

Mr. Anderson



PRESS RELEASE

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

Beginning December 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 a Belgian visa, visit Belgium for periods each not exceeding two consecutive months. However, visas are still required for entry into the Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi.

Belgian nationals, who are bona fide non-immigrants coming to Canada from Belgium and who are in possession of valid Belgian passports, will receive, from the Canadian Embassy in Brussels, 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 citizens or Belgian nationals from the necessity of complying with the immigration and residence laws and regulations of Belgium and Canada. In this connection it should be noted that Canadians intending to remain in Belgium from eight to fifteen consecutive days must, within forty-eight hours of their arrival, notify the local Belgian municipal office of their presence. If Canadians intend to remain in Belgium for more than fifteen days they must, under Belgian laws, register at the local municipal office unless they are tourists who are not staying in Belgium for more than two months or businessmen who are not visiting for more than one month.

Earlier this year Canada concluded similar arrangements with Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark.
