



CANADA'S NEW SELECTION SYSTEM FOR THE FEDERAL SKILLED WORKER PROGRAM (FSWP)

The Philippine Embassy in Ottawa has reported that the Citizenship, Immigration, and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney announced on 19 December 2012 the new selection system for the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP) that will take effect on 04 May 2013, with the following salient features:

1. The improvements to the FSWP points system are based on a consistent result of research of the two most important factors in the economic success of immigrants namely the language proficiency and youth.
2. The following are the final changes to the FSWP selection criteria:
 - a. Minimum official language thresholds and increased points for official language proficiency, making it as the most important factor in the selection process;
 - b. Increased emphasis on younger immigrants, who are more likely to acquire valuable Canadian experience, are better positioned to adapt to changing labour market conditions, and who will spend greater number of years contributing to Canada's economy;
 - c. Introduction of the Educational Credential Assessment (ECA), so that education points awarded reflect the foreign credential's true value in Canada;
 - d. Changes to the arranged employment process, allowing employers to hire applicants quickly, if there is a demonstrated need in the Canadian labour market; and
 - e. Additional adaptability points for spousal language ability and Canadian work experience.

3. New steps to the new selection system:
 - a. Applicants will have to demonstrate that they meet the minimum language threshold, which is level 7 of the Canadian Language Benchmark assessment system. Applicants will be able to get a language assessment from existing agencies designated by the Minister which is published in the website of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).
 - b. Applicants will have their education credentials assessed prior to arriving in Canada. A list of assessment organizations designated by the Minister will be made available early in the New Year. The assessment of foreign educational credentials will provide prospective newcomers with a more realistic understanding of how their credentials compare to education standards in Canada. It will also give them the opportunity to upgrade their education prior to coming to Canada if they choose.
4. It is important to note that these changes will not apply to people who applied to the FSWP prior to 04 May 2013 with a qualifying arranged job offer or under the Ph.D. stream.
5. New applications under the FSWP will be processed in months rather than in years. In order to ensure fast processing time and to avoid backlogs, the new FSWP will accept a fixed quota of applications each year.

More information on FSWP can be found on www.cic.gc.ca.