

**Law Library Of Congress Global Legal Monitor: Immigration And  
Nationality Law  
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The *Global Legal Monitor*, an electronic publication of the Law Library of Congress, is intended for those who have an interest in legal developments from around the world. Globalization is a fact with far-reaching implications including an increasing number of international transactions. The Immigration and Nationality law section has been excerpted for this Feature Article.



## Immigration and Nationality Law

### CANADA – Immigration Reforms Proposed to Prevent Exploitation and Abuse

On May 16, 2007, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration introduced a bill that would give immigration officials the authority to deny persons work visas if they believe the applicant may be exploited or abused if he or she is admitted to Canada. ([An Act to Amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, Bill C-57](#), 39<sup>th</sup> Parl. 1<sup>st</sup> Sess.). Although the bill does not define exploitation or abuse, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration has released a statement stating that it is primarily aimed at protecting foreign strippers and other persons who may become victims of human trafficking.

Over the past year, the government has been trying to reduce the number of foreign strippers admitted to Canada, most of whom come from Eastern Europe, because of the large number of cases in which women admitted for that purpose have been forced into prostitution. However, immigration officials are generally required to issue permits to persons who meet the existing criteria for temporary workers. The proposed changes would give these officials the authority to deny permits to persons who may be at risk. These changes could also be applied to other businesses that have a history of exploiting or abusing persons. (Press Release, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Canada's New Government Introduces Amendments to Deny Work Permits to Foreign Strippers (May 16, 2007).) (Stephen Clarke)

### CANADA – New Office to Help Skilled Immigrants Find Jobs

Of the approximately 250,000 new immigrants that Canada accepts annually, over two-thirds fall into the skilled worker category. Canada favors skilled workers because experience has shown that they are the type of immigrants who are most likely to become successfully established in Canada. However, Canada is experiencing a growing problem with new skilled immigrants being unable to find jobs in their chosen fields despite the fact that unemployment is at a 30-year low. One reason for this is that the provinces license most professions, and some provinces have not recognized foreign credentials as quickly as the federal government would like.

In order to assist underemployed persons, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration has established a new Foreign Credentials Referral Office. This office will attempt to help immigrants have their credentials assessed and recognized even before they enter the country. The Foreign Credentials Referral Office will also attempt to help new skilled immigrants “navigate through the complex system of foreign credentials recognition,” according to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Additionally, the Department has set up a Web site, <http://www.credentials.gc.ca>, to help individuals find jobs for which they are immediately qualified. ([New Government Office to Help Foreign Professionals Get Accredited in Canada](#), CANADIAN PRESS, May 24, 2007.) (Stephen Clarke)



**SINGAPORE – Introduction of Working Vacation Program**

Singapore has introduced a new work visa to permit students and graduates of universities in Australia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States between 17 and 30 years of age to work for six months within Singapore. The purpose of the program is to allow students to experience life in Singapore and thus encourage them to work in Singapore after their graduation or later in their careers. (Press Release, Ministry of Manpower, [MOM Introduces Work Holiday Programme](#) (May 18, 2007).) (Lisa White)

**ZAMBIA – New Committee to Screen Expatriate Work-Permit Applications**

The Government of Zambia has established a committee under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to examine expatriates' work permit applications before the Department of Immigration can issue the permits to successful applicants. Ngosa Shisupa, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, stated on May 21, 2007, that the Government would disqualify the applications of foreign expatriates whose professional skills could be supplied by Zambians, by means of the screening process carried out by the new committee. (*State Sets Up Committee to Scrutinize Work Permit Applications from Expatriates*, ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL (Lusaka), under "Zambia," in *Highlights: Daily News Digest for Botswana, Swaziland and Zambia*, May 23, 2007, Open Source Center No. AFP20070523516009.) (Wendy Zeldin)

