisa Inc has been requested to identify highly specialized industrial electricians outside of Canada and to obtain work permits for these foreign trained individuals to work at two employers in Saskatchewan. We where unable to do that as the policy and associated procedures in SK has severe shortcomings and not transparent. The lack of sensible policy and transparency has a negative result on productivity and eventually economic growth in SK.

The first employer is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is one of the world's largest overhead crane companies. More can be seen about this company at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] also has divisions in other industries such as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] need foreign industrial electricians with 10 000 hours experience in repair and maintenance of overhead cranes.

The second employer is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is one of the leading suppliers of [REDACTED] in the Potash industry of SK. [REDACTED] (see [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] has equipment service centers in six continents, more than twenty distinct countries, [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] is the distributors of :

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- a. [REDACTED] such as [REDACTED] under the brand name [REDACTED] is also one of the leading suppliers of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the Canadian Mining Industry including the Oil Sands of Fort McMurray.
- b. Underground mining equipment under the brand, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is also one of the leading suppliers of [REDACTED] (also referred to as [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for soft rock mining (Potash and Coal) in Canada.

Attempts by [REDACTED] to bring a highly experienced industrial electrician from South Africa has not been successful up to date as the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) has indicated that they would not assess the credentials of a foreign trained industrial electrician.

The first concern is therefore the lack of a statutory foundation. The Director of the SATCC has indicated that the trade of industrial electrician cannot be assessed by the SATCC. We could not find the same statutory interpretation in our research.

The second challenge is that this policy is not transparent. As a result my clients and several other multi-national groups are not made aware of the existence of this policy. I wrote to the Director of the SATCC on 1 December 2011 with several questions (See Enclosure 1). In his response on 23 December 2011 (Enclosure 2) most of the questions were not answered. An Email was sent back to the Director on 23 December 2011 (See page 13 and 14 on Enclosure 2) requesting that our five questions be answered but we have not had any response. The questions focus on the reasons for the refusal to assess the credentials of foreign trained industrial electricians. The questions were also asked on behalf of my clients, so that they can obtain a better understanding of the relevant statutes and the interpretation thereof. I read policy and legislation everyday, but struggled to understand the interpretation of SATCC. The questions on behalf of my clients, about this issue remain unanswered.

The lack of clear and transparent policy contributes to an inability by my clients to plan ahead. Employers that play a significant role in the economic growth of SK are being prevented by policy and lack of transparency to bring the urgently needed, highly trained and experienced industrial electricians into SK from abroad.

Apparently only "construction and maintenance electricians" are being assessed and accepted although we could not find clear legislative authority for this decision. I was informed that the foreign trained industrial electricians must again complete their "construction and maintenance electrician" apprenticeship and once completed they may complete industrial electrical work. The rhetorical questions are

- a. What does wiring of a building to do with the electrical repair of a complicated mining machine?

- b. These foreign trained industrial electricians are needed for their knowledge and expertise in repairing or maintaining complex industrial equipment. How will construction electrical training assist them to perform the duties as an industrial electrician ?

In essence, SK employers needs to employ foreign trained industrial electricians in niche positions but legislation and rules about this decision remains unclear. Attempts to obtain a clear reference to policy has not been possible up to date as can be seen by the repeated unanswered questions to the SATCC.

If statutory interpretation of the legislation is correct, then the sensibility of such policy (only to allow foreign trained "construction and maintenance electricians" into SK) must be questioned and alternatives found. **As far as I am aware, SK is the only province in Canada where foreign trained industrial electricians can not enter.**

A possible interim solution would be for the SK government to request to allow foreign trained industrial electricians to be assessed by the AB for an interim period and to write to AB examination (as one possible solution). This approach was already followed by the Ontario College of Surgeons and Physicians and will probably be implemented by the BC College of Surgeons and Physicians.

It is requested that your office review my 3 enclosures and take the appropriate action.

Thank you for your time, Mr Wall.

Respectfully yours



Cobus (Jacobus) Kriek on behalf of Matrixvisa Inc.

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Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC)

Member in Good Standing of ICCRC as required by the Section 91 (1) & (7) (a) Immigration and Refugee Protection Act of Canada

Enclosure 1: Letter to SATCC dated 1 Dec with enclosures (page 1-2)

Enclosure 2: Response from SATCC dated 23 Dec 2011 and E-mail to SATC dated 23 Dec 2011 (page 13-14)

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