

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - March 2017



Welcome to our Inaugural Issue of "Explore Canada Immigration Services Online Newsletter"

First of all, we are proud and delighted to present to you the inaugural newsletter issue of our immigration consultancy firm, "**Explore Canada Immigration Services Inc.**" This newsletter will be published on a monthly basis, starting March of 2017 to enlighten our respected clients and prospects about the latest immigration news in Canada. We sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading it.

In order to help us to serve you better, we ask that you send us your inquiries and questions on any immigration related issue or matter to include in future editions of the newsletter. Please feel free to distribute this newsletter to others in your network who may be interested in immigration news and matters and don't hesitate to pass on our contact information so they can contact us directly for further consultation.

Sincerely,

Sam Qila

نشرتنا الاخبارية الشهرية الالكترونية

بداية، نرحب بكم في عددنا الاول من نشرتنا الاخبارية الشهرية الالكترونية الخاصة بشركتنا. وانه لمن دواعي سرورنا واعتزازنا بأن نقوم بتقديم عددنا الاول من نشرتنا هذه، علماً بأنه سيتم البدء بنشرها بشكل شهري عبر الانترنت اعتباراً من شهر مارس الحالي من عام 2017 بهدف تزويد السادة/عملاتنا الحاليين والمستقبليين المحترمين باخر الاخبار وأهم القضايا المتعلقة بموضوع الهجرة الى كندا وغيرها من دول العالم.

ولكي نتمكن من مساعدتكم لتقديم خدماتنا لكم بشكل أفضل، نرجوا منكم طرح أية استفسارات أو أسئلة لديكم بهذا الخصوص علينا وذلك حتى يتسنى لنا تضمينها في أعدادنا القادمة من هذه النشرة الشهرية. وعليه، نرجوا منكم بان لا تترددوا في نشر رسالتنا الاخبارية هذه الى كل أصدقائكم ومعارفكم وكل من هو على اتصال بكم الذين تعتقدون بانه قد تهمهم مثل تلك الاخبار والامور ذات العلاقة.

ونغدوا لكم من الشاكرين اذا ما تكرمتم بتمرير أرقام الاتصال الخاصة بنا والمبينة في نهاية هذه النشرة وذلك حتى نتمكن من الاتصال بهم مباشرة من أجل مساعدتهم في الرد على أية استفسارات أو أسئلة يودون طرحها علينا، ولكم منا جزيل الشكر.

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق التقدير والاحترام،،،

وسام قيطه

IN THIS ISSUE

- Sam Gita Inaugural Message of this Newsletter 1st Issue (English & Arabic)
- Main Article
- Latest News & Articles
- IELTS & Citizenship Test
- Comprehensive Ranking System Calculator
- Key Immigration Matters (FAQs)

Main Article

Launch of Three-year Atlantic Immigration Pilot Programs

Atlantic Immigration Pilot Programs (IRCC started receiving applications under Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program effective March 06, 2017)

Three new permanent residence pilot programs were launched through Ministerial Instructions on March 6, 2017 for workers who meet the requirements under one of the following programs:

- Atlantic High-skilled Program

The Atlantic Immigration Pilot is for skilled workers and international student graduates who want to permanently live in:

- ❖ New Brunswick.
- ❖ Newfoundland and Labrador.
- ❖ Nova Scotia
- ❖ Prince Edward Island.

To know more about this newly launched program, you can access the two links below:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/tools/updates/2017/2017-03-06.asp>

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/tools/temp/work/pilot/atl.asp>

LATEST NEWS & ARTICLES

▪ **Launch of Three-Year Atlantic Immigration Pilot Programs (ATPP), March 06, 2017**

▪ **Express Entry Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) Requirements Falls to New Record Low, March 01, 2017**

▪ **Ten Good Reasons to Invest in Quebec**

▪ **Claiming Asylum in Canada – What happens**

▪ **Canada to Welcome (1,200) Yazidi and other Survivors of Daesh, February 21, 2017**

▪ **U.S. travel ban creates opportunity for Canada to attract skilled new worker: Trump's policy an opportunity for Canada to show our immigration system is open for business, Last Updated: March 11, 2017**

▪ **Federal Plan to Fast-Track Foreign Talent Could Capitalize on Trump's Crackdown, Last Updated: Mar 10, 2017**

▪ **Canada funds international refugee resettlement efforts, March 15, 2017**

KEY IMMIGRATION MATTERS (FAQs)

▪ **Sponsoring your Family:**

- ❖ **Sponsoring your Spouse, Partner, Children or other Relatives**
- ❖ **Comprehensive Ranking System – Express Entry Calculator**

As for the newly launched Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program (AIPP), we would strongly encourage you to apply for it simply because you just might find it relatively easy to satisfy its own requirements, especially when it comes to language proficiency.

Express Entry Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) Requirements Falls to New Record Low, **March 01, 2017**

Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system #56 – **March 1, 2017**

The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, pursuant to section 10.3 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, gives the annexed Ministerial Instructions Respecting Invitations to Apply for Permanent Residence under the Express Entry System (March 1, 2017).

Ottawa, March 1, 2017

Ahmed D. Hussen
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

MINISTERIAL INSTRUCTIONS RESPECTING INVITATIONS TO APPLY FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE UNDER THE EXPRESS ENTRY SYSTEM (MARCH 1, 2017)

Determination — Number of Invitations

1. (1) For the purposes of paragraph 10.2 (1)(b) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, the number of invitations that may be issued during the period beginning on **March 1, 2017** and ending on **March 2, 2017** is **(3,884)**.

To read more on this news release, please log into the link below:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/mi/index.asp?expand=mi-pr-express#mi-pr-express>

Ten Good Reasons to Invest in Quebec



We invite you to launch your business project in the Quebec City metropolitan region - the most European area of North America! With a population of (765,706), the region has all the advantages of a major urban centre, combined with an unbeatable quality of life!

In Quebec City, you will quickly and easily forge relationships within the business and scientific communities, as well as with governmental agencies. You'll be in contact with the key stakeholders in your sector, enabling you to reap the benefits of a robust network in which partners from different economic spheres act in synergy as they move projects forward.

Quebec City has a diversified and innovative high-performance economy. Drawing on a highly-educated workforce, the region is home to several cutting-edge companies and dynamic research centres working together in booming clusters. The regional telecommunications system is unique in North America, while the efficient intermodal transportation platform provides links to the entire continent and the rest of the world. Doing business here could take you far!

- 1 - A safe environment for investment
- 2- A strategic access to the markets
- 3 - A robust, high-performance economy
- 4 - A strong industrial diversity
- 5 - Ideal innovation platform
- 6 - A specialized and educated workforce
- 7 - Tax breaks and low costs
- 8 - A world-class infrastructure
- 9 - An unbeatable quality of life
- 10 - An outstanding outreach and assistance network

For more information on this matter, you can access the link below:

<http://www.quebecinternational.ca/choose-quebec/ten-good-reasons-to-invest-in-the-quebec-city-region/overview/>

Applying as a business immigrant (Investor Visa) in Quebec

Before submitting your application, it is important to read the immigration rules and procedures and the information regarding the application intake periods for a Certificat de sélection du Québec.

Do you wish to immigrate to Québec as part of its program for businesspeople? Here's what you'll need to know and do.

(5) Important Steps

Here are five important steps. If completed successfully, they will lead to your immigration to Québec!

1. Distinguishing between the selection and the admission of businesspeople—the respective roles of the Gouvernement du Québec and the Government of Canada.

2. Selecting one of the three immigration programs for businesspeople.
3. Understanding the selection process.
4. Completing and sending in the official immigration application – Application for a Québec Selection Certificate.
5. Applying to the Government of Canada for permanent residence.

Read more on this subject by clicking this link, <http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/immigrate-settle/businesspeople/applying-business-immigrant/index.html>

Making an Asylum Claim in Canada

Individuals can make an asylum claim in Canada at a port of entry or at an inland CBSA or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) office. CBSA or IRCC officials will determine if an individual is eligible to make a claim. Factors determining an individual's eligibility to make a refugee claim include whether the claimant has committed a serious crime, made a previous claim in Canada, or received protection in another country.

Asylum claimants are different from resettled refugees. Asylum seekers make a refugee claim in Canada at a Port of Entry or at an in-land office (CBSA or IRCC). These claims are governed in part by international treaties that Canada has promised to uphold. Resettled refugees, on the other hand, are screened abroad and undergo security and medical checks prior to being issued a visa to come to Canada. When they arrive in Canada, they are permanent residents. As asylum claimants and resettled refugees come to Canada through different immigration streams, those who are crossing the border illegally and claiming asylum in Canada are not queue jumpers, and are not taking the place of refugees who are coming to Canada from abroad for resettlement.

All refugee claimants undergo health and security screening, including biographic and biometric checks as well as the initiation of security and criminality checks.

To read more about this topic, please log into the link below:

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2017/03/claiming_asylum_incanadawhathappens.html

Canada to Welcome 1200 Yazidi and other Survivors of Daesh, February 21, 2017

OTTAWA, Feb. 21, 2017 /CNW/ - Canada plans to welcome approximately 1200 survivors of Daesh this year, including vulnerable Yazidi women and children and their families, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Minister Ahmed Hussein announced today.

It is expected that nearly 400 government-assisted refugees will have arrived by February 22, 2017, which is 120 days from the date of the motion passed by the House of Commons last fall.

Canada is working with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), with the cooperation and support of the Iraqi government, to identify vulnerable Yazidi and other survivors of Daesh both inside and outside of Iraq. While neither Canada nor the UNHCR makes selection decisions based on religion or ethnicity alone, it is expected the majority of the 1200 Canada will welcome will be Yazidi. While vulnerable women and children are being identified, the total includes their family members to keep families together.

For more info on this topic, please log in this link: <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-to-welcome-1200-yazidi-and-other-survivors-of-daesh-614401463.html>

U.S. travel ban creates opportunity for Canada to attract skilled new worker: Trump's policy an opportunity for Canada to show our immigration system is open for business

Last Updated: Mar 11, 2017

Regardless of what one thinks of the merits of the travel bans, the U.S. is mired in confusing messages regarding the direction of U.S. immigration policy.

Canada should look at this as an opportunity to attract the best and the brightest to this country. This week's announcement of a key component of Canada's Global Skills Strategy — which the government says will make it easier for high-growth Canadian companies to attract the specialized global talent they need by providing a more predictable and streamlined service for bringing them here — is a welcome first step.

To read more about this news release, please log into this link, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/opinion-pagtakhan-us-travel-ban-canada-skilled-workers-1.4018303>

Federal plan to fast-track foreign talent could capitalize on Trump's crackdown

Global Skills Strategy program to streamline visas, work permits to kick in June 12, 2017

Last Updated: Mar 10, 2017

The federal government will launch a new program to fast-track "low-risk, high-talent" foreign workers to Canada this June.

The plan sets a two-week turnaround for processing visas and short-term work permits to give start-ups faster access to highly skilled workers.

"Canada certainly could benefit from some of the international talent affected by the actions in the U.S. recently," said Patrick Snider, director of skills and immigration policy for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. "That being said, we have to expect other countries will also look to capitalize on this moment as well."

To know more about this news release, please log in this link,
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/global-skills-strategy-business-1.4017920>

Canada Funds International Refugee Resettlement Efforts

March 15, 2017 – Geneva, CH – Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister Ahmed Hussein today announced contributions totaling \$5.6 million to support global resettlement initiatives. This funding will pay for the recruitment and deployment of refugee experts to work with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in the screening and submission of refugees in need of resettlement. Refugees will have their resettlement applications assessed by UNHCR more quickly, allowing them to start new lives in resettlement countries.

Specifically, Canada will provide the UNHCR with \$4 million in response to the UNHCR's 2017 Global Appeal to the international community for funding to increase its ability to identify refugees in need of resettlement.

For more information on this news release, please log into this link:

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2017/03/canada_funds_internationalrefugeeresettlementefforts.html

Comprehensive Ranking System Eligibility Criteria – Express Entry

By definition, the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) is a points system used to assess and score a candidate's Express Entry profile, in order to rank the candidate against all other candidates in the Express Entry pool at the time of a round of invitations.

When a candidate creates a profile in their online account, the system automatically assigns the candidate a CRS score based on the information provided in their profile. Candidates can see their CRS score on the "Application/Profile Details" page of their account.

Only top-ranked candidates in the Express Entry pool are issued an Invitation to Apply (ITA) at the time of a round of invitations.

To get to know more about the eligibility criteria for the CRS, you can log into the link below where you can find a summary of maximum points per factor for Express Entry candidates:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/express-entry/grid-crs.asp>

Furthermore, you can use the CRS calculator to find out whether you are eligible to apply for Permanent Residency to Canada through the Express Entry System. For this purpose, please access this link:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/crs-tool.asp>

IELTS

Take this opportunity and get to know what IELTS all about. We just thought that it would be appropriate to supply you with some major links to IELTS, which we are so sure that you will find interesting and useful. For example, Road to IELTS is your best possible online preparation and practice resource for IELTS.

Road to IELTS is a comprehensive e-learning and online assessment tool that gives you 30 hours of FREE online tuition when you book your test online with the British Council. It comes with over 100 hours of interactive activities, how-to videos from British Council experts, hints and tips on typical questions and downloadable practice tests for IELTS.

Give it a try by clicking the useful links below:

- <http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare/road-to-ielts>
- <http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/pt/recognising-organisation/american-university-sharjah>
- <https://www.ielts.org/>
- <https://www.ieltsessentials.com/global/prepare/freepracticetests>
- http://www.ielts-exam.net/practice_tests/

Canadian Citizenship Test

Passing this Canadian citizenship test is mandatory to obtain the Canadian citizenship. Therefore, we thought that it would be a good idea to provide you with useful and helpful links to do a free practice test to help you get ready for the Canadian Citizenship test. It is important to note that this is not the actual Canadian Citizenship test, but the questions are designed to help you build your knowledge and efficiently prepare for the real test.

To gain access to such free practice questions related to Canadian citizenship, you are recommended to log into the useful links below:

- <http://www.apnatoronto.com/canadian-citizenship-test-practice/>
- <http://www.v-soul.com/>
- <http://www.yourlibrary.ca/citizenship/>
- <http://www.thecanadiantest.com/>

- <http://www.citizenshipsupport.ca/>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

❖ Sponsoring your Family: your Spouse, Partner, Children or other Relatives

Q. What are the changes to the spousal sponsorship program?

A. We made changes to help reduce processing times for both in-Canada and overseas applicants.

These changes include the following:

One application package for all spousal sponsorship applicants: All applicants, both in Canada and overseas, can now use the same application package and checklists.

New basic guide: Applicants can prepare their application using a shorter, more basic guide.

Personalized document checklist: Applicants can use one of four checklists (based on who is being sponsored) to find out which forms and documents they need to submit.

Simplified relationship questionnaire: The new questionnaire is easier to understand and has fewer questions.

Medical exam: Applicants no longer need to submit medical exams up front with an application. Instructions will be sent to the applicant when a medical exam is needed.

Police certificates: Applicants need to provide only the police certificates from the country where they currently live; and the country where they have spent most of their adult life since the age of 18 (if different from the country where they live).

We'll request other police certificates only if needed.

The person being sponsored can access more information through their online account: They can

get instructions to send us other documents we need;

see real-time information about their application status;

receive messages from us in their online account.

Q. How can I sponsor my spouse or children?

A. 1. Make sure you can be a sponsor

Find out if you are eligible to sponsor your spouse, partner or children.

If you live in Quebec, you must also meet Quebec's conditions to be a sponsor.

2. Send in your application

There are two parts to family sponsorship applications:

- Your application to become a sponsor.
- The permanent residence application of your spouse, partner, or dependent children.
- You must send both applications at the same time.
- Find out more about how to apply.

3. After you apply

During processing, track your application and make sure it's up to date by

- checking the status of your application;
- updating or making changes to your address or other information;
- adding or changing your representative;
- withdrawing your application.

Q. Which family members can come with me to Canada when I immigrate?

A. These family members can come with you:

- spouse, common-law or conjugal partner;
- dependent child, including a child adopted abroad;
- child under 18 to be adopted in Canada;
- parent or grandparent; or
- orphaned family member under 18 years who is a brother, sister, niece, nephew or grandchild and not a spouse or common-law partner.

Q. For my IRCC spousal sponsorship application, what is a common-law partner?

A. Your common-law partner:

- Is not legally married to you,
- Is of the opposite sex or the same sex as you,
- Is 18 years old or older, and
- Has been living with you for at least 12 consecutive months. That means you have been living together continuously for one year, without any long periods apart. One of you may have left the home for work or business travel, family obligations, and so on. That separation must have been temporary and short.
- When at least one partner chooses to end the relationship, IRCC considers the partnership to be over.
- You will need to give proof of your common-law relationship.

Q. How can my common-law partner and I prove we have been together for 12 months?

A. Items that can be used as proof of a common-law relationship include:

- a statutory declaration of a common-law union,
- statements for shared bank accounts,
- shared credit cards,
- proof of shared ownership of residential property,
- shared residential leases,
- shared rental receipts,
- bills for shared utilities accounts, such as
 - electricity,
 - gas or
 - telephone,
- proof of shared management of household expenses,
- evidence of shared purchases (especially of household items),
- mail addressed to either or both of you at the same address,
- important documents for both of you showing the same address, such as
 - identification documents,
 - driver's licenses and
 - insurance policies and
- any other documents that show you have been living together.

You do not need to include all these items to prove your relationship is real. Citizenship and Immigration Canada may consider other proof as well

Photos, telephone bills and letters will not be returned. Do not send videos or CD-ROMs. Documents such as marriage certificates and passports will be returned. However, you should send certified photocopies, not originals.

Q. How old must my spouse or partner be for me to sponsor them to immigrate to Canada?

A. 18 years old. Since June 10, 2015, we refuse sponsorship applications for spouses or partners under 18 years old. All applicants must be at least 18 years old when we receive the application.

Q. Does IRCC recognize marriages conducted by proxy, telephone, internet and fax?

A. No. We don't recognize these types of marriages. If one or both parties are not physically present at the ceremony, we won't recognize the marriage.

You may be exempt from this rule if:

- Your application was received before June 10, 2015, or
- You are a **member of the Canadian Armed Forces**. The marriage may be recognized if:
 - You could not be physically present at your marriage ceremony, because of travel restrictions related to your service,
 - the marriage took place outside of Canada, and
 - It was registered in a country where marriage by proxy is legal.

Q. How long will it take to process my spousal sponsorship application?

A. If you applied before December 7, 2016

We've committed to processing most (80 percent) of the applications we've already received as of December 7, 2016, by the end of December 2017. We process applications in the order we get them.

If you haven't applied yet or applied after December 7, 2016

We will aim to process most (80 percent) of the new applications submitted on or after December 7, 2016, within 12 months of the date of receipt.

Q. On my sponsorship application, what does current or previous undertaking mean?

A. Current undertaking: Refers to the sponsorship application you are currently preparing.

Previous undertakings: Refers to sponsorship applications you are or were involved with, either as a sponsor or co-signer, where the applicants were granted permanent residence as a result of the application.

Applications that were returned, rejected or never submitted are not considered as "previous undertakings".

Undertaking still in effect:

- The sponsorship application was approved,
- the persons you sponsored or co-signed for became permanent residents as a result of the sponsorship application, and
- The undertaking has not yet expired.

Undertaking not yet in effect:

- You are in the process of submitting another sponsorship application or a sponsorship application you submitted is being processed,
- The persons you are sponsoring are not yet permanent residents,
- Depending on the decision on your application, you might become financially responsible for the persons included in the sponsorship.

CONTACT US

Sam Qita, RCIC, MBA

Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (ICCRC# 511653)

Address:

Explore Canada Immigration Services Inc.
2285 Dunwin Drive, Unit 11
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
L5L 3S3

Email: samqita@gmail.com | info@explorecanadaimmigration.ca

Website: www.ExploreCanadaImmigration.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ExploreCanadaImmigration

Telephone: CA +1-647-678-1050

Toll Free: +1-888-287-5150

Twitter Feed: www.twitter.com/explorecanadaim

Skype: samqita

***** THE END *****