



Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et  
Immigration Canada

HONG KONG – SEATTLE

# VISITOR'S GUIDE

for the Biometrics  
FIELD TRIAL

October 2006 – April 2007



Canada

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) is conducting a six-month biometrics field trial from October 2006 to April 2007, affecting all temporary resident visa applicants (visitors, students and workers) in Hong Kong and Seattle.

### **What is a biometric characteristic?**

For the purpose of this field trial, a “biometric characteristic” is a physical feature that is unique to you, such as your fingerprints. In this trial, CIC will be testing facial recognition and fingerprint recognition.

### **Who is affected by the trial?**

The field trial affects only people applying for a visa in Hong Kong and Seattle during the six-month period. Those who receive field trial visas in Hong Kong or Seattle will also take part in biometric procedures when entering Canada at Vancouver International Airport (British Columbia) or when crossing the land border between the United States and Canada at Pacific Highway/Blaine, Washington, or Douglas/Peace Arch.

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If you arrive at any other airport or land border crossing, you will not be subjected to any fingerprint scan as part of this field trial.

### **What is the purpose of the field trial?**

Your participation in this field trial is very valuable to us as it will help us test the impact of biometrics on CIC operations.



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## How will the field trial affect me?

### VISA APPLICATION

When following current temporary resident visa application procedures, you will submit two photographs that comply with the photo standards outlined in the application kit: Visa Application Photograph Specifications (C&I-767-01-06).

The visa officer will scan your fingerprints (all 10 fingers) when you drop off your application in person, when you pick up your passport in person or when you attend an interview.

**NOTE:** If your application was completed entirely by mail, your fingerprints (all 10 fingers) will be scanned upon your arrival in Canada.

**Children 13 years old and under at the time of application will not be asked to provide fingerprints.**

### ARRIVAL IN CANADA

#### VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Follow “Customs and Immigration” signs and make your way to the Customs/Immigration area. There, you will speak with a Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officer who will verify your identification (valid passport) and visa. The officer will scan your fingerprints by asking you to position one or more fingers on a fingerprint reader.



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## PACIFIC HIGHWAY AND DOUGLAS LAND BORDER

Present yourself to a CBSA officer who will verify your identification (valid passport) and visa. The officer will scan your fingerprints by asking you to position one or more fingers on a fingerprint reader.

### **IMPORTANT**

If you have received your visa by mail, a CBSA officer will scan your fingerprints (all 10 fingers) once you arrive in Canada. It is important to note that the procedure may take some time and may slightly delay your onward travel.

### **What will happen upon my departure from Canada?**

There are no special exit procedures. You will not be asked to provide any further biometric information when departing from Canada.

### **What will CIC do with the information collected during the field trial?**

It is of the utmost importance to CIC to protect the privacy of your personal information. CIC, its visa offices and the CBSA's participating border offices will strictly adhere to Canada's *Privacy Act*. The *Privacy Act* can be found at the following Web site: <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/P-21/95414.html>.



FOR THE BIOMETRICS FIELD TRIAL



The photograph that you will be providing to the visa office will be used in establishing your identity. It will be scanned and saved on a chip that will be read by a CBSA officer, for examination purposes, upon your arrival in Canada. However, the scans of your fingerprints will not be used to make a decision on your visa application or your entry to Canada. The personal information will be strictly protected in a secure database stored in Ottawa, Canada, where it will be used only for statistical purposes.

All biometric information, including fingerprints, will be destroyed no later than three months after the closing of the field trial, which is expected to finish in April 2007.

### **Who do I contact for further information?**

If you have any further questions, please contact your visa office by visiting the following Web sites:

Seattle, U.S. – [www.seattle.gc.ca](http://www.seattle.gc.ca)

Hong Kong, China – [www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/asia/hongkong/](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/asia/hongkong/)

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You may also send comments to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration at [Minister@cic.gc.ca](mailto:Minister@cic.gc.ca).

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Or you may write to:

**Minister of Citizenship and Immigration**  
**Citizenship and Immigration Canada**  
**Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1A 1L1**



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