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flash Alert

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Canada – Two Provincial Nominee Programs on Pause for Rest of 2015

by KPMG LLP, Canada (a KPMG International member firm)

Over the past week, in Canada, two Provincial Nominee Programs announced that they have stopped accepting new applications due to receiving applications in excess of the allotted number of certificates for 2015.

Provincial Nominee Programs appear to be quickly reaching capacity. On August 27, 2015, the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (AINP) closed its program this year.¹ It will resume accepting new applications on January 27, 2016. On September 1, 2015, the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) announced a similar closure, with the exception of the Healthcare Professional and Northeast Pilot Project and 200 applications under the Entrepreneur Immigration Stream.² The BC PNP office will resume intake in early 2016.

Pending applications will continue to be processed, although it is not clear how many will receive Certificates in 2015.

Why This Matters

This news could impact the ability of some foreign workers in Canada to extend their status. Also, foreign nationals intending to rely on the AINP or BCPNP for permanent residence, may wish to consider eligibility under Express Entry.

KPMG Note

In both cases, the pauses were implemented without warning. This may be an indicator that similar temporary pauses may be on the way in other provinces. Applicants interested in provinces whose programs are still accepting applications in 2015 (Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Nova Scotia) may wish to consider filing quickly to avoid significant delays caused by similar sudden pauses.

Affected individuals that wish to find out more about the alternative application strategies that may be available to them should consider contacting the local immigration counsel or one of the Permanent Residence lawyers with KPMG Law LLP in Canada.

Both the BCPNP and the AINP offices have indicated that they will be introducing program improvements in 2016 to help better prioritize high-impact applicants and foster efficient processing of future applications.

Footnotes:

1 For the Alberta announcement, see;
<http://www.albertacanada.com/opportunity/immigrating/ainp-news.aspx>.

2 For the British Columbia announcement, see:
<http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP.aspx>.

For assistance with immigration-related matters pertaining to Canada, please contact your local qualified immigration counsel, or the following immigration professional with the KPMG International member firm in Canada:*

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** KPMG LLP (U.S.) does not provide any immigration services.*

Labor Law and International Assignments Survey for You to Take

We invite you to take a brief survey prepared by the Legal Services team* within the KPMG International member firm in Germany. This is a benchmarking survey regarding multinational organizations' global labor law awareness and practices. To take the survey, click [here](#). Or go to: <https://surveys.kpmg.de/globalmobility-laborlaw> .

The aim of this short [survey](#) is to gain insight and provide benchmarks on global labor law practices and considerations in the context of international assignments. This will enable organizations to keep abreast of trends in this oft-overlooked area and to identify market-standard practices of benefit to both the organization and the assignee.

The survey is also accessible on mobile devices and should take no longer than 10 – 15 minutes to complete.

The closing date for the [survey](#) is soon! Results can be provided upon request.

** There are Legal Services teams present in over 50 KPMG International member firms around the world, working along-side Global Mobility Services tax and immigration professionals to help employers make sense of and stay compliant with the labor rules and practices that apply to their assignees working in a cross-border context. Please note that KPMG LLP (U.S.) does not offer services related to matters of labor law.*

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