



BRIEFING NOTE: Ministerial Instructions

Date: December 1, 2008

Background:

Bill C-50 ushered in new Ministerial discretion regarding the kinds of occupations that would be eligible for processing. The government's "Action Plan for Faster Immigration" was released today which includes instructions outlining a set of eligibility criteria that apply to all new federal skilled worker applications received on or after February 27, 2008. All applications received before February 27 will be processed according to the rules that were in effect at that time.

The instructions are intended for CIC Visa Officers as they review the immigration applications. Those applications that are given *priority processing* include Canadian Experience Class, Investors, Live-in caregivers, Quebec economic applicants, and Provincial nominees. The federal skilled applications will be processed according to the Ministerial instructions. These instructions do not apply to refugee and family applications.

Summary:

According to the instructions, applications are eligible for processing if they fall in one of three categories:

1. Include an offer of arranged employment; or
2. A foreign national living legally in Canada for one year as a temporary foreign worker or international student; or
3. A skilled worker that has at least one year of experience under one or more of the 38 occupations listed by CIC as occupations required to meet Canada's labour market needs.

If an application does not meet one of the three criteria above, it will NOT be processed and the application fee will be returned. Those that are processed should receive a decision within six to 12 months.

There are 38 occupations listed eligible for processing are as follows:

Sector: Finance and Accounting

- Financial Managers
- Financial Auditors and Accountants

Sector: Information Technology

- Computer and Information System Managers

Sector: Healthcare

- Managers in Healthcare
- Specialist physicians
- General practitioners and Family physicians
- Audiologists and Speech language pathologists
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Head nurses and supervisors

- Registered nurses
- Medical radiation technologists
- Licensed practical nurses

Sector: Education

- University professors
- College and other vocational instructors

Sector: Food and Hospitality

- Chefs
- Cooks
- Restaurant and food service managers
- Accommodation service managers

Sector: Engineering and scientists

- Mining engineers
- Geological engineers
- Petroleum engineers
- Geologists, geochemists and geophysicists

Sector: Mining

- Supervisors, Mining and quarrying
- Supervisors, Oil and gas drilling and service
- Supervisors, Petroleum, gas and chemical processing and utilities
- Drillers and blasters – surface mining, quarrying and construction

Sector: Construction and Skilled trades

- Contractors and supervisors, pipefitting trades
- Contractors and supervisors, carpentry trades
- Contractors and supervisors, heavy construction equipment crews
- Electricians (except industrial and power system)
- Industrial electricians
- Plumbers
- Steamfitters, pipefitters and sprinkler system installers
- Welders and related machine operators
- Heavy-duty equipment mechanics
- Construction managers
- Crane operators