International Organization for Migration and
Obtaining Workers from Guatemala

The Embassy of Guatemala in Canada would like to present information regarding the
“Guatemalan Temporary Worker Program in Canada”.

This program started in 2003 as a pilot and it was established so that foreign workers
could be hired for occupations that fall under skill type “C” or “D” in the National
Occupational Classification (NOC).

The Guatemalan Pilot Project evolved as a partnership between the Government of
Guatemala, The Embassy of Guatemala in Ottawa, F.E.R.M.E. (the Business Foundation
Recruitment of Foreign Agricultural Workers in Quebec.) and the IOM (International
Organization for Migration).

At the start of the program in Canada, workers were mainly in the Province of Quebec
which started with few workers in 2003, but which now has a workforce of 3,250 as of
last year, a large increase over the 8 year period. In Quebec 65% of agricultural
employers now utilize Guatemalan workers on their farms, and we have opened a fully
staffed Consulate General to liaise with F.E.R.M.E. and the employers and workers. Last
year the Consulate made almost 300 on-site visits to workers on the farms. This program
has workers also in Ontario with F.A.R.M.S. and also in Alberta.

As the numbers in Quebec show, Guatemala has a highly valued skilled and loyal work-
force. The hiring of Guatemalan temporary workers can add to better production and
lower costs to your business, while having competitive and eager workers.

**Key advantages of the program:** Unlike workers from other countries brought in using
the Low Skill Program, the Guatemalan project is well regulated and supervised.
24 month or 2 year work contracts give employers access to a constant source of labor.
Guatemalan workers can thus remain year-round and are not bound by mandatory return
dates, as it the case with workers from other countries. This is of particular interest to
greenhouses that don’t have access to SAWP workers during the winter holidays.

The recruitment process by IOM ensures that only qualified and highly motivated
individuals are selected, flexibility of the recruitment process allows employers to
personally travel to Guatemala if desired, and recruit according to their own criteria.

The IOM is the main contact for the recruiting of the temporary workers from Guatemala,
and below you will find the contact information for their offices, please feel free to
contact them or us at the Embassy of Guatemala in Canada.

The recruitment is done according to Canadian laws and regulations. Workers need to
have a place to live so employers should find proper accommodations, airplane tickets are
purchased by the employers, and the cost of living is usually discounted from the workers
salary if they are provided with food and accommodations.
The employers pick up workers from the airport and provide them with transportation to work and back. Workers usually are taken to the doctors appointments if need be and to the grocery store.

Besides being competitive to agricultural employers this opportunity is also a blessing for the workers, as the money they earn in Canada is sent home to help their families buy essentials such as food, to pay rent, buy medicines, etc.

**We encourage you to opt for Guatemalan temporary workers on your farms, so please feel free to contact the people below.**

**The person directly below at IOM is the main contact for hiring Guatemalan workers.**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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