

Canadian Permanent Residence Report

**Part 1**

*by Alex Berez*

## Introduction

Immigrating to Canada is a big decision. It involves uprooting yourself from your current country and replanting yourself in a whole new environment that may be quite different in many ways from what you're leaving behind.

Becoming a permanent resident of Canada may be a hard choice to make, but if you have given such a move any thought then you need to know in advance what to expect from the process, what requirements you have to meet, and why this is the best time to apply for permanent resident status in Canada.

In this 3-part report, I'll discuss these topics with you and provide the facts you need in order to make a well-informed decision about immigrating to Canada. In this part, I want to explain why this is a good time to make that choice and to start the application process.

## A Good Reason to Immigrate Now

More people have been immigrating to Canada than ever before. According to The Monitor, the number of new permanent residents in Canada in 2004 grew by 7% from the previous year.<sup>1</sup>

You may be wondering why so many people are deciding to move to Canada now. The answer is simple.

If you've considered immigrating to Canada as a Skilled Worker yourself, then you may already know about the Pass-Mark system. If not, let me give you a little information about this system.

Basically, the Pass-Mark system allows Canada to control who is allowed to become permanent residents of the country. There are different qualifications that applicants have to meet, such as being able to speak either English or French and meeting work experience requirements. In the system, points are awarded for each of the qualifications an applicant meets. The number of accumulated points determines whether or not an application will be approved.

Prior to September 18, 2003, the minimum number of points needed to have a permanent resident application approved was 75. With the passing score being so high, most applicants failed to meet that level unless they had already secured employment in Canada, had a degree beyond the bachelor's level, or already had family members living in the country. As a result, many applicants were turned away.

In September of 2003, Canada's Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, formerly Denis Coderre, announced that the minimum passing score would be lowered to 67. While that drop may not seem significant – it's only 8 points – it does make a big difference. In fact, most people who have prior work experience, speak either English or French, and have a bachelor's degree can achieve a passing score using the Pass-Mark system.

While Canada is excited about the increased number of immigrants coming into the

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<sup>1</sup>“Permanent Residents.” The Monitor. Spring 2005. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/monitor/issue09/02-immigrants.html>.

country, they do not guarantee that additional changes to the Pass-Mark system or to other aspects of the permanent resident application process won't be made.

### Other Good Reasons to Make This Move

Obviously, you have given at least some thought to immigrating to Canada or you wouldn't be reading this report. While you probably have your own reasons for considering such a move, here are a few others to think about:

- ❖ As of July 26, 2005, no occupations were classified as restricted by *Canada's Citizenship and Immigration* department. Restricted occupations are ones that would not count towards your Pass-Mark score, regardless of the years of experience you have with that job. Some common jobs may be restricted if the need for workers to fill them is met.
- ❖ As of February 18, 2005, the current *Minister of Citizenship and Immigration*, Joe Volpe, announced changes made to immigration procedures for the spouses and common law partners of permanent residents. Now if you are approved as a permanent resident, your spouse or common law partner of either gender can live and work with you in Canada while their immigration application is being considered. Previously, significant others had to wait for approval before moving to Canada.
- ❖ Becoming a permanent resident now means you will have less time to wait before applying for Canadian citizenship. To become a citizen, you have to have lived in the country for at least three of the four years prior to your application for citizenship. Plus, you can become a citizen of Canada without having to give up your citizenship in your country of origin. Remember that these issues are also subject to change.

In the next section of this report, I'll be talking more about how the Pass-Mark system works so you'll understand your chances of successfully achieving a passing score. If you want to learn more about how to become a permanent resident of Canada, you may want to read my book, *Step by Step Immigration to Canada*. You can download a copy by [clicking here](#).

This report is based on the guide:

*Step by Step Immigration to Canada*

*"I downloaded Step by Step Immigration to Canada, and it simplified my application process. I was able to prepare my Permanent Residence visa application following the 3 simple steps explained in this incredible and easy-to-use resource. Thanks for everything!"*

**Sushil K. Sharma - India**

This 100+ page **DOWNLOADABLE** guide covers the entire process from start to finish. It includes detailed explanations about what you need, how long the process takes, and what to expect after you submit your application. It's an invaluable guide for anyone who is even considering immigrating to Canada .

For more information,

**[CLICK HERE](#)**

*"Step by Step Immigration to Canada was a fast solution to my problem. My dream had always been to live in Canada , so I looked for information everywhere. I talked to a friend that lives in Canada , and he told me that the only solution was to hire an Immigration Lawyer. I finally found one, and it was very expensive! However, I found **Step by Step Immigration to Canada**, I downloaded the guide and I was able to start gathering my documents right away!"*

**Richard C. Sada – Switzerland**