

Canadian and United States border authorities crack down on flag-poling

June 2024.- Canadian and U.S. authorities have limited the number of ports of entry (POEs) that can be used as flag-poling sites. As of May 30th, 2024, only 12 Canada-U.S. border crossings will offer flag-poling services to newcomers.

Flag-poling is a practice by which temporary residents (those on a work/study permit, or with a visitor visa/electronic Travel Authorization (eTA))—may receive immigration services in person at a POE, by exiting and returning to Canada within 24 hours.

While flag-poling is legitimate, the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) advises that wait times can be extensive and advises newcomers to pursue online services with IRCC where possible.

Claudia Murillo, RCIC

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New Pilot Program to support Caregivers and Canadian families

The Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship of Canada announced the new pilot programs that will provide home care workers with permanent residence (PR) on arrival in Canada, they will also be allowed to work for organizations that provide temporary or part-time care for people who are semi-independent or recovering from an injury or illness. This new pathway means that caregivers can more easily find proper work with reliable employers and have clear, straightforward access to permanent resident status as soon as they arrive in Canada.

Through these new pilot programs, candidates interested in working in Canada's home care sector will be eligible to apply if they meet the following criteria:

- attain a minimum of level 4 based on the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB)
- hold the equivalent of a Canadian high school diploma
- have recent and relevant work experience
- receive an offer for a full-time home care job

More information will be available before the full launch of the pilots, including full eligibility criteria and details on how to apply.

The new pilot programs will replace the Home Child Care Provider Pilot Program and the Home Support Worker Pilot Program, which are closing on June 19, 2024.

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