



## CANADA ISSUES NEW BRIDGING OPEN WORK PERMIT

The Philippine Embassy in Ottawa has reported that the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney announced last 20 December 2012 that Canada will soon issue a new Bridging Open Work Permit to skilled immigrants to maintain their status and continue working in the country while they wait for a final decision on their permanent residence application.

The bridging work permit is available immediately and is valid for one year from the date of issuance. Qualifying foreign nationals who have submitted an application for permanent residence under the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP), Canadian Express Class (CEC), Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) or the Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP) may be considered for an open work permit. They must be already in Canada on a valid work permit that is about to expire and must have received confirmation from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) that their permanent resident application is eligible.

Open work permits are already available for other in-Canada immigration streams, such as live-in caregivers, spouse or common-law partners.

This development reflects Canada's resolve to make the country as attractive destination for talented skilled workers needed to fill in Canada's growing labor gaps in the face of its demographic challenges.

The Philippines is one of the top sources of quality immigrants.