

Desjardins News

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1. New: Desjardins-Lexbase Business Edition

Desjardins has teamed up with Lexbase to bring you a special edition of Lexbase. This "Desjardins-Lexbase Business Edition" summarizes the regular edition of Lexbase. It highlights important information for immigration practitioners specializing in business immigrants.

The February edition has been sent to our immigration practitioners by email. It is also available on our Web site at www.immigrantinvestor.com.

QUÉBEC IMMIGRATION NEWS

1. Regulating Immigration Practitioners

New draft by-law

Minister James announced today the creation of a new draft by-law. The draft by-law will be published in the Official Gazette for consultation on March 3, 2010. The government has been discussing the possibility of regulating immigration practitioners for the last few years. The government will receive comments and reactions before the change comes into effect.

The new draft by-law aims at regulating immigration practitioners processing files for candidates destined for Québec. Only persons meeting the following criteria would be able to work as immigration practitioners with respect to the ministre de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (MICC):

- Lawyers and notaries, members of their respective professional order
- Immigration practitioners, who
 - Are members of the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC)
 - Have passed an exam on the regulations on immigration in Québec
 - Have an office in Québec
 - Have sufficient knowledge of the French language for their activities
 - Have committed no offense to any of the Immigration Laws and Regulations

In case of infringement to the above mentioned obligations, the Minister would be able to suspend or revoke an immigration practitioner.

2. Industry rumours

Regulation

As mentioned in the last edition of Desjardins News both the Government of Québec and Canada are in the process of discussing changes to the Immigrant Investor Programs. We were invited by both governments to share our thoughts on this issue. Absolutely no decisions have yet been taken by either government at this stage.

Rest assured that Desjardins is following this topic very closely with both governments. We are also offering our input and will keep you informed as soon as any new developments emerge.

3. Entrepreneur program

The Government of Québec is currently in the process of reviewing its Entrepreneur Program. We were invited to contribute and provide our comments on the program. The Government of Québec is at the preliminary stages and we will inform you as soon as more details become available.

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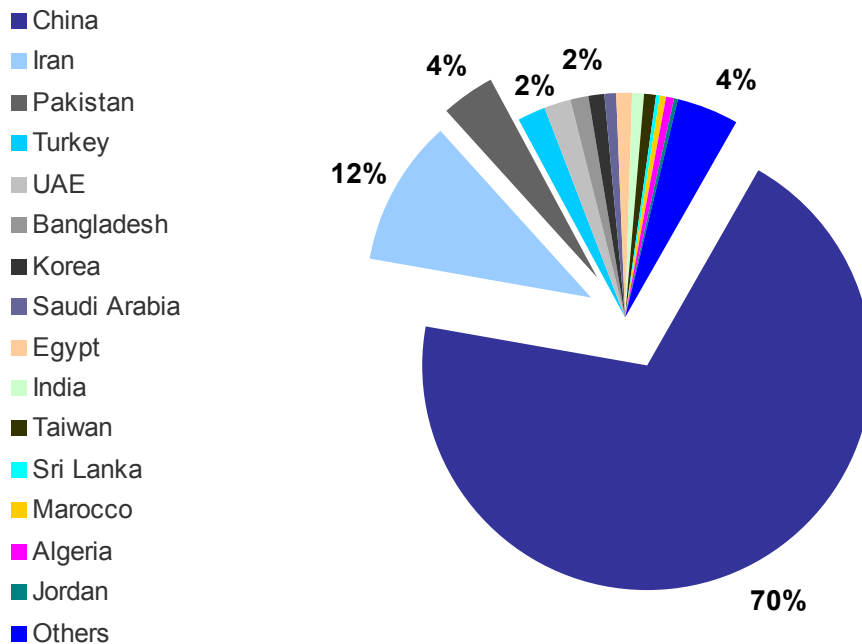
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4. Immigration overview – Québec Immigrant Investor Program

In the past year, the majority of investors under the Québec Immigrant Investor Program emigrated from China (70%) followed by Iran and Pakistan with 12% and 4% respectively.

Country of residence of immigrant investors, 2009



In 2009, 103 interviews were waived. The majority of these investors, 82%, came from Asia and 17% from the Middle East.

The overall acceptance rate was 74% last year. Of those refused, 32% requested an administrative review. In 75% of these cases, the initial decision was maintained.

A positive trend can be seen for the processing delays of administrative reviews. They have decreased from 12 months in 2007, to 7.5 months in 2008 and an all-time low in 2009 of 4.2 months.

At the end of last year, a total of 5,108 files were processed in Hong Kong and 885 in Damascus for a total of 6,092 files.

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As of December 31, 2009	Hong Kong	Damascus	Other	Total
Files opened (before analysis)	53	11	2	66
Files being analysed	3,127	289	41	3,457
Files waiting for interview (invitation to send)	663	114	9	786
Files waiting for interview (invitation already sent)	535	146	7	688
Selection on current files	363	1	0	364
Files in selection (waiting for decision)	367	324	40	731
Total	5,108	885	99	6,092

5. BIQ and incomplete files

Files have been returned by the BIQ, notably in Hong Kong, because instructions detailed by the BIQ were not followed. The money and documents were returned without registering the principal applicant on the waiting list. This procedure is similar to the one employed by the Federal Program.

When a file is returned, the letter from the BIQ specifies the documents missing. In case of a re-submission, the applicant is asked to send all documents as well as the current fees.

To avoid any unnecessary delays, please ensure to submit complete applications in line with the BIQ requirements. For questions or advice, contact us at info@immigrantinvestor.com.

6. Indian students in Québec

On his mission to India, Prime Minister Jean Charest announced that the level for new arrivals would be adjusted in order to facilitate the immigration of Indian students. However, in order to qualify for Québec Selection Certificate students will need to have intermediate French language skills.

The Prime Minister also wants to intensify trade with India. A free-trade agreement between India and Canada is currently being discussed.

7. Haiti

In response to the tragic earthquake in Haiti, the Government of Québec has implemented a special sponsorship program. This special program aiming at family reunions will be effective from February 17 to December 31, 2010.

The province of Québec has widened the term 'family member' to include brothers, sisters and adult children aged over 22. Relatives in Haiti can now be sponsored more easily for immigration to Canada.

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However, the 2010 total immigration quota will not be increased in order to guarantee the stability of the immigration system. In line with its capacity for new arrivals the program will thus allow 3,000 Haitians to immigrate to Québec.



Pierre Richard Casimir, Consul General for Haiti | Minister Yolande James, MICC | Emmanuel Dubourg Député de Viau

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION NEWS

1. Ghost consultants

In response to a report of a case with 300 citizenship applicants all claiming to live at the same address, Minister Kenney announced that he wants to crack down on unscrupulous immigration practitioners. He will be launching a package this year to reform the regulation of immigrant consultants.

Severe penalties can be expected for furnishing people with advice to commit fraud or submit fraudulent documents. Minister Kenney also wants to increase diplomatic action with source countries to increase awareness of the issue.

2. Indian students

In 2009, a Student Partners Program was launched between Canada's visa offices in India and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges. The program's goal to increase the approval rate for study permit applications was successfully met. The approval rate has actually been doubled.

In 2008, India ranked seventh for source countries with 3,244 students. The total intake for international students to Canada has more than doubled since 1998 and has contributed C\$6.5 billion to the Canadian economy in 2008. The Government of Canada is continuing to look for ways to encourage international students to study in Canada.

The Desjardins Immigrant Investor Program Team Leading the way to success

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Note: Some of the information in this document has been provided by external sources. Desjardins is not responsible for the accuracy, reliability, or currency of the information provided by external sources.

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