

## Working and Doing Business in Mexico

Canadians wishing to work temporarily in Mexico have a variety of options. Normal Mexican immigration procedures allow for the entry of foreigners in occupations where employers can demonstrate that qualified Mexicans are not available for the work. But in almost every case, the four categories of entry available to Canadians under the NAFTA provide better terms of access.

Of the four NAFTA categories, business visitor is the simplest, since it does not require a work authorization. Business visitors can engage in certain business activities in Mexico provided they otherwise comply with immigration requirements for temporary entry. The purpose of these provisions is to facilitate the entry of the short-term business visitor who has no intention of entering the Mexican labour market and will not receive compensation from within Mexico. The appropriate permit can be obtained from airlines, at the port of entry or from one of the Mexican consulates in Canada.

Business persons entering Mexico as professionals, intra-company transferees, or traders and investors may engage in a gainful occupation in Mexico. To do so,

they require a type of non-immigrant visa that includes the authorization for work, the *Forma Migratoria-3* (FM-3). There are different types of FM-3 and, depending on the circumstances, professional advice may be needed.

### ***Business Visitors***

Business visitors must complete a Mexican *Forma Migratoria de Negocios* (FM-N), available at a Mexican port of entry, from airlines or from one of the Mexican consulates in Canada. In addition to proof of Canadian citizenship, the business visitor must provide a letter from the employer that:

- explains the purpose of the trip;
- states that the company will cover the visitor's salary and expenses in Mexico; and
- lists the enterprises and cities to be visited in Mexico.

**I want to change  
dollars to pesos.**

**Quiero cambiar  
dólares a pesos.**