



EMBASSY OF MEXICO
 IN CANADA
SECRETARÍA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES



HOME
CONTACT
FAQs
ESPAÑOL
INFORMATION EN FRANÇAIS
August 14, 2009





- The Embassy
- Ambassador
- Directories
- Consular Services
- Press Releases
- Business Opportunities
- Cultural Section
- Tourist Testimonials
- Economic Section
- Human Rights
- Contact Us
- Refugee and Immigration
- ProMexico


Visitor Count
153465 Visitors


BUSCADOR

ENLACES RELACIONADOS









OVER 12,000 MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN CANADA IN 2009

15 Jul 2009



► In the framework of the Mexico-Canada Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP), Mexicans enjoy the same rights and have same responsibilities as Canadian workers in the same occupation (with no distinction between domestic and foreign workers).

► Currently nine Canadian provinces participate in the Program: Ontario and Quebec have been participating since 1974.

Press release 11/09. July 12, 2009.- During the first half of 2009, a total of 12,311 Mexicans came to Canada in the framework of the Mexico-Canada Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP), coordinated by the Mexican Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (STPS, in Spanish).

The STPS' work in the Program, which involves recruiting and selecting Mexican workers employed in the Canadian agricultural sector, guarantees workers that the employment offered in Canada is real, avoiding deceptions and abuses.

Other Mexican government departments involved include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), responsible for the consular protection of the workers while in Canada, the Ministry of Health and the National Migration Institute. All 31 states in Mexico participate in recruiting through the National Employment Service, coordinated by the STPS.

The STPS informs workers, prior to departure, of their labour rights and the working and living conditions in Canada, and provides information on Mexican consular authorities.

At the same time, the STPS' participation assures Canadian employers that the Mexicans selected to participate in the Program have work experience and are familiar with the agricultural processes of planting and harvesting the products they will be working with in Canada.

The majority of Mexican workers involved in the Program (around 70%) return year after year to the same Canadian farms in response to employer requests. All workers are employed in Canada for a maximum period of 8 months.

According to the terms of the employment contract signed under the Program, Mexican citizens enjoy the same rights and responsibilities as Canadian workers in the same occupation (with no distinction between domestic and foreign workers).

Among other rights, workers receive air transportation between Mexico and Canada, an 8-hour workday and clear conditions on overtime, if required; adequate free housing; safe and healthy working conditions; insurance against illness and accidents (work-related and other), including transportation to receive medical attention; and the social security, pension and unemployment benefits granted by Canadian legislation.

The joint efforts between the governments of Mexico and Canada make it easier for the competent Canadian authorities to know where the Mexican labourers are working in order to ensure that labour laws regulating employment conditions are being respected, which is the responsibility of the Canadian government through the provincial authorities. Canadian departments participating in the Program include Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Service Canada and the Embassy of Canada in Mexico.

Currently nine Canadian provinces participate in the Program: Ontario and Quebec have been participating since 1974; Alberta and Manitoba joined later; Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan became involved in 2003; and Nova Scotia and British Columbia came on board in 2004.

The SAWP has been operating since 1974 on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding. This allows for an orderly flow of seasonal workers, based on demand, and offers certainty regarding employment conditions and labour rights.

[\[Back to list\]](#)

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- [Transparency](#)
- [Scholarships available](#)
- [Guide for Mexican travelers](#)
- [Informative links about Mexico](#)

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- [Swine Flu](#)
- [Informative Bulletin: Influenza A \(H1N1\)](#)
- [Donations](#)
- [Mexico for Kids](#)

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