Important Information on Submitting Visa Applications and Biometrics Information – August 2013

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Participants who are planning to attend an international event in Canada are strongly encouraged to submit a visa application (if one is required) as far in advance as possible **online** **(E-Apps)** or at a Visa Application Centre (VAC).

E-Apps provide applicants worldwide with a fast and effective option for submitting a visa application. Applicants who choose to apply on-line will not have to submit their passport (if needed) until a decision has been taken on their application. Completing an application online is an excellent option for people who have access to the internet, a scanner or camera, and a credit card.

VACs improve client service by ensuring applications are complete which will help applicants avoid unnecessary delays due to incomplete applications. VACs also facilitate a reliable and secure transfer of documents between applicants and visa offices. By March 2014, the VAC network will expand to over 130 locations in 96 countries. Find the closest VAC to you.

Note that some Visa Offices are currently experiencing visa processing delays. In order for you to avoid additional delays, please ensure you submit a complete application. Some Visa Offices might also require additional documents that may not be listed in your application package. Find out if you need to submit country-specific documents by consulting the website of your visa office.

Biometrics Information Required:
Starting in September 2013 citizens from 29 countries and one territory will be required to provide Biometrics information (fingerprints and digital photographs) when they apply for a temporary resident visa, study permit or work permit. Other countries such as the United States, United Kingdom and Australia already use biometrics for immigration and border security purposes.

Biometrics facilitates the screening of legitimate applicants by confirming their identity promptly.

As of the dates below, citizens of the following countries will be required to provide biometrics when they apply for a visa, work permit or study permit:

September 4, 2013	Colombia, Haiti and Jamaica
October 23, 2013	Albania, Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Tunisia.
December 11, 2013	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Vietnam, Yemen and the Palestinian Authority

Some individuals from the countries and territory above do not need to provide biometric information due to an exemption set in Regulations. Please consult the following link to find out if you are exempted from the biometric requirement http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/biometrics.asp.

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