



Non-Resident Work Permits Policy

Background

Despite the promises from Immigration officials of better communication with NOTO, we are learning second and third hand of changes to procedures for issuing work permits to non-Canadian business owners. It appears that 50% ownership is being considered the benchmark for determining “significant economic benefit to Canada”, and other administrative changes are also being made.

We have been in discussions with both immigration officials and an immigration lawyer to obtain clarification of what is going on, and will be contacting officials with our concerns. We will also clarify the situation to the industry as it becomes clearer to us.

NOTO sees this as a very serious issue for the industry. Although this problem potentially affects less than 20% of the industry, it is a matter of extreme importance for them. Also, investment from non-resident owners is one of the very important sources of overall investment in the industry, in light of tourism’s chronic problem with access to capital. The problem also sends an unfortunate message to our American guests that Canada is unfriendly to Americans. For all of these reasons, we need to work quickly toward a solution.

Policy

“Whereas immigration regulations should not be a barrier to foreign investment in Canada, NOTO must advocate that immigration regulations should be clearly defined and predicable, strongly communicated to stakeholders, and not open to interpretation depending on personal prejudices of border officials.”

Adopted by the NOTO Board of Directors November 24, 2004

Review Date:
