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The Department of External Affairs announced today that Canada and Italy have concluded an agreement modifying their visa requirements for temporary visitors.

Beginning June 1 Canadian citizens who are bona fide non-immigrants (visitors, not seeking employment or permanent residence) and who are in possession of valid Canadian passports may, without previously obtaining an Italian visa, visit Italy for periods each not exceeding three consecutive months. This modification of entrance requirements does not, however, apply to Canadians who want to enter the trust territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

Italian citizens, who are bona fide non-immigrants coming to Canada and who are in possession of valid Italian passports will receive, from the Canadian Embassy in Rome, visas free of charge, valid for an unlimited number of entries to Canada during a period of twelve months from the date of issue of such visas.

This agreement in no way exempts Canadian or Italian citizens from the necessity of complying with the immigration and residence regulations of Italy and Canada. In this connection it should be noted that Canadian citizens who visit Italy for the full period of three months without visas may only re-enter Italy without visas after they have been outside that country for one month unless they obtain a waiver of this restriction from the Italian authorities.

During the last year, Canada has concluded similar agreements or arrangements with Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and France.