



Super Visa for Parents Grandparents Extended to 5 Years

Good news for the Canadian family who want to invite their parents or grandparents to Canada. The federal government just announced today that the Super Visa program will be extended to 5 years from 2 years previously. The changes will be effective next month, on July 4, 2022.



Super Visa program is a multiple-entry visitor visa that has validity for 10 years. It is intended for parents or grandparents of the Canadian citizen and permanent residents. Holders of the super visa are allowed to stay in Canada for a maximum two years at a time, then they must leave Canada before being allowed for re-entry. With the new policy, they could stay up to five years and could request extension in Canada without needing to leave the country.

Super Visa program is meant to offer an alternative relief for parents or grandparents who are unable to win the lottery to become the permanent residents based on the family sponsorship. There are limited spots for such sponsorship yearly, 20,000 pre-COVID in 2019 and 30,000 last year.

Unlike the permanent residents who are allowed to work, study, and get social benefits such as health care coverage, the super visa holders are only allowed to stay with their relatives and visit the country.

The new policy changes to the Super Visa program will also touch the issues of the health insurance coverage and the minimum income requirement.

Under the current policy, in order to get a super visa, the visitor has to be covered by a Canadian health insurance company. The cost of insurance coverage could range between \$1,800 and \$5,000 a year, depending on the coverage, age and health conditions of the insured person.

Under the imminent policy, some designated international medical insurance companies will be able to provide coverage to super visa applicants. Insurance plans by these foreign entities are expected to be less costly. Details of designated providers will be announced later.

Under the new policy, the government will also reduce the minimum income requirement that a Canadian sponsor must meet in order for their parents or grandparents to stay here for an extended period.