



October 15, 2007

Dear Dr. Hermann Ziltener

I am contacting you as a follow-up to my letter of January 5, 2007 regarding the coverage of Immunologists in Canada's future trade agreements. I would like to inform you of the results of our stakeholder consultations and analysis conducted by Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) in co-operation with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).

As you will recall, Canada is currently engaged in a number of trade negotiations at the bilateral/regional level (e.g. Korea, the Andean countries, Caribbean countries), and at the multilateral level in the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). These negotiations are seeking to improve international market access, transparency and predictability for Canadian service providers, manufacturers and investors, including small and medium-sized enterprises. Professions listed in Canada's trade agreements would have the benefit of facilitated access into our trading partner's territory as well as in Canada.

While it is always difficult to anticipate the final outcome of future negotiations, our internal analysis combined with our consultations, has determined that covering Immunologist in Canada's trade agreements would have a positive effect on the labour market and provide benefits to the Canadian economy as a whole. I have attached a background document which goes into more of the details of the implications of having Immunologists covered by Canada's trade agreements.

We appreciate the feedback that the Canadian Society for Immunology has provided and your overall contribution and support of our consultation process. If you have any further questions please contact Heather Bystryk at (613) 995-7941 or by email at [heather.bystryk@international.gc.ca](mailto:heather.bystryk@international.gc.ca).

Sincerely,

Robert Ready  
Director, Services Trade Policy (TMS)  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

## **Background Information**

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Several of Canada's current trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA) and the GATS include temporary entry provisions that facilitate access for various types of business persons including professionals. The professions covered by the NAFTA and the CCFTA can be found on our website at: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/nafta-alena/temp05-3-en.asp> and <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/cda-chile/chap-k26-en.asp>. Professions scheduled in Canada's GATS schedule of commitments include engineers, agronomists, architects, forestry professionals, geomatics professionals, land surveyors, foreign legal consultants and urban planners. Many Canadian professionals listed under these agreements have benefited by these trade agreements by having facilitated access to the markets of other countries.

The benefit of temporary entry provisions in Canada's trade agreements is that foreign professionals covered by such provisions can be issued a work permit to work in Canada without the requirement for a domestic labour market opinion. A positive or neutral labour market opinion is required for professionals not covered by a trade agreement to work temporarily in Canada under Canada's general temporary entry immigration provisions. Canadian professionals in turn, have equally facilitated access into the markets of our FTA partners.

The entry of covered professions remains subject to requirements to meet minimum educational/alternative credentials or other requirements. This would usually entail a Bachelor's degree in a related or required field and/or years of experience or a professional designation and/or licensure where required by regulatory bodies.

### **Links**

<http://www.international.gc.ca/nafta-alena/cross-en.asp>

**Temporary Entry into the United States and Mexico under the North American Free trade Agreement**

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/23/13/8890089.pdf>

**Service Providers on the Move: Labour Mobility and the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services**

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/serv\\_e/w75.doc](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/serv_e/w75.doc)

**Presence of Natural Persons**

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/serv\\_e/symp\\_mov\\_natur\\_perso\\_april02\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/serv_e/symp_mov_natur_perso_april02_e.htm)

**Mode 4 Symposium: Temporary Movement of Natural Persons**

<http://www.sice.oas.org/geograph/north/movGATSe.asp>

**Temporary Entry to Canada under the GATS**