



Canadian Immigration & Business Lawyers

Immigration from Africa Edition

www.CanadaVisaLaw.com

CANADA – LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

It is understandable that Canada is one of the world's top destinations for immigrants, considering how much the country has to offer.

For starters, Canada is a leading member of the G8 grouping of the world's most developed economies, with strong growth and attractive employment prospects. Working conditions are standardized and employee rights are well protected, ensuring that workers get a fair deal.

Then, consider that Canada is politically and socially stable, meaning that residents enjoy freedom as well as a peaceful life together.

In the area of educational opportunities, Canada offers high quality elementary and secondary schooling free of charge to all residents and citizens. Tertiary education is also of a high standard, with numerous institutions throughout the country.

Health coverage is available to all

residents and citizens, regardless of medical history, personal income, or standard of living. This is at the cost of a low monthly premium, which varies from province to province.

Canada's natural beauty is a further major draw for new residents. The country has thousands of lakes, majestic mountain ranges, huge forests and beautiful beaches for residents to enjoy.

So how do you get to enjoy all these benefits?

Canada has long welcomed immigrants, and there are a range of options for you to consider:

- Skills Shortage work permit options
- Investor Immigration
- Independent Skilled Worker immigration

Read through this newsletter – perhaps you too may build a new life for yourself and your family in Canada!

Introducing... LEGAL PARTNERSHIP CONSULT (LPC)

LPC is a Nigerian law firm and an affiliate of the firm Lowe and Company in Canada. Working in partnership with leading immigration law firms internationally, we provide the knowledge and cultural context to address local challenges and facilitate your short-term and permanent immigration.

We offer detailed information about the application and assessment process, review and realistically evaluate applications based on published criteria, and assist with preparation and presentation of your application to enhance a positive outcome.

Our global visa professionals have vast experience gained by preparing numerous applications for study permits, tourist visas, business visitor visas and other short term and settlement visas. With us, you can pursue your dreams in Canada! Contact us:

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ALBERTA OIL AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES BOOMING



The Canadian oil industry is experiencing a period of unprecedented growth, driven by strong global demand and high oil prices.

This growth has spilled over into some related industries, especially construction. Let's take a look at this situation and the opportunities that it presents to you...

Alberta is Canada's key oil-producing province, and has the second largest known oil reserves in the world – an estimated 1.7 to 2.5 trillion barrels. These reserves are known as "oil sands" because the oil occurs in a mixture of sand, water and clay. Oil found in this form requires more complex mining, extraction and upgrading.

For this reason, the infrastructure required to produce oil is larger than that required for normal oil production. Companies, mostly in the Fort McMurray area of Alberta, are now hard at work putting the required infrastructure in place.

However, this significant level of new activity has placed a strain on the labour supply in the region. Oil companies require large numbers of staff to operate new facilities, and construction companies require workers to build the facilities that are still under development. As a result, these employers are seeking to recruit numerous skilled

workers in the oil and construction fields from overseas. In Alberta for example, there are numerous jobs in strong demand, ranging from pipe fitters and ironworkers to electricians and heavy duty mechanics. Elsewhere, in the British Columbia and Ontario provinces, construction companies are experiencing similar strong growth and a shortage of workers. This gives immigrants to Canada some choice as to where they would most like to settle.

Earnings in these trades can range from US\$13 - \$30 per hour, and this can effectively be up to 50% higher, once workers include overtime pay and out of station allowances that some employers provide.

LPC is working with a Canadian recruitment firm and Canadian employers to address this critical need for skilled trade workers.

Through this partnership, we:

- 1) Link candidates to employment opportunities within Canadian companies, and
- 2) Prepare applications for work permits, which are typically approved within 1 to 3 months.

If you are a skilled trade worker, Canada has some very lucrative opportunities for you.

Contact LPC to discuss your options.

"The critical skills shortage is the No. 1 threat to our economy."

– Ed Stelmach, Alberta minister of international & intergovernmental relations

CANADA'S INVESTOR IMMIGRANT PROGRAM

GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED IMMIGRATION INVESTMENTS

FOR BUSINESSMEN, EXECUTIVES, BUSINESS MANAGERS, AND EVEN RETIREES

People who have owned or been a manager in a qualifying business for 2 out of the past 5 years can immigrate as an Investor Immigrant. They must have a minimum net worth of \$800,000 CDN (about \$720,000 USD), and would need to invest \$400,000 CDN (about \$360,000 USD) without interest for 5 years into government guaranteed securities. The investment can be used as collateral to borrow up to 75% of the \$400,000.

- **Investment amount:** \$400,000 CDN is about \$360,000 US, and is much less than the \$500,000 to \$1 Million USD needed in the US EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program.
- **Down Payment for the Fund:** You can put up \$120,000 CDN (about \$108,000 USD) and borrow the balance of the \$400,000, using only the investment as collateral.
- **All Family Members included:** Your investment allows you to immigrate with one wife and all your dependent children under 22.
- **You don't make the investment until your immigration is approved:** The investment is typically the last thing to be done before approval of your case. If for any reason the visas are subsequently denied, the investment is refunded in full.



- **The immigrant visas are unconditional.** Unlike the US Immigrant Investor program, you are not required to create jobs, or manage the business.
- **The monies are government guaranteed:** Funds from the Immigrant Investor Program are allocated amongst Canada's provinces, and each province must guarantee the return of the investment after 5 years. Under the EB-5 visas program, investments are made into private enterprises, which carry much more risk.
- **Executives and Managers can qualify:** Management of as few as 5 employees for 2 out of the past 5 years meets "Business Experience" for the Immigrant Investor Program. Government managers can qualify under the Quebec Immigrant Investor program.
- **Retired people can immigrate as investors:** As long as the immigrant has owned or managed a business in 2 out of the past 5 years, and a net worth of at least \$720,000 USD, he or she can qualify... even if he/she intends to retire in Canada.

Did you know?

An Immigrant Investor's dependent children receive free public schooling until the end of secondary school!



WANTED: SKILLED WORKERS

Canada selects skilled workers on a point system, with up to 100 points assessed for Age, Education, Language (English and French), Skilled Work Experience, Arranged Employment, and Adaptability factors (see chart below). The criteria are fairly objective, and the current pass mark of 67 is fairly easy to obtain: anyone who is

between 21 and 49, fluent in English (or French), has 4 years of skilled work experience, and has at least 2 years of post-secondary education (including technical or trade education) can qualify. Processing times can be less if an interview waiver can be obtained.

Skilled Worker Assessment Chart

Categories	Max. Points	Comments
Age	10	21-49. Lose 2 points for each year over or under
Education	25	20 for BA or 2 year Trade Certificate; 25 for MA
Language (English or French)	24	16 points for 1 st official language 8 points for 2 nd official language
Work Experience	21	21 points for 4 years of skilled work experience
Arranged Employment	10	People with approved job offers or work permits
Adaptability	10	Points for spouse's education, previous work or study in Canada, Arranged Employment, relatives in Canada
TOTAL	100	Current pass mark is 67

ABOUT LOWE AND COMPANY

Lowe & Company is a leading Canadian Immigration and Business law firm based in Vancouver, B.C. Our clients are from over 50 countries, and we handle business immigrants, work permits, skilled workers, family sponsorships and appeals up to the Supreme Court of Canada. Using Canada's Immigration regulations as tools, we often use "out of the box" thinking to provide creative solutions for difficult cases.

Our lawyers have taught Continuing Legal

Education courses since 1990, and receive referrals from lawyers across Canada and around the world. Founder Jeffrey S. Lowe was called to the Bar in 1983, and is an innovator in the convergence of technology, business, and the law.

Rated "BV" by www.Martindale.com (Very high ethical standards, and High to very high legal abilities), Jeffrey regularly advises lawyers across Canada on immigration issues.