

Global Immigration alert

October 2024

Canada

Diplomatic tensions with India may lead to visa processing delays

Executive summary

On 14 October 2024, Canada expelled six Indian diplomats, including India's High Commissioner to Canada, amid renewed diplomatic tensions between the two countries. In response, India has expelled six Canadian diplomats from India.

Background

In [September 2023](#), due to ongoing diplomatic tensions between Canada and India, visa services in both countries were impacted for nationals seeking visas to the other country. The Indian High Commission and consulates in Canada temporarily stopped processing visa applications for Canadian citizens. Canada reduced the number of Canadian immigration officers in India from 27 to five and halted consular services in Chandigarh, Mumbai, and Bengaluru (Bangalore). These measures resulted in delays for Indian citizens applying for visas through the Canadian High Commission in India.

Key developments

With the recent announcement, diplomatic tensions have returned and the immediate impact is yet to be felt. Nevertheless, while the situation is evolving, clients throughout the Canadian immigration process may start to experience delays throughout the various stages of the immigration process over the coming weeks and months. As of the time of this writing, consular in-person services are temporarily unavailable in Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Mumbai. The Canadian government is [advising](#) Canadian citizens to exercise a high degree of caution in and around these locations and to avoid travel to other locations.

What this means

Foreign nationals in India may encounter delays over the next few months in overall processing times, responses to their inquiries and the passport submission process for visa stamping. This delay could have important consequences for individuals who are relying on these immigration services to travel to Canada, including temporary foreign workers, international students, and permanent residents. Canadian employers may also be impacted as they may struggle to obtain the necessary work authorizations and travel visas in a timely manner for the foreign workers they are looking to hire.

It is important to keep in mind that the diplomatic dispute between Canada and India is ongoing and it is unclear what developments may unfold with time. Individuals and employers are strongly encouraged to start any Canadian immigration process for Indian nationals residing in India as early as possible considering anticipated delays and backlogs. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide further updates once available. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your EY Law LLP professional.

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