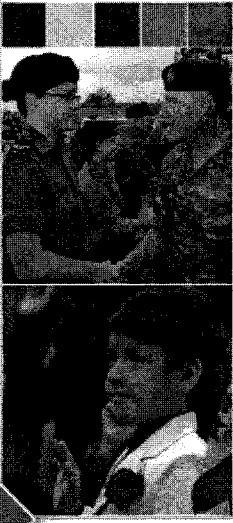


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Citizenship



Citizenship by Birth on Soil – Presentation to Vital Statistics Representatives

November 28, 2012



Canada

RDIMS # 313 9896 000415 7



Purpose

- Provide update on status of policy proposal;
- Provide update on status of implementation planning of BOS, including electronic validation option;
- Discuss implementation implications.

Overview: Changes to birth on soil

- Currently, all children born in Canada are automatically Canadian citizens (exception: children born to foreign diplomats).
- Proposed changes mean children born here would only acquire Canadian citizenship if at least one parent has permanent status (i.e., Canadian citizen or permanent resident) at the time of the child's birth.
- Children born to parents without permanent status (i.e., temporary status or no status) would not be Canadian (e.g., visitors, temporary workers, foreign students, persons without status).
- Birth certificates, in current format, would no longer be considered reliable proof of citizenship for persons born after implementation of new law.
- Canadian citizens may therefore require additional proof of citizenship when accessing Federal and PT benefits and services.

Who would be impacted?

- Changing birth on soil would impact:

Directly

- Those born in Canada to parents without permanent status.

Indirectly

- Canadian citizens born in Canada who currently use PT birth certificates to prove citizenship when accessing services and benefits.
- Federal departments offering services and benefits related to citizenship status (passports, social insurance, consular services, etc.).
- Various PT Ministries providing services and benefits who use Canadian citizenship status as an eligibility factor (health, education, social services, etc.).

Consultations - Update

- Since summer 2012, PTs (Vital Stats, Health, Immigration) consulted on 4 possible implementation approaches.
- Federal departments/agencies also consulted: Service Canada; CBSA; CRA; Passport Canada; PS; Statistics Canada; Health Canada.
- CIC heard PT concerns about the need to ensure Canadians will be able to continue to access services, preference for one document and a federal solution and need for sufficient time to prepare for implementation.

Implementation Principles

- Must ensure timely determination of status in order to support timely access to services;
- Compatible with PT birth registration process, bundled birth services including SIN at birth;
- Accessible for clients;
- Minimize burden on parents of newborns;
- Cost-effective and efficient;
- One document to prove citizenship;
- Sufficient time to prepare to implement.

Electronic Validation – approach

CIC issues proof (Citizenship Certificate) via electronic process* which parents can apply for when registering their child's birth (part of bundled birth services).

Process:

1. Parents initiate existing birth registration with PT, opt to apply for citizenship determination, provide status of at least one parent, status document # of parent, consent to share information.
2. Depending on PT, birth registration process may be completed online, at hospital, or by completing and mailing birth registration form.
3. Regardless of how parent applies (online or paper), information on child and parent collected by PT is electronically forwarded to CIC systems (leveraging the SIN at birth process).
4. Once complete application data received, system automatically validates status of parent only against immigration, citizenship or PT vital statistics information. Could also validate against ServiceCanada's Social Insurance Registry (SIR).
5. Electronic system receives "green flags" and automatically issues electronic confirmation of status of child.
6. System could automatically queue for printing and mailing of status document, and/or for sending electronic confirmation.
7. Where no "green flag", parent's status would be manually verified.

*Note: If PT does not register births electronically, or if the applicant does not wish to apply for child's citizenship determination when the birth is registered with the PT, applicants could apply "direct to CIC" online or through a paper process.

Implementation Considerations

May include the following:

- Negotiating information sharing, privacy, business agreements;
- Modifying existing electronic systems to collect additional information on parent on behalf of CIC (status of parent; document #);
- Modifying existing electronic systems to share information with Federal government;
- Developing process for PTs without existing electronic systems;
- Transmitting information on parent(s), child;
- Mitigating impact on persons without documents;
- Determining whether additional implementation considerations need to be taken into account.

Next Steps

- P/T feedback on implementing electronic validation option, questions (this meeting);
- Explore maximizing data linkages with Service Canada on parental status;
- Return to PTs shortly with a view to beginning initial implementation planning in 2013.