

Expats Fear for Children's Fate Under New Rules

Toronto ON, February 3, 2009. The Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC) - Canada's only organization devoted to advancing the interests and issues for workforce mobility - today voiced its concern regarding announced changes to Canada's citizenship laws.

At a time when Canada should be doing all that it can to encourage economic activity and growth, the measures to Canada's citizenship laws that take effect in April do exactly the opposite.

As written, the new law will have significant implications to Canadian workers and volunteers on international work assignments. If a Canadian citizen has a child while on a foreign work assignment, that child is a Canadian citizen. If, as an adult, that child works overseas and parents a child – that second generation child will not be Canadian by virtue of the fact that the parent was born outside of Canada. We believe this situation was an unintended outcome of the changes to citizenship laws.

Government and Armed forces personnel are exempt from the changes. Minister Kenney should amend the law so that all Canadians working abroad for Canadian companies are afforded the same exemption.

According to Statistics Canada over 60,000 Canadian workers reported a place of work outside Canada in the 2006 Census. Those workers are vital to the hundreds of Canadian companies that are seizing opportunities in global markets. Many of those same workers will now think twice before accepting overseas assignments.

The Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC) represents the interests of leading organizations across Canada that relocate their employees for employment purposes.

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