



Desjardins News

1 EXCLUSIVE DESJARDINS WORKSHOPS

In our mission to support our immigration practitioners and to ensure the success of their investor clients, Desjardins held workshops in Toronto and Vancouver in the past weeks. The main focus of these workshops was on:

- latest news from the Federal and Québec governments and industry trends
- how to write an effective Narrative Document
- how to optimize an immigrant investor file

We would like to reiterate our thanks to all the participants for contributing to the success of these events and to those who took the time to complete our online survey. Your comments and feedback are important to us. This will help Desjardins continue to improve its overall support by offering you the tools and services you need to grow your business.



Fouad Dalati
Business Immigration Manager

2 DESJARDINS EXCLUSIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

As you may already know, Desjardins offers an exclusive scholarship plan to its immigrant investors and their families. Desjardins is presently accepting applications for 2009. Qualified candidates must submit their applications and the necessary documents by **August 30, 2009**. Scholarships are open to bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree students. For more information, visit www.immigrantinvestor.com.



2008 Scholarships

Minister Yolande James, MICC | Desjardins recipients | Vice-President Marc Audet, Desjardins Immigrant Investor Program

3 QUÉBEC IMMIGRATION NEWS

3.1 Regulation changes - fast track immigration to Québec

The Government of Québec just announced some important changes in order to attract and retain international students and skilled workers in line with labour market needs.

This draft Regulation affecting An Act respecting immigration to Québec (R.S.Q., c I-0.2, s. 3.3, 1st par., subpars. b, b.4, c, c.2, c.3, f, f.101, f.2 and g) is effective on July 8, 2009.



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The following three changes will allow Québec to be more competitive when it comes to attracting new immigrants to the province and to prevent future labour shortages. Some 700,000 positions are expected to be vacant by 2012.

1. **International students**
Québec Selection Certificates (CSQ) will be given to international students who have obtained a secondary school vocational diploma, postsecondary school technical diploma or a university degree issued by an institution recognized by the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports.
2. **Temporary skilled workers**
Québec annually welcomes numerous temporary skilled workers, particularly in IT, scientific research and other specialised industries. In order to facilitate the permanent establishment of these workers, a CSQ will be delivered to all who apply and work in Québec.
3. **Workers whose profile corresponds to industries experiencing labour shortages**
Workers of all levels of education will benefit from this change. Files will no longer be analysed according to the submission date but in line with the competencies of the worker and the labour demand in Québec.

The draft Regulation also proposes to simplify the selection of foreign nationals in the economic class by removing:

- the stage of preliminary processing.
- the “Adaptability” factor in the Selection grid for the economic class.

A copy of the draft Regulation that was published in the Official Gazette, can be found at www.immigrantinvestor.com.

3.2 Immigration overview – Québec Immigrant Investor Program

The table here below reflects the number of months that were required to approve or refuse Québec immigrant investor applications by Canadian Visa Offices (CVOs) around the world. On average it took 11 months to finalize 30% of the cases, 13 months to finalize half the cases and 17 months to finalize 80% of the cases.

Months required to finalize applications, April 2008 to March 2009*

Visa Offices	months			
	30%	50%	70%	80%
of cases finalized				
Africa and the Middle East	12	17	22	27
Abu Dhabi	10	13	15	16
Cairo	20	24	31	45
Damascus	12	16	21	25
Rabat	26	31	36	36
Asia and Pacific	12	13	14	16
Beijing	7	9	9	10
Hong Kong	12	13	14	16
Seoul	4	4	5	5
Singapore	6	6	9	10
Taipei	4	4	4	4
Europe	4	6	8	14
Ankara	4	4	7	8
Americas	11	18	22	24
ALL REGIONS	11	13	15	17

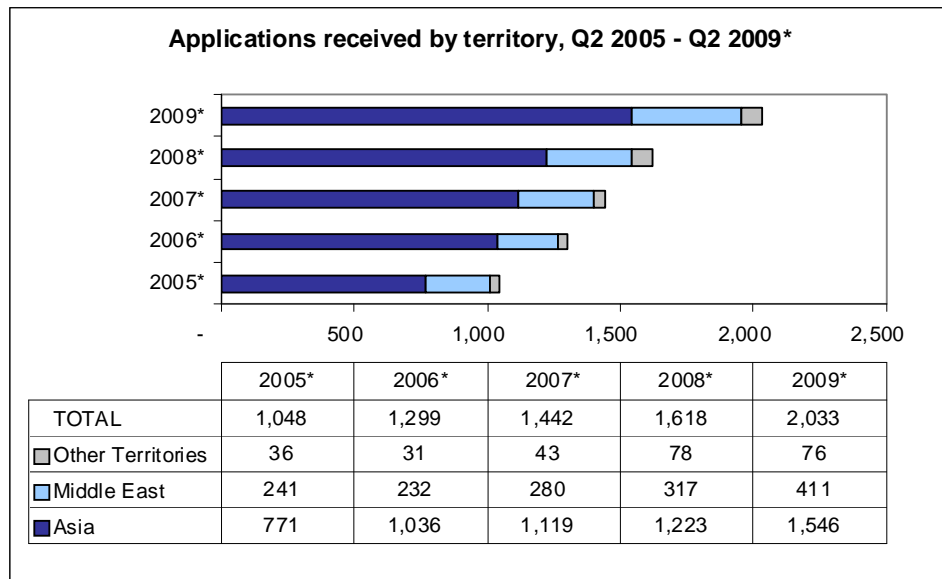
Source: CIC

*Processing times are presented only where an office has finalized 10 or more cases in the category in the above mentioned 12-month period.



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From January to June 2009, a total of 2,033 applications have been received with the majority coming from Asia (76%) and a total increase of almost 26% compared to the second quarter of 2008.



Source: MICC

*Please note that the results for 2005 to 2009 contain the months from January to June inclusively.

4 FEDERAL IMMIGRATION NEWS

4.1 Immigration overview – Federal Immigrant Investor Program

The table here below reflects the number of months that were required to approve or refuse Federal immigrant investor applications at CVOs around the world. On average it took 24 months to finalize 30% of the cases, 27 months to finalize half the cases and 34 months to finalize 80% of the cases.

Months required to finalize applications, April 2008 to March 2009*

Visa Offices	months			
	30%	50%	70%	80%
	of cases finalized			
Africa and the Middle East	25	28	33	37
Damascus	25	28	32	35
Asia and Pacific	25	28	31	34
Beijing	20	22	26	27
Hong Kong	27	30	33	36
Manila	29	30	32	34
New Dehli	10	12	14	15
Seoul	22	23	26	27
Singapore	26	29	34	36
Taipei	21	26	30	32
Europe	19	21	24	28
London	19	21	23	27
Americas	15	23	33	38
ALL REGIONS	24	27	31	34

Source: CIC

*Processing times are presented only where an office has finalized 10 or more cases in the category in the above mentioned 12-month period.



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Please note that we have received updated information on the number of Federal Immigrant Investor Program (FIIP) files that were received by the CVOs in 2008 - approximately 4,500. This would bring the overall inventory of files to over 8,000 FIIP files as of December 2008. Therefore, we can expect processing times to increase in most CVOs over the next years, if the Government maintains its target of processing only 2,000 decisions (acceptances, refusals, and withdrawals) per year.

5 FAQ

Q. How are the points for the age category awarded?

A. The points for the age of an investor candidate are awarded according to the investor's age at the date of file submission.

Example: At the date of file submission an investor candidate is 45 years old (2 points according to the Selection grid). However, by the time of processing the candidate turns 46 (no points according to the Selection grid). The points for the age category are based on the date of file submission, thus granting the candidate 2 points.

The Desjardins Immigrant Investor Program Team
Leading the way to success

info@immigrantinvestor.com

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.

Head Office

East Tower, 27th Floor
2 Complexe Desjardins
P.O. Box 992, Station Desjardins
Montréal, Québec
Canada H5B 1C1

Tel.: 1-514-499-8440
1-800-363-3915
Fax: 1-514-982-9579
Email: info@immigrantinvestor.com
www.immigrantinvestor.com

Toronto

95 St. Clair Avenue West
Suite 1600
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1N7
Tel.: 1-416-926-2716
Fax: 1-416-926-2724

Vancouver

1188 West Georgia Street
Suite 1140
Vancouver, BC, V6E 4A2
Tel.: 1-604-684-4830
Fax: 1-604-684-4887