



NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2008

BREAKING NEWS IN EMPLOYMENT RELATED IMMIGRATION

The recruitment of foreign workers is playing an ever increasing role in addressing the critical skills shortages felt by many employers across all sectors. In response, ***the Federal Government has undertaken a number of initiatives aimed at facilitating the entry of foreign workers to Canada.*** This newsletter will discuss the introduction of the Expedited Labour Market Opinions Pilot Project.

Expedited Labour Market Opinions (“E-LMO”) Pilot Project

Generally, obtaining a work permit for a foreign national to engage in work in Canada involves a two step process. The first is to obtain a Labour Market Opinion from Service Canada and the second is to proceed to Citizenship and Immigration Canada to apply for the actual work permit. Current ***processing time for an application for a Labour Market Opinion is estimated at approximately 145 days,*** or approximately 5 months.

Most employers, who are finding it increasingly difficult to staff their available positions with local labour, will welcome the news of the implementation of a pilot project designed to reduce such processing times for Labour Market Opinions.

On September 26, 2007, the E-LMO Pilot Project was launched. This Pilot itself contemplates a two-step process whereby the Employer is essentially accredited as one doing business in Canada and one that meets the eligibility requirements of the Project. If so approved, the Employer receives an E-LMO Access Code that allows the Employer to apply for an expedited Labour Market Opinion. ***In stark contrast with the traditional route,*** the whole process from accreditation to obtaining a Labour Market Opinion is expected to take approximately ***only 3-4 weeks.***

The initial list of positions available for consideration for the Pilot Project included the following:

- Carpenters (Journey person)
- Crane Operators (Journey person)
- Dental Technicians
- Food and Beverage Servers
- Food Counter Attendants
- Hotel Front Desk Clerks
- Hotel and Hospitality Room Attendants
- Pharmacists
- Registered Nurses
- Retail Salespersons and Sales Clerks
- Snowboard and Ski Instructors
- Tour and Travel Guides

Significantly, on January 14, 2008, this list was expanded to include occupations across greater sectors and becomes more attractive than ever for those employers intending to recruit foreign workers. The new included occupations are as follows:

- **Civil Engineers**
- **Commercial Janitors, Caretakers**
- **Construction Labourers**
- **Delivery Drivers**
- **Electrical & Electronics Engineers**
- **Food Service Supervisors**
- **Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics**
- **Industrial Electricians**
- **Industrial Meat Cutters**
- **Ironworkers**
- **Manufacturing & Processing Labourers**
- **Mechanical Engineers**

- **Mechanical Engineering Technologists**
- **Petroleum Engineers**
- **Residential Cleaning and Support Workers**
- **Roofers**
- **Specialized Cleaners**
- **Steamfitters, Pipefitters**
- **Surveyor Helpers**
- **Welders**
- **Machinists**

The expansion of this list is welcome news indeed. Proactive employers will avail themselves of the use of this Pilot Project to provide greater options and flexibility in addressing their future staffing needs.

Roper Greyell LLP is pleased to announce its immigration capability is available to assist you with your recruitment efforts.

If you have questions regarding the issues raised in this newsletter and how they may affect you or your company, please do not hesitate to contact any lawyer at our firm.

Lawyer contact information can be obtained by contacting us at (604) 806-0922 or visiting our website at www.ropergreyell.com.

ROPER GREYELL MORNING EDUCATION SERIES – UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

We are very pleased to be able to offer the following Roper Greyell Morning Education Series workshops:

- “Employment Related Immigration: A Primer”
February 14, 2008 – 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the offices of Roper Greyell LLP

Please note that space for the above workshops is limited.

Remaining places can be reserved on a “first come, first served” basis by telephoning Gillian Clee at (604) 806-3871 or e-mailing her at gcle@ropergreyell.com.

* Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in respect of this newsletter. The comments, however, are necessarily of a general nature. Clients and other interested parties are urged to seek specific advice on matters of concern and not to rely solely on the text of this newsletter. *