



MATRIXVISA INC.

www.matrixvisa.com

Immigration Law and International Recruitment

Minister Donald Arseneault
 Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
 Chestnut Complex
 470 York Street
 Fredericton, New Brunswick
 E3B 3P7

Phone: (506) 453-2342

20 September 2017

REQUEST TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Minister Arseneault,

The purpose of this letter is to provide some information to your Ministry about the successes of South African Immigrants in Canada. This is done with the intention of convincing the New Brunswick Provincial Nominee Program (NB PNP) to visit South Africa as part of their annual Information Sessions. South Africa has been constantly ignored by the NB PNP as a source-country and as a result NB has lost golden opportunities to attract good immigrants to the province.

Enclosed are two letters I received from Minister Landry about the annual visits of the NB PNP. Enclosure 1 provides a list of countries that were visited in 2015. Enclosure 2 lists planned visits for 2016. Please note that the only countries from the African continent listed in both these enclosures are Egypt and Morocco.

The NB PNP is currently open (temporarily) for applications to be made to NB through the Expression of Interest (EOI) process for applicants who have attended an information session in the previous 24 months (since September 1, 2015) and who also are in one of the priority occupations listed below:

- Information systems analysts and consultants (2171)
- Computer network technician (2281)
- Software engineers and designers (2173)
- Database analysts and data administrators (2172)
- Computer programmers and interactive media developers (2174)
- Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses (3012)
- Licensed practical nurses (3233)
- Cooks (6322)
- Restaurant and food service managers (0631)
- Accounting technicians and bookkeepers (1311)

- Managers in health care (0311)
- Retail sales supervisors (6211)
- Financial auditors and accountants (1111)

Unfortunately, South Africans can never participate in a program that requires the attendance of an Information Session as the NB PNP does not visit South Africa. A South African accountant travelled to the UK specifically to meet the NB PNP staff at an information session but was prohibited from meeting the NB PNP staff. My client e-mailed the NB PNP requesting an invitation but never received a response (it has been several months). When she arrived in the United Kingdom she was prohibited from meeting with the staff of the NB PNP. The NB PNP also has a public policy not to meet foreign nationals in NB, as the meetings must take place overseas. As a result, South Africans are essentially excluded from emigrating to NB via many of the NB PNP Programs that require the attendance of an Information Session with the staff of the NB PNP.

South Africa is a complex country with 11 official languages and our firm deals mostly with the portion of the South African community whom are currently emigrating, (mostly English and Dutch speakers whom are bi-lingual). It is interesting to note that the Dutch dialect spoken in South Africa is "Afrikaans" and could be considered 300 hundred-year-old Dutch.

South Africans in Canada have performed well over the past couple of decades. Here is some relevant background with a number of practical examples:

- **Mining Industry.** South Africa is one of the world leaders in mining. The deepest gold mine in the world is also found in South Africa. As a result South Africa is a great source of mining skills with different universities offering mining engineering degrees. South Africans were contracted to assist the Indian coal mine industry to mechanize their operations during the past couple of years and they have assisted several companies in Africa to develop their mines as well. Many mining companies in Canada recruit South Africans to work in the local mining industry. Here are a few relevant examples:
 - De Beers Mining (see <https://www.debeersgroup.com>) which is part of Anglo American Mining and is one of the world's largest diamond mining companies. It was established in South Africa and has several mines in Canada. Some of the senior managers and senior mining engineers within De Beers Mining are immigrants from South Africa.
 - BHP Billiton is one of the world's largest mining companies and is active in the Saskatchewan potash industry (see www.bhp.com). BHP Billiton was formed out of Billiton Mining and General Mining which are both South African mining companies. The previous CEO of BHP was Marius Kloppers, who was trained at a South African University.
 - Several mining companies recruited South Africans to work in our Canadian mines in skilled positions such as engineers, mine managers and in the trades.
- **Sport.** South Africans have performed well in world level sport especially golf, rugby, swimming, and long distance running. South Africa's world golf champions such as Ernie Ells and Gary Player are well known. South Africa also won 10 Medals at the previous Olympic games and

the South African Wayne van Niekerk smashed the 400-meter world record at the last Olympic Games. Here are a few examples of South Africans that have done well in Canada in different sports:

- The captain of the Canadian Rugby team emigrated to Canada from South Africa, Daniel Van Der Merwe. The Team Doctor is Peet Du Toit, a South African trained doctor. Some of the other highlight from Dr Du Toit are: team physician of the South African National Cricket team, London Marathon, African Cup Hockey tournament, All African games(track and field), FIFA u/21 Soccer World cup(Canada), Vancouver Winter Olympics.
 - One of the best basketball players is Mr. Steve Nash whom was born in South Africa as well. He was an eight time NBA all-star winner behind his name.
 - Willie Coetzee is a South Africa-born Canadian ice hockey player, who is currently an unrestricted free agent. He last played for the Worcester Sharks of the American Hockey League (AHL).
- **Management in Retail & Service.** Within Canadian industry many examples can be quoted of South Africans in senior positions. Here are two:
 - In Ontario the TSSA is the government organization controlling certain industries and occupations such as Boilers, Pressure vessels, Elevating devices etc. (see www.tssa.org/). The previous CEO and President is Mr. Michael Baird a South African trained Engineer.
 - Many Canadians know Mountain Equipment Coop (www.mec.ca). MEC has retail outlets in AB, BC, MB, QC, ON and NS. Canada's own outdoor store, The CEO for the past 14 years is Mr. David Labistour, an ex South African.
 - **Arts.** Over decades South Africans have excelled in the arts. A recent example is Neill Blomkamp who is a South African film director, film producer, screenwriter, and animator. He is best known as the co-writer and director of the science fiction film **District 9**, for which he was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. He also directed the dystopian science fiction film Elysium. He is based in Vancouver, British Columbia. Time Magazine named Blomkamp as one of the 100 Most Influential People of 2009. Forbes named him as the 21st most powerful celebrity from Africa.
 - **Medical Industry.** The South African medical industry has been a world leader for many years. The world's first heart and penis transplant took place in South Africa. The heart transplant was completed by Dr. Chris Barnardt at the University of Cape Town (www.uct.ac.za) and the most recent penis transplant was lead by professor Andre Van Der Merwe from the University of Stellenbosch (www.sun.ac.za). Both are South African trained doctors. Health Regions in many provinces have been/ are managed by South African doctors, including BC, AB and NS. **There are South African trained medical specialists who are working in NB.** According to some estimates, up to twenty-five percent of all doctors in SK were trained in South Africa. South African degrees are accepted by the Medical Council of Canada and I believe that might be the only medical degree from Africa that receives this recognition.
 - **Accounting/Financial Services.** In Ontario the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario (see www.cpaontario.ca) has agreements with several world-wide regulators of accountants for

a fast track registration process of accountants. Only two African countries are listed as part of this program: South Africa and Zimbabwe. Many South African accountants are transferred to Canada via the large account firms such as Deloitte, EY, etc. Typically, they apply for permanent residence after arrival on work permits.

- **Trades**. South Africa has excellent trade training programs. We can quote several examples where companies recruited electricians, mechanics and overhead crane technicians from South Africa. Currently four Canadian companies are in the process of recruiting overhead crane technicians from South Africa.
- **General Business /Inventions**: Mr. Elon Reeve Musk is a South African-born Canadian American business magnate, investor, engineer and inventor. Musk is the founder, CEO, and CTO of SpaceX; a co-founder, CEO, and product architect of Tesla Inc., just to name a few of his achievements.
- **Construction**. Many Canadian construction companies employ South Africans in senior positions as well as estimator positions. For confidentiality reason we may not provide specific examples.
- **Agriculture Industry**. South Africa has Universities that train and educate people in the farming industry. Over the past 200 years South Africa has become the agriculture leader on the African continent. The success story started when Dutch, French and German Immigrants arrived in South Africa between 1652 to 1900's. Many South Africans have become large industrial farmers in Canada. Many Canadian farmers recruit South Africans to emigrate to Canada and add value to the Canadian agriculture industry. Recently one of Canada's largest feedlots recruited six South Africans to work at their operation and to immigrate to Canada permanently.
- **Government Policy**. South Africans have also played a role in federal and provincial policies. In NB, a South African played a role in the development of crown land and ocean locations for the development of wind farms. The Federal Minister of Immigration employed an Ex South African, Mr Gerrit Niewoudt as Chief of Staff and Chief Policy Advisor for several years.
- **Restaurant and Hospitality**. South Africans have an excellent reputation in this industry. A great example is the South African restaurant, Nando's (see <https://www.nandos.ca>). Nando's has established branches /franchises in Canada. I personally also know chefs and hotel managers from South Africa currently working in the Canadian hospitality industry.
- **Forestry**. Several South African tradesman and foreman are working for forestry industry in the British Columbia and Ontario. The manager of recruitment for a specific large forestry employer has indicated that he believes the South Africans are well trained, hardworking and an asset to the company.
- **Automotive Industry and Manufacturing**.
 - South Africa has a very large automotive manufacturing sector. Many automotive companies have factories in South Africa including Mercedes Benz, BMW, Chrysler, Volkswagen, Toyota and several others. The Hummer H2 for the world market was

made in South Africa. As a result there is a large pool of skilled professionals that serve that industry. Over the years Canadian automotive companies have been recruiting trades (especially Tool and Die makers) as well as engineers from the South African automotive industry.

- Most non-metal parts in vehicles (dashboard, bumpers, etc.) are made with moulds. Although Canada has a strong mould making ability, employers struggle to find enough mould makers in Canada. We recently recruited a mould maker from South Africa for a Canadian mould making company.
- A South African manufacturing company also provides mine-resistant ambush protected vehicles, the "RG31 Nyala", to the Canadian Army in Afghanistan which saved many Canadian lives.
- **Education System.** The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) presented by Shanghai Ranking (See <http://www.shanghairanking.com>) has listed 5 of South Africa's Universities as in the top 500 universities in the World. According to ARWU one of the South African universities, the **University of Witwatersrand is the top university on the African continent.** As a result of the universities there is strong academic foundation for different industries such as mining and agriculture to selected young graduates and to support different South African industries in researched based education.
- **Fluency in English.** South Africans are taught English from grade 1 to grade 12. The Universities teach in English and it is an official language.
- **Top Income Earners.** It was reported in the Lexbase magazine of March 2015 that South Africans are some of the highest income earners of all immigrants (see Enclosure 3) while immigrants from some other countries are not performing well after arrival.

To conclude, South Africa could be an excellent source of Immigrants for NB and it would be worth serious consideration of the NB PNP to travel to South Africa in 2018.

I would be willing to give advice/guidance to your Ministry about how to proceed and about some pitfalls that should be avoided, as there are many.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Cobus (Jacobus) Kriek

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

Enclosures

1. Letter from Minister Landry dated 23 March 2016
2. Letter from Minister Landry dated 6 May 2016
3. Copy of Lexbase from March 2015