

VISITING CANADA: PARENT AND GRANDPARENT SUPER VISAS

By Edward C. Corrigan

Parents and grandparents of Canadian citizens and permanent residents have a new option for visiting Canada. As of December 1, 2011, they may be eligible to apply for the Parent and Grandparent Super Visa and enjoy visiting their family in Canada for up to two years without the need to renew their status.

To apply for the Parent and Grandparent Super Visa, they must: be the parent or grandparent of a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada; be found admissible to Canada; and meet certain other conditions.

Please note that Applicants may request a multiple-entry visa for up to ten years if they submit the applicable fees along with their application. Fees for a single entry visa are \$75.00 and \$150.00 for a multiple entry visa.

It is important to note that Applicants cannot include dependants in this Super Visa application. Only their spouse or common-law partner is eligible to accompany them under this provision.

Visa officers consider several factors before deciding if a person is admissible as a visitor. The person must be a genuine visitor to Canada who will leave by choice at the end of the visit. Among the things that could be considered are:

- the persons ties to the home country;
- the purpose of the visit;
- the person's family and financial situation;
- the overall economic and political stability of the home country; and an invitation from a Canadian host.

In addition to being found admissible to Canada, the parent or grandparent must also provide a written commitment of financial support from their child or grandchild in Canada who meets a minimum income threshold; prove that they have bought Canadian medical insurance coverage for at least one year; and complete an Immigration Medical Examination.

Most applications for temporary resident visas are processed within a month or less. Processing times vary depending on the visa office.

VISITORS WHO REQUIRE VISAS

Applicants may need a temporary resident visa to visit Canada, depending on their citizenship. In order to obtain a Parent

and Grandparent Super Visa, they will need to submit an Application for a Temporary Resident Visa Made Outside of Canada [IMM5257] to the appropriate visa office and provide certain additional documents to support their application.

Please check the CIC Web site for the list of countries that require visa before coming to Canada as a visitor. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

Applicants check the website of the visa office responsible for the country or region where they live for more information on fees, including how to pay them.

To find the list of countries that visas are require see <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

VISA-EXEMPT VISITORS

If the Applicant parent or grandparent of a Canadian citizen or permanent resident whose citizenship exempts them from requiring a visitor visa to enter Canada, they are still eligible to benefit from the provisions of the Parent and Grandparent Super Visa.

Please check the CIC Web site for the list of countries that do not require visa before coming to Canada as a visitor. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp#exemptions>

If the Applicant would like to enjoy a two-year authorized stay in Canada, and a ten-year multiple entry visa, they must submit an Application for a Temporary Resident Visa Made Outside of Canada [IMM5257] to the nearest visa office and provide additional supporting documents with the application.

If the application is approved, they will be issued a letter to present to a Canada Border Services Agency officer at the port of entry when they arrive in Canada. The officer may authorize a visit to Canada for up to two years.

It is important to note that Visitors from visa-exempt countries are not required to submit fees with their application for a Parent or Grandparent Super Visa.

HOW TO APPLY

The Applicant must provide proof that they have enough money for their visit to Canada. The amount of money may vary depending on the circumstances for the visit, how long they will stay and whether they will stay in a hotel, or with friends or rela-

tives. Applicants can get more information from the Canadian visa office in their country or region.

The Applicant may need to include other documents. These documents could be identification cards, proof of employment, a letter of invitation from relatives or friends in Canada, or a proposed itinerary. Applicants should check the website of the visa office responsible for the country or region where they live for more information.

Each individual applicant must complete and sign the Application for Temporary Resident Visa Made Outside of Canada (IMM 5257) form, as well as any other required forms. They can submit all family member application forms in the same envelope with one payment receipt for the total amount of all their applications.

Please note that as of January 15, 2011, older version forms are no longer be accepted. You must use the current Application for Temporary Resident Visa Made Outside of Canada [IMM5257] form. For questions regarding processing times, please check our estimated processing times on the CIC website.

An application for a new single or multi-entry visa normally must be done from outside Canada at a visa office.

IN CANADA APPLICANTS

Parents and grandparents, however, who are in Canada on an authorized stay of up to six months may apply for an extension of their status of up to two years by submitting an application to the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, Alberta. They still must meet all the criteria for the Parent and Grandparent Super Visa. These applications will be examined on a case-by-case basis.

For further information on inviting parents and grandparents and other relatives or friends to visit Canada please consult a qualified professional.

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