



**CORPORATE IMMIGRATION
LAW FIRM**

Post-Graduation Work Permit Holders Now Eligible for OHIP

On April 1, 2009 important changes to Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) eligibility rules under Regulation 552 of the Health Insurance Act became effective. A major change of interest to employers in Ontario is that open Work Permit holders, including those in the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program, may be eligible for health insurance coverage provided they are employed full-time for an employer in Ontario for a minimum of six months, have a valid Work Permit during this time, and they:

- maintain their primary place of residence in Ontario; and are
- physically present in Ontario for at least 153 days in any 12-month period; and are
- physically present in Ontario for 153 of the first 183 days immediately after establishing residency in the province.

In addition to Post-Graduation Work Permit holders, OHIP is also provided to: Canadian citizens, permanent residents/landed immigrants or registered Indians under the Indian Act; Foreign Nationals who have submitted an application for permanent residence in Canada; "protected persons" as referred to in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act; Foreign Workers who hold Work Permits valid for at least 6-months for an employer situated in Ontario; Work Permit holders under the federal Live-in Caregiver Program; and Work Permit holders under the federal Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program. Tourists, transients or visitors are not eligible for OHIP coverage.

Reminder – Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative – Full Implementation June 1, 2009

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) is a U.S. law that requires all travellers, including Canadian and American citizens, to present a valid passport or another secure document when entering the United States from within the Western Hemisphere. It has been implemented in two stages:

1. For air travel, the law came into effect on January 23, 2007; and
2. For land and water travel, the law will take effect June 1, 2009.

Upon full implementation of the WHTI on June 1, 2009, Canadian citizens will be required to present a valid passport, a NEXUS or Free and Secure Trade (FAST) card, or an enhanced driver's licence/enhanced identification card when seeking to enter the United States at its land or water crossings. Canadian citizens 15 years of age or under will only require proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or a Canadian citizenship card. Canadian citizens 18 years of age or under who are travelling with a school or other organized group, under adult supervision with parental/guardian consent may also present proof of Canadian citizenship alone.

Canadian citizens flying to, through or from the United States must continue to present a valid passport to confirm their citizenship and identity. A NEXUS card, when used at kiosks at participating Canadian airports and at all U.S. airports when returning to Canada, is also acceptable.



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