



## CANADA EXPANDS COVERAGE OF HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) has announced that the Expedited Labour Market Opinion (E-LMO) pilot project to bring in foreign workers to Alberta and British Columbia, has been expanded to include additional 21 occupations. **The new E-LMO list goes beyond the original sectors of health care, hospitality, and construction. It now includes more occupations in the construction sector, as well as in the manufacturing, engineering, maintenance, sales and services sectors.** The expansion of the coverage will make it faster for Alberta and BC employers to hire temporary foreign workers for occupations which have been classified as “high demand”.

To hire a temporary foreign worker, Canadian employers must first apply from HRSDC/Service Canada for a Labour Market Opinion (LMO), which is an assessment of the potential impact that hiring a foreign worker would have on the Canadian labour market. For the 33 occupations covered by the expanded pilot project, employers have already established that they have not been able to staff available positions with Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents which has resulted to a classification of these occupations as “high demand”. Therefore, extensive LMO assessment for LMO applications of employers in these categories shall no longer be necessary. While the current processing time for LMO applications is five months, applications will be processed by the HRSDC within five days for occupations that fall under the E-LMO.

“We anticipate the need to attract 30,000 workers with specific skills to British Columbia each year to meet our labour and skill shortage challenges”, stated Colin Hansen, BC Minister of Economic Development.

Following is the complete List of Occupations included in the E-LMO Pilot Project:

1. Carpenters
2. Crane Operators
3. Construction Labourers
4. Steamfitters and Pipefitters
5. Ironworkers
6. Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics
7. Machinists
8. Roofers
9. Industrial Electricians
10. Welders
11. Surveyor Helpers
12. Commercial Janitors and Caretakers
13. Specialized Cleaners
14. Mechanical Engineers
15. Civil Engineers
16. Electrical and Electronics Engineers
17. Petroleum Engineers
18. Mechanical Engineering Technologists
19. Hotel and Hospitality Room Attendants
20. Hotel Front Desk Clerks
21. Food and Beverage Servers
22. Food Counter Attendants
23. Food Service Supervisors
24. Industrial Meat Cutters
25. Courier Drivers
26. Residential Cleaning and Support Workers
27. Manufacturing and Processing Labourers
28. Tour and Travel Guides
29. Registered Nurses
30. Dental Technicians
31. Pharmacists
32. Snowboard and Ski Instructors
33. Retail Sales Persons and Sales Clerks