

Immigration

Selection of Workers to Be Better Linked with the Needs of Employers in Various Regions of Québec

Montréal, October 12, 2006—“The anticipated labour market changes in various regions of Québec require a revision of the tools used for selecting foreign workers. Our goal is to more adequately match the candidate selection process and the needs expressed by employers,” stated Lise Thériault, Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities. “That is why I am pleased to announce that, as of October 16, significant changes will be in effect regarding the *Regulations respecting the selection of foreign nationals*.”

Essentially, the selection of workers will now take into account the area of candidates' training and will increase the value of promising training with respect to employment opportunities in Québec. The new criteria to be introduced will not only allow candidates with university training to continue to be selected, but technicians and skilled workers as well. Furthermore, candidates who hold a valid offer of employment will be granted additional points, which are higher for employment offers in the regions.

When the regulations go into effect, these changes will be reflected in the *Preliminary Immigration Evaluation*, an application that enables immigration candidates to assess online free of charge their chances of being selected by Québec before submitting an official application for immigration. The application form is available in French, English and Spanish at www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca.

“Revising our selection criteria will make it possible for us to recruit workers who meet requirements that would otherwise not have been met. This young, qualified workforce represents all the regions of Québec and a dynamic force for Québec's society in terms of its demographic issues,” explained Ms. Thériault.

Other changes

Entrepreneur immigrants

Modifications will also be made to the entrepreneur immigrant selection process. The Minister indicated that these modifications would contribute to revitalizing the immigration program so that Québec can take full advantage of the economic benefits that entrepreneur immigrants bring.

With a view to contributing to the challenge of business succession, the program will be enhanced with a new component in order to simplify the process of selecting candidates who have already identified a Québec business that they wish to acquire to ensure its succession.

Family class and collective sponsorship

In the family class, the term of the undertaking agreement that a Québec resident has committed to in order to sponsor a child who is 16 years of age or older will be reduced. It will be brought to a minimum of 3 years or until the person reaches 25 years of age.

In order to allow for more applications for collective sponsorships, groups composed of two to five residents or a corporate body and a resident may sponsor a refugee or a person in a similar situation in the future. Three-year commitments will also be allowed in order to sponsor persons who have less capacity to settle.

“These modifications reflect the values of Québec society regarding family reunification and compassion for refugees,” emphasized Ms. Thériault.

The changes to the *Regulations respecting the selection of foreign nationals* basically stem from measures expected from the Action Plan *Shared Values, Common Interests*, which are included in the government Action Plan *Shine among the Best*. They will also contribute to attaining Québec’s objectives concerning the number of admissions and the make-up of immigration.

For more information

Consult the Action Plan *Shared Values, Common Interests* and the *Three-Year Immigration Plan 2005–2007* on the *Ministère de l’Immigration et des Communautés culturelles* Web site at www.micc.gouv.qc.ca.

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