

## Canada-Alberta Temporary Foreign Worker Annex

### Extension of Occupation-Specific Pilot

#### Background

The Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Annex is an addition to the *Agreement for Canada-Alberta Cooperation on Immigration*. The Annex includes an agreement to implement a number of pilots.

One of the pilots allows Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to issue an occupation-specific work permit to TFWs working in Alberta in one of the following specific occupations: steamfitter-pipefitter, estimator, welder, heavy-duty equipment mechanic, ironworker, millwright and industrial mechanic, and carpenter.

Under the pilot, TFWs with the appropriate certification or a letter of approval from Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) can come to Alberta to work temporarily in a specific occupation without requiring the employer to have a Labour Market Opinion (LMO) from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and Service Canada. Certified workers can move freely between employers provided they continue to work in the same occupation.

To ensure the protection of the Canadian labour market, TFWs taking part in this pilot will be required to have a job offer from an Alberta employer or recognized Group of Employers (GoE) under the CIC-ESDC GoE Pilot.

Both certified and uncertified workers are eligible to apply to the pilot. A **one-year employer-specific/occupation-specific** work permit will be issued to an uncertified worker

with an approval letter from AIT for the Alberta Qualification Certificate Program. Once certified, the foreign worker can apply for a **two-year occupation-specific/open work permit**, allowing movement between employers.

TFWs working in Canada or applying from abroad who hold an Alberta Qualification Certificate or trade certificate recognized in Alberta can apply for a **two-year occupation-specific/open work permit**, where they will be able to move freely between employers.

#### Eligibility

The pilot occupations are both compulsory and optional trades (with the exception of estimator\*). Employers hiring foreign workers in the optional trades of carpenter and millwright have two options:

- 1) If employers want to hire a journeyman level carpenter or millwright, the worker will require an approval letter from AIT for the Alberta Qualification Certificate Program before being eligible to participate in the pilot. Those workers who already hold an Alberta Qualification Certificate or trade certificate recognized in Alberta will require proof of certification. Information on AIT certification requirements can be found at [www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca](http://www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca).
- 2) Employers who do not require a journeyman level carpenter and/or millwright are not required to participate in the pilot but may instead hire TFWs under the LMO process.

*(\*The estimator occupation is not considered a trade in Alberta therefore employers using the pilot must ensure the applicant has the qualifications to perform the duties of that occupation.)*

For AIT guide, visit  
[www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/sources/pdfs/forms/qual\\_tfw\\_guide.pdf](http://www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/sources/pdfs/forms/qual_tfw_guide.pdf)

For AIT application, visit  
[www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/sources/pdfs/forms/appl\\_qual\\_work\\_exp.pdf](http://www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/sources/pdfs/forms/appl_qual_work_exp.pdf)

The job offer from the employer must indicate a wage that is consistent with the prevailing wage paid to Canadians in the same occupation in Alberta and that the working conditions for the occupation meet current provincial labour standards.

Applicants are required to meet all applicable federal temporary resident criteria including leaving Canada at the end of the period authorized by their work permit. They must also meet all admissibility criteria in order to obtain status as a temporary resident in Canada.

### **Work permit guide and application**

Eligible TFWs from abroad may apply for a work permit either overseas or, if applicable, at a port of entry into Canada. If applying from outside Canada, go to  
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/work.asp>.

If applying from within Canada, mail your application to the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, Alberta, or apply online at [http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/my\\_application/apply\\_online.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/my_application/apply_online.asp). An application fee will apply.

### **Duration**

The pilot will operate from August 1, 2013 until July 31, 2017. All applicants must apply to the pilot by July 31, 2014.

For more information about the pilot, visit the Immigrate to Alberta Information Service online at [www.albertacanada.com/help](http://www.albertacanada.com/help) or by phone at 1-877-427-6419 (toll-free in Alberta) or 780-427-6419 (outside Alberta).