



Citizenship and Immigration Canada (“CIC”) Extends Pilot Projects For Working-Age Dependent Children of Workers Destined to Ontario and Alberta

by Henry J. Chang

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On June 28, 2010, CIC released Operational Bulletin 123, which extended the *Pilot Project for Working-Age Dependent Children of Workers Destined to Ontario* until July 12, 2012. This pilot program is meant to consider whether or not facilitating the issuance of work permits to working-age dependents of skilled Temporary Foreign Workers (“TFWs”) will make Ontario a more attractive destination for the principal applicants, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the TFW program in attracting international workers with in-demand skills.

This pilot program has been extended from July 1, 2010 to July 30, 2012 inclusive; these dates refer only to the period in which qualifying work permit applications must be received, not to the duration of the work permits. The pilot program will apply only to qualifying foreign nationals destined to work in the Province of Ontario. Dependent children of foreign nationals seeking work permits under the Ontario program must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible:

- (a) They must be eligible to work in the province of Ontario; and
- (b) They must be a dependent child of a foreign national where the principal applicant is entering Canada, is destined to Ontario as a TFW and has a valid, job-specific work permit with a minimum duration of 6 months in an occupation found within Skill Levels 0, A or B of the *National Occupation Classification* (“NOC”) system.

On the same day, CIC also released Operational Bulletin 122, which extended the *Pilot Project for Working-Age Dependent Children of Workers Destined to Alberta* until July 30, 2012. This pilot program is virtually identical to the pilot program in Ontario except that it applies only to qualifying foreign nationals destined to work in the Province of Alberta. Dependent children of foreign nationals seeking work permits under the Alberta program must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible:

- (a) They must be aged 18-22 at date of application and eligible to work in the province of Alberta; and
- (b) They must be a dependent child of a foreign national where the principal applicant is entering Canada, destined to Alberta as a TFW and has a valid, job-specific work permit with a minimum duration of 6 months in an occupation found within skill levels 0, A or B of the NOC.

The LMO exemption code is T13 in conjunction with Subsection 204(c) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* (“IRPR”). The duration of the work permit issued to the accompanying dependent cannot exceed the expiry date of the work permit of the principal applicant. ■