



CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE
ET D'INDUSTRIE CANADA-LIBAN

CANADIAN LEBANESE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SECTION D' OTTAWA SECTION)

NEW CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP RULES EFFECTIVE APRIL 17, 2009

BULLETIN- Ottawa, May 11, 2009

The Canadian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CLCCI) - Ottawa Section, is issuing this information bulletin to make its members and the wider Lebanese community in Ottawa aware of the recent changes to the citizenship rules that were introduced by the present government. The CLCCI-Ottawa Section has been an active participant in many consultative sessions with the Department of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism and as such, is playing a leading role in the advancement of the interests of our community and in the field of advocacy on its behalf. (Note: The CLCCI was not consulted on the citizenship rules changes like many other stakeholders.)

Bill C-17 was created in response to deliberations that were in the works for many years and became effective on April 17, 2009. Under the new law, certain individuals who lost their citizenship will regain it. Others will receive Canadian citizenship for the first time. The most significant change, however, is to the regulations for granting of citizenship to children born abroad to Canadian parents.

The new law restricts the granting of citizenship by descent. Now, if first-generation Canadians - those born in Canada- give birth to their children in another country, they can still pass on their Canadian citizenship. However, if second-generation Canadians - those born to Canadian parents abroad - have children in another country, these children will not qualify for Canadian citizenship. Essentially, Canadian citizenship by descent will only be accorded to first-generation Canadian living abroad.

The CLCCI-Ottawa Section recognizes the importance of these issues to the Lebanese community, and other immigrant communities. As such, the CLCCI-Ottawa Section is playing its role in educating its members and the entire Lebanese community about these significant changes in order to increase awareness and participation in the political process fully and democratically.

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The Canadian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that endeavors at developing and improving economic and commercial relations between Canada and Lebanon.

For further information or questions, please contact Elie Nasrallah, Immigration Consultant (CSIC), at 613-266-5633 or Mel Sater, President (CLCCI-Ottawa Section) at mel.sater@lebanesechamber.com or 613-266-3077.