



NEWS ADVISORY

August 1, 2017

Canada province stops hiring foreign workers in high-skilled occupations

The Government of Alberta, Canada will not process employer applications to hire temporary foreign workers in any of the 29 high-skilled job categories included in the “Refusal to Process” list and will instead direct them to a new service that will match them with qualified local workers.

The Province of Alberta has initiated in April 19, 2017 an Employer Liaison Service, a 2-year pilot program that prohibits Alberta employers from using the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). The service provides enhanced recruitment support to companies looking for high-skilled workers to hire Alberta citizens rather than foreign workers.

The following job categories that have been placed on a “Refusal to Process” list are skilled trades and are considered as high-wage occupations:

1. Human resources managers
2. Engineering managers
3. Purchasing agents and officers
4. Production logistics coordinators
5. Civil engineers
6. Mechanical engineers
7. Electrical and electronic engineers
8. Geological and mineral technologists and technicians
9. Civil engineering technologists and technicians
10. Industrial engineering and manufacturing technologists and technicians
11. Non-destructive testers and inspection technicians
12. Contractors and supervisors, electrical trades and telecommunications occupations
13. Machinists and machining and tooling inspectors
14. Welders and related machine operators
15. Electricians (except industrial and power system)
16. Industrial electricians
17. Plumbers
18. Carpenters
19. Contractors and supervisors, mechanic trades

20. Contractors and supervisors, heavy equipment operator crews
21. Construction millwrights and industrial mechanics
22. Heavy-duty equipment mechanics
23. Motor vehicle body repairers
24. Transport truck drivers
25. Contractors and supervisors, oil and gas drilling and services
26. Oil and gas well drillers, servicers, testers and related workers
27. Oil and gas well drilling and related workers and services operators
28. Oil and gas drilling, servicing and related laborers
29. Petroleum, gas and chemical process operators

The job categories were selected because there is a sufficient pool of unemployed workers with those skills within Alberta.

The Temporary Foreign Worker Program allows Canadian employers to respond to genuine labor shortages by allowing them to hire foreign workers on a temporary basis, while ensuring that Canadian citizens and permanent residents have the first opportunity to apply for open job positions.

Generally, employers who want to hire foreign workers have to demonstrate, through a Labor Market Impact Assessment (LMIA), that they have tried and failed to find a Canadian citizen or permanent resident to fill the position.

The Alberta government will not suspend or revoke LMIA's that were issued prior to April 19, 2017 for an occupation on the Refusal to Process list. /END