



## **Canada's 2014 Immigration Plan**

The Philippine Embassy in Ottawa reported on Canada's immigration plan for 2014.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Minister Chris Alexander stated that the immigration policies were crafted to attract the human resources that Canada needs to succeed in global competition for the best and brightest people in order to secure the top priority which is economic growth.

The plan includes the following:

- Canada to welcome 240,000 to 265,000 new permanent residents in 2014, with record admissions forecast to welcome maximum of 15,000 under the Canadian Experience Class (CEC) and between 44,500 and 47,000 under the Provincial Nominee Program.
- Economic immigration is slated to increase to 63% in 2014. The remaining 37% will consist of family class immigrants, refugees and others admitted under humanitarian problems.
- Canada intends to continue to drive down backlogs, reduce wait times, and import service.
- Canada will employ a modernized application management system, the Expression of Interest (EOI) by January 2015. The EOI works in two steps:
  1. Prospective immigrants would indicate their interest in coming to Canada by providing information electronically about their skills, work experience and other attributes. Individuals who meet certain eligibility criteria will have their "expressions of interest" placed in a pool and ranked against others already in the pool.
  2. CIC would only invite the best candidates, including those with in-demand skills or with job offers, to apply for a visa. EOI that are not chosen after a period of time may be removed from the pool. As a result, application backlogs would accumulate and processing times will be kept to a minimum.
- The program will enable selection of immigrants based on the skills Canadian employers need. Should the migrants later pursue citizenship, they will be welcomed as equal members of the Canadian family.

Source: DFA-OAA

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