



POEA Advisory No. 31 Series of 2020

UPDATE ON CANADA'S TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

The Government of Canada through the Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) provided an update on travel restrictions put in place on its borders to stem the spread of COVID-19.

Exemptions to the air travel restrictions will apply to foreign nationals who have already committed to working, studying or making Canada their home, and travel by these individuals will be considered essential travel for land border restrictions. The exemptions include:

- Seasonal agricultural workers, fish/seafood workers, caregivers and all other temporary foreign workers;
- International students who held a valid study permit, or had been approved for a study permit, when the travel restrictions took effect on March 18, 2020; and
- Permanent resident applicants who had been approved for permanent residence before the travel restrictions were announced on March 16, 2020, but who had not yet travelled to Canada.


Further, a temporary modification is being made to the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) process for agriculture and food processing employers, as the required 2-week recruitment period will be waived for the next 6 months. IRCC said that allowing foreign workers to enter Canada recognizes their vital importance to the Canadian economy, including food security for Canadians and the success of Canadian food producers.

The Canadian Government is also increasing the maximum allowable employment duration for workers in the low-wage stream of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) from 1 to 2 years.

In addition to health screening protocols before travel established by the Canadian Government that took effect on March 18, 2020, **all individuals entering from abroad must isolate for 14 days upon their arrival in Canada.**

The Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs) in Vancouver and Toronto closely monitor further development in Canada.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator