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Alberta Puts Immigration Programs on Hold

By Shad A. Chapman and Elisabeth M. Caines

Applications under the Family Stream and the U.S. Visa Holder Category of the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (AINP) will no longer be accepted.

The AINP was first introduced to help Alberta build a skilled immigrant workforce. Through the program, the Province nominated prospective immigrants to the federal government for permanent residence. However, in 2010 the federal government limited the number of nominations Alberta may make to 5,000. With nominations limited, it appears that Alberta's focus will be on nominating people who currently work in permanent jobs and those who have job offers in occupations that are in demand in Alberta.

The US Visa Holder category was a unique program aimed at attracting temporary skilled workers with Visa status in the United States to permanently live and work in Alberta. Applicants were required to have at least one year of work experience in the U.S. in an occupation listed in the AINP Occupations Under Pressure List; a job offer was not needed to qualify. Alberta would nominate successful applicants for Canadian Permanent Residency, thereby fast-tracking the immigration process. The Family Stream allowed family members of Alberta residents to immigrate to Canada. The program was broader than its federal counterpart, and allowed parents to sponsor non-dependent children.

If you have employees who are here as temporary residents and are wondering whether these changes may affect them, or if you are looking to hire workers from outside of Canada, please contact Brownlee's Immigration team for further information and advice:

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