



## **PILOT PROGRAM FOR NAFTA (TN) VISA APPLICANTS AT TORONTO'S PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection will implement a pre-qualification pilot program from April 27 to July 26, 2005 for travelers eligible to apply for admission into the United States under the NAFTA visa category. Canadian citizens who meet the criteria established under NAFTA (see Fact Sheet attached) and who will be employed in a qualifying occupation in the United States are invited to apply for pre-qualification on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Terminal 3. The 90-day pilot program will be available only at Toronto Pearson International Airport.

During the above hours, a pre-qualification adjudicator will be on hand to interview applicants and review their documents. Applicants must present documentation related to their education and experience, in addition to a detailed letter from their prospective employer in the U.S. Applicants who graduated from foreign schools must also present an equivalency evaluation of their credentials. Applicants that fail to meet the conditions for pre-qualification will be advised immediately and given instructions about re-submitting their applications.

Applicants that meet the conditions for pre-qualification will receive a written notice. Pre-qualified applicants will have 14 days after being approved to enter the U.S. under the TN visa category. On the day that admission into the U.S. is sought, pre-qualified TN travelers must present the written notice of TN approval and pay an application approval fee of US\$50 at Toronto Pearson International Airport pre-clearance.

For more information please contact the Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Office, J.M. Guzik at 905-676-2606.

## **Fact sheet on TN Visas**

The visa category "Professionals Under the North American Free Trade Agreement" is available only to citizens of Canada and Mexico, under the terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

### **Qualifications for a "TN" visa**

A citizen of a NAFTA country may work in a professional occupation in the U.S. provided that all of these conditions are met:

1. The profession is recognized under NAFTA.
2. The alien possesses the specific criteria for that profession.
3. The prospective position requires someone in that professional capacity.
4. The alien is going to work for a U.S. employer.

**Note:** The spouse and unmarried, minor children of the principal alien are entitled to the derivative status, but they are unable to accept employment in the United States. Aliens entering under this classification are considered non-immigrant and granted TD visa status.

### **How to obtain a "TN" visa:**

To qualify for admission under this classification, citizens of Canada, at the U.S. port of entry, shall:

1. Request "TN" status.
2. Provide proof of Canadian citizenship.
3. Provide a copy of the applicant's college degree and employment records, which establish qualification for the prospective job.
4. Provide a letter from the prospective U.S.-based employer offering him/her a job in the United States.
  - This job must be one which is included on the list of professions under NAFTA, Appendix 1603.D.1.
5. Pay a fee of US\$ 50.
  - Canadian citizens are not required to obtain a visa, but instead receive "TN" status with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at the port of entry.

The "TN" status will only be granted if the period of stay is temporary.

For more information, visit <http://www.usembassycanada.gov> or <http://www.amcits.com/nafta.asp>