

ImmQuest

"Qui bene interrogat bene docet" "He who questions well teaches well"

Editors-in-chief: Cecil L. Rotenberg Q.C. and Mario D. Bellissimo; Associate Editor: William MacIntosh

What's In It for Them?

Key Tips to Dealing with an Institutional Bureaucracy (CIC)

Mario D. Bellissimo

Introduction

Is Superman the greatest immigrant of all time? Superman was introduced to the world in June 1938 and as the fictional story goes, he came from another world and became the standard of decency and justice - a welcome immigrant to any nation. In 2006, we tend to focus upon and reward an immigration bureaucracy that locates and prevents entry to the Lex Luthors of immigrants as opposed to facilitating the Supermans of the immigrating world.

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Why Canada Needs Immigration

Ed Corrigan

We are a country built by immigrants. My own parents immigrated to Canada from Ireland in the 1950s. Ontario receives more than half the newcomers to Canada and has the most diverse population in the world. According to the Statistics Canada 2001 census, 27 percent of Ontario residents and 42 percent of residents in the Greater Toronto Area are foreign-born. Statistics Canada also reports that immigration is expected to

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Focus on the issue of illegal immigrants outside Canada!

Please send your questions to ImmQuest care of Mario D. Bellissimo at mdb@obr-immigration.com. If your question is region specific direct it to one of our three Associate Editors across Canada. If you have any questions you would like asked of either Citizenship and Immigration Canada or the Canada Border Services Agency, send it along and we will ask on your behalf.

recorded at the outset? Can we not ask applicants to sign FOSS or CAIPS notes to confirm their accuracy, like we do their Personal Information Form or an immigrant application, with the assistance of an interpreter when necessary? Would this unduly impede the administration of the system? With respect, by having an applicant review an officer's notes (not findings) of answers (statements) it may save considerable time and avoid confusion. With this said, we can only hope for all parties that GCMS will provide the impetus for better and more effective note taking and better equip officers with the tools required for the effective administration of our citizenship, immigration and refugee systems in 2007.

The aforementioned analysis is an example of challenging an absolute. I provide one example, but this could clearly apply in many situations. Asking the right questions and not accepting unilaterally imposed industry standards fuels expertise.

Conclusion

Dealing with an institutional bureaucracy is a daunting exercise. Dealing with an institutional bureaucracy without understanding the underlying psychology is impossible! What's in it for them? They want their job to be made easier and to be appreciated where possible. Applications that are proactive and anticipatory, feedback that is positive as well as negative, and stakeholders in the process that are inclusive, trustworthy and knowledgeable are keys in dealing with CIC and speak in the language of benefits to all. Beyond this, where institutional entrenchment must be challenged, we must be willing to accept the challenge and question perceived absolutes. In the end, this is not a job for Superman, but for you!

Why Canada Needs Immigration

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account for all the net labour force growth in Ontario in the next decade.

In September 2005, Statistics Canada released a study on the population or demographics of Canada. This report gave us a detailed picture of past, present and future population trends.

Understanding population trends is critical to the functioning of the social and economic system and plays an important role in shaping government policy. The message in the report contained clear warnings that Ottawa and other levels of government in Canada need to make some dramatic policy changes to meet the demographic challenges of the future.

The Statistics Canada Report told us that Canada's fertility rate is 1.5 children per female. This means that we are not even "replacing" ourselves. With our ageing population of "baby boomers" it means that in about twenty years deaths will outpace births. As a result, the growth rate in our population will shift from increases to an actual decrease. This may occur even with our current immigration levels.

The study suggests that in the immediate future immigration will become increasingly important to Canada's population growth. It may be our only source of population growth by 2025.

The study also indicates that the average age of our population will get older. The median age of Canadians is expected to rise from 38.7 years to 42.5 years by 2020, and to 43.6 in 2025. This trend will continue unless there is a large increase in the number of new immigrants.

In response to this demographic study the Canadian government, in September 2005, increased immigration targets to 320,000 a year within five years. This is an increase of 100,000 per year from current levels. Former Prime Minister Paul Martin said, "Within 10 short years there will be only 3 1/2 working Canadians for every senior citizen, down from five today. By 2015, our domestic labour force will actually start to shrink, so all of the net growth will need to come from new Canadians."

The demographic arithmetic cannot be disputed. Canada's population is ageing and the birthrate is far below the rate to maintain our current population levels. The demographic bulge in our population as a result of the "baby boom" after the Second World War creates serious challenges to our society as the "baby boomers" retire. This fact will place increasing demands on our health care system and social infrastructure and will require a younger working population to maintain our economy and to support the safety net.

The need to maintain an adequate work force will present serious challenges. Immigration is one of the key factors to maintain the economy and to support social services. However, the skill set

and quality of the new immigrants is also a key consideration. Currently high levels of education, training, work experience and language skills are required. However, many highly educated newcomers cannot get their skills and job qualifications recognized in the Canadian job market.

Many of these well-educated immigrants are under-employed and end up driving taxis or performing other unskilled work. As a result they are frustrated and many leave Canada looking for better opportunities elsewhere. Immigration officials do not take this factor into consideration by the demographic study, as we do not properly monitor emigration from Canada.

Another consideration is the shortage of skilled tradespeople and blue-collar workers. The current immigration selection system is geared to select well educated, business or investor immigrants with high levels of English or French language skills. The system does not address the need for hard working blue-collar workers who do not qualify under the existing system. Canada also needs this type of immigrant.

It is important that Canada can meet the expectations of newcomers and their needs. It is also important that Canada attract immigrants that will help sustain our economy and meet our social requirements.

Europe faces an even worse demographic problem than Canada. When the median age in Canada hits 42.5 in 2020, in Europe it will be 52. The competition for capable immigrants is going to be fierce.

If Canada does not offer all would-be immigrants the opportunity to realize their full potential, we will not be able to attract the best and the brightest in the emerging global competition for immigrants. Canada must provide for the successful social and economic integration of newcomers. This includes providing new immigrants with adequate language training, recognition of foreign credentials and the ability to upgrade them to Canadian standards. This will require the participation of all levels of government, federal, provincial and municipal.

One example is the shortage of medical doctors. Many of our current doctors are approaching retirement age. Many communities across Canada already have a serious shortage of physicians. One of the areas where we can meet this pressing need is by recognizing foreign medical degrees and providing upgrading

opportunities to foreign-trained physicians and recruiting new immigrant physicians.

Ontario currently takes in more than half of all new immigrants to Canada. However, up until now the province could not meet these newcomers' settlement and integration needs. Despite receiving over half of new immigrants to Canada, federal funding in 2005 for Ontario was about one-fourth that given to Quebec.

Recognizing this problem, the governments of Ontario and Canada signed the first Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement on November 21, 2005. The federal government will provide \$920 million in new immigration funding over five years to help newcomers successfully integrate into Ontario communities. The agreement outlines how the governments of Canada and Ontario will work together to expand language training and settlement programs. The new Conservative government has indicated that it will honour this agreement.

The Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement is an important step in addressing the challenges of successfully integrating newcomers into our communities. This will help Ontario get the most out of these immigrants and help these individuals who have chosen Canada as their new home to become successful and contributing members of our communities.

Ed Corrigan is certified as a specialist by the Law Society of Upper Canada in Citizenship, Immigration and Refugee law. He can be reached at London Ontario at 171 Queens Ave Suite 420, tel. (519) 439-4015. E-mail: corriganlaw@linkd.net.

The Rise and Fall of Human Dignity

Cecil L. Rotenberg

Part II

The Last Remaining Family Member Guideline

This guideline, with the acronym LRFM, was conflated with what is now the De Facto OP4 guideline. To find the pre-1999 guideline details one has to find them referred to in the case reports.