



**CORPORATE IMMIGRATION  
LAW FIRM**

## UPDATE ON RECENT IMMIGRATION DEVELOPMENTS

### Canada imposes visas on nationals of Mexico and the Czech Republic

Beginning on July 14, 2009, Mexican and Czech nationals will require visas to travel to Canada. Citizens of these countries who are already in Canada pursuant to a study or work permit will need a Temporary Resident Visa for re-entry to Canada should they travel outside of Canada during the validity of their stay in Canada. We recommend that they apply for a Temporary Resident Visa through a Canadian visa post prior to leaving Canada.

This change also means that nationals from Mexico and the Czech Republic who would like to travel to Canada will first need to apply for a Temporary Resident Visa to a Canadian visa office and meet the requirements to receive one. Applicants must satisfy a visa officer that their visit to Canada (for work or for pleasure) is temporary, they will not overstay their approved time in Canada, they have enough money to cover their stay in Canada, they are in good health, they do not have a criminal record, and they are not a security risk to Canadians. These requirements are the same for anyone who wishes to visit Canada.

The new visa requirement was imposed on Mexico and the Czech Republic owing to increased refugee claims made by nationals of the two countries in the last few years.

### Work Permits for Dependent Children of Foreign Workers in Ontario and Alberta

Dependent children of Temporary Foreign Workers in Ontario and Alberta may now apply for open work permits without securing a Labour Market Opinion from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. This pilot project (which runs from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010) seeks to make Ontario and Alberta more attractive destinations for international workers with in-demand skills.

Below are a few important notes about the new work permits for dependent children:

- An eligible dependent child must be at least 14 years of age in Ontario and between 18 to 22 years of age in Alberta;
- Their parent must be authorized to work in Canada for six months or longer on a valid, job-specific work permit in an occupation found within skill levels 0, A or B of the National Occupation Classification system;
- A dependent child's open work permit will be valid for the same period as their parent's work permit;
- The permit will be limited to employment in the province in which it was issued; and
- These work permit applications may be made at an overseas mission, port-of-entry or in-land.

Please note that other provinces are also considering participation in this initiative. We will notify you if and when other provinces agree to participate in the pilot project.

### Hiring Temporary Foreign Workers for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games

As the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games quickly approach, amendments to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations have been made to streamline and centralize the immigration process requirements associated with the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Human Resources and Skills Development Canada/Service Canada have also initiated a process for companies that may need to hire temporary foreign workers to meet their labour needs up until April 21, 2010.

A special application process has been put in place for "Olympic/Paralympic Family Members". This group includes athletes, team officials, International Olympic/Paralympic Committee members, International Sports Federation members, National Olympic/Paralympic Committee members, selected media representatives of broadcasters and press, observers from other organizing committees and other guests.

### Update on Corporate Immigration Law Firm

We are pleased to announce that Brenda Wong, Associate, was admitted to the bar in Massachusetts in June, 2009. Brenda received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in 2001, and she has practiced immigration law for the past 6 years. Brenda can be reached with respect to Canadian or US immigration matters at 416.368.2333 or [wong@cimmigrationlaw.com](mailto:wong@cimmigrationlaw.com)



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