



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 69

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1953

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT CANADA AND FINLAND HAVE CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT MODIFYING THEIR VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR TEMPORARY VISITORS.

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1959, 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 OBTAINING FINNISH VISAS, VISIT FINLAND FOR PERIODS NOT EXCEEDING THREE MONTHS. THIS PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS IS REDUCED BY THE COMBINED TOTAL OF ANY PERIOD OR PERIODS OF STAY IN FINLAND, DENMARK, NORWAY AND SWEDEN IN THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD PRIOR TO THE DATE OF ENTRY TO FINLAND. WHERE A VISIT TO FINLAND EXCEED THREE MONTHS OR THE COMBINED PERIOD OF VISITS TO ALL FOUR COUNTRIES EXCEED THREE MONTHS, CANADIAN CITIZENS WILL BE GRANTED RESIDENCE PERMITS, FREE OF CHARGE, FOR AN EXTENSION OF STAY IN FINLAND.

FINNISH CITIZENS, WHO ARE BONA FIDE NON-IMMIGRANTS AND WHO ARE IN POSSESSION OF VALID ~~CANADIAN~~ ^{FINNISH} PASSPORTS, WILL BE GRANTED AT THE CANADIAN LEGATION IN HELSINKI, 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 FINNISH CITIZENS FROM THE NECESSITY OF COMPLYING WITH THE IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE REGULATIONS OF FINLAND AND CANADA.