



D' RESTORER

April 2024 Edition. Issue 1: Vol 1. A publication of RCCG, Restoration Parish, Brandon, Canada

DOMINION BY SUBMISSION



**How To
Navigate
Immigration
Hurdles
- WIS Boss**

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*Love Is Not
Enough In a
Family*

Pastor Festus Eretan

RCCG, Restoration Parish, Brandon, Canada



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Message From the Editor



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of D' RESTORER, the official e-magazine of The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Restoration Parish, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. It is with great joy and anticipation that we present this free publication to you, our cherished readers and members of our beloved community.

This e-magazine serves as a platform to share inspiring stories, thought-provoking articles, and updates on the various activities and initiatives of our parish. It is a testament to our commitment to fostering a sense of unity, faith, and community among our members, both near and far.

In these pages, you will find a diverse range of content, tailored to meet the needs and interests of our readers. From Dominion through Submission (Our Cover), written by the Pastor-in-Charge and our Editor-in-Chief (Pastor Festus Eretan) to amazing testimonies, from family to investments, Government & Policy and Newcomers corner, each article has been carefully written to inspire, inform, and uplift.

Our hope is that each section of this magazine will resonate with you in a unique way and encourage you in your journey of faith and community engagement.

I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who believe in me, especially Pastor Festus Eretan and Bro Kayode Olumuyiwa (HOD Media) and the dedicated team of writers, copy editor (Bro Samuel Adeleke), our talented page designer (Austin Agbovi) and photographer (Emmanuel Adetoro). Their passion and commitment have brought this vision to life, and I am immensely grateful for their efforts.

As we embark on this new venture, we invite you to join us in prayer and reflection, as we seek to glorify God and serve our community through this publication. May D' RESTORER be a source of inspiration, encouragement, and connection for all who read it.

We acknowledged the cover picture of Pastor Festus Eretan was taken and owned by Tim Smith and The Brandon Sun.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to sharing many more editions of D' RESTORER with you in the future.

Yours in Christ,

Abiola Odutola
Editor D' RESTORER MAGAZINE

2024

Prophecies



FOR NIGERIA

- THE WIND IS BLOWING.
- THINGS WILL GET WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER.
- BECAUSE THE WIND IS BLOWING, some secrets will come to the open.

FOR INDIVIDUALS

- Because the wind is blowing, there are some people who will start the year as nothing, but before the end of the year, they'll become significant.
- There will be many opportunities this year, so get ready for them!

FOR RCCG

Pastors will pass on the information.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

- Because the wind is blowing, there will be divine intervention in those places in the world where things are hot.
- There will be quite a few medical breakthroughs, particularly in the area of incurable diseases like: cancer, asthma, hypertension, diabetes etc

Take note of this: Everyday of this year, the wind is blowing.



PICS ON PAGE: WWW.FREEPIK.COM

DOMINION

BY SUBMISSION

BY PASTOR FESTUS ERETAN

In our quests and yearnings to be free and independent, we became captives of what we allow and a slave to the choices we made. We thought the power of choice is synonymous with being in charge and in control. Every individual has an activity that marks the beginning of his or her day. Some could argue that their days begin the moment they get out of bed, while some argued that their days begin even in their state of inaction, while relishing in their deep sleep. Though what defines everyone's beginning of a day may differ, definitely everyone has an activity or inactivity that begins his or her day. Everyone's day begins with a choice. That is if you have not already lost that power of choice. Some lost the power of choice on health grounds. Hence, someone else decides for them. Others lost it due to incarceration and had to be at the mercy of the correction officers in their care. As it was for Adam and Eve, so it is now. We kept blaming Adam and Eve for the curse they passed down to human race, but we kept repeating and living the same error of Adam and Eve. The duo became a slave to Satan and lost their dominion to him through deceit and illusion of absolute freedom and illusion of dominion:

"For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."
Gen 3:5

The Devil is still using this Joker Card of deceit and illusion of freedom to hold many in captivity. Many joined secret cults in their quest to be free but only to wake up to the reality that they have entered satanic traps and as such, had to keep running and checking their backs for the rest of their lives. But there is hope for



Marriages crashed,
hopes dashed, homes
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ambitions crushed,
and destinies altered
just because
everyone wants to
exercise authority

you if you fall into this category. In the name of Jesus, you are coming out! Marriages crashed, hopes dashed, homes shattered, glorious ambitions crushed, and destinies altered just because everyone wants to exercise authority. Yes, the authority you wield is proof of your level of dominion!

Alas! There is good news for you! You can have it all back. You can still fulfil purpose, you can still have a joyful home and marriage, you can still be who God wants you to be. God's plan towards you is to have all-round peace and a glorious end; His desire is to see you fulfil your destined purpose.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."
Jeremiah 29:11

The keys to get back all the devil has stolen from you is plain and simple. The simplicity of the process had made a lot to ignore it to their own peril. It is my prayer that you will engage this key for your liberation and restoration to true dominion. The key is what I refer to as Dominion by Submission.

Austin (Not real name) once said to me that the reason he did not like going to church and accepting Jesus as his Personal Lord and Saviour is that he did not want anyone telling him what to do and what not to do. This same man obeys the traffic lights every day; this Austin obeys the Doctor's prescriptions and followed the Doctor's directions to the letter. He was told what not to eat and he obeyed. He obeyed his employer's resumption and closing times set for

him. Yet, he said he did not like being told what to do. According to Austin, he had a medical condition that required him to be placed on medications for the rest of his life. He did not want to continue to live on medications for his entire life; He wanted to be healthy, and he wanted freedom from the sickness and disease that was killing him and eating up his resources and time he could spent with loved ones. All this could be possible for Austin if only he could submit.

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." Act 10:38

Will you not rather, submit to Jesus and be free from Satan and his vices such as Sickness, poverty, addictions, loneliness, barrenness, rejection, suicidal attempt, and the likes? This will be the best decision ever in your life.

Dominion by submission may seems very paradoxical, but its undeniable truth lies in this verse of the scripture:

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7

It takes a man under authority to use authority.

"The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

And I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour." Matthew 8:8-13

Your submission to God empowers you

to take authority over the devil himself and whatsoever he uses to control or dominate you.

HOW DO I SUBMIT TO GOD?

1 You submit to God by submitting to Jesus Christ. Submitting to Jesus is to surrender your life to him by confessing him as your Lord and Personal Saviour. In other words, you must be born again.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

John 3:3-6

Being born again translates you from the realm where Satan controls you to a realm that put Satan and his cohorts under your feet.

"hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" Colossians 1:13

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" 1Pet 2:9.

2. You submit to God by Submitting to His Word. Since you cannot submit to the word you do not know exist, the

God is all you need to get all your needs met. It is in your submission to Him that propels God to move on your behalf for you to have a change of level. I see your level changing in Jesus name.

reason you must give yourself to studying and meditating on His word as contained in the bible.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Joshua 1:8

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalms 119:11

The only advantage Satan has over a believer is their ignorance of the word of God. His words in your heart put you in command over the Devil and over whatever he uses to control you hitherto. Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. 2 Corinthians 2:11

3 You submit to God through your submission to His appointed representatives.

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15

This part requires you to fellowship in a bible-believing and bible-teaching local assembly. Thank God for virtual Pastors and Preachers; they are there as your desserts and not your main meal. Your spiritual meal is delivered to you at a physical church.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

Fellowshipping with the brethren in a physical location helps nurtures your spiritual growth and get you committed towards the growth of His Kingdom thereby making you a co-worker with God for the liberation of others. A local church provides you with the platform to serve others. It is in serving others that we also get refreshed. No true believer grows by being a virtual worker – virtual usher, virtual sanctuary keeper or virtual chorister. No, your feet must be on the ground.

"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Proverbs 27:17

Conclusively. God is all you need to get all your needs met. It is in your submission to Him that propels God to move on your behalf for you to have a change of level. I see your level changing in Jesus name.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37

Please pray with me: Lord Jesus, I accept you and do confess you today as my Lord and Personal Saviour. Please show me mercy today and forgive all my sins. If you have prayed the prayers, I would like to congratulate you.

Please reach out to us through this email for prayers and counselling: info@rccgrestorationparish.com . Congratulations!!!



Amazing Testimonies

COMPILED BY ITEOLUWA OGUNKAMISI



SISTER SIFAWU USIKALU:

I took a certification exam with Service now in July 2023 and failed, a friend of advise that I go through the free boot camp that Service now was having in September 2023. On Oct 18, 2023, I got an email from the examination body that my script was one of the scripts reviewed, and an error was found in the way my marks were graded. After reviewing my script, it was discovered that I had actually passed the exam. My certificate was issued and backed to the date I took my exam. To God be the glory. He has counted me worthy to receive this huge favor.



BROTHER SAMUEL

I want to testify to the glory of God, I came into Canada in 2022 "may" to be precise as a foreign worker and that time I didn't know what the future holds I was afraid of many things and two years later I got my permanent

residence and I got promoted at work over many people that used 15 years, 10 years, 8 years and 5 years at work I was promoted over them and I became their coordinator. So I want to thank God for his grace, I am not perfect, I am not saying I am intelligent or perfect It's not because I know how to do the job well. I just want to thank God for his grace that singled me out and I was promoted and I thank God for that.



SISTER ADUNOLA ADENIRAN:

Amidst all the attacks that devil came up with in my family, God gave us peace that makes no sense, he gave us peace that the world can't give. Amidst that God also gave us gift of men. That's why we are saying thank you lord.



BRO EMMANUEL OLUWAFUNMIYI

On December 31st, I was planning to go to Winnipeg to

spend the New Year with my aunt when I noticed that I was seeing spots in my left eye. I decided to cancel the trip but I wasn't really worried. A few hours before the church service started, I woke up and found I could not see from my right eye at all and decided to go to the emergency clinic. While waiting there, I texted pastor, and he prayed for me and asked me to come to the service if I was able. The doctor saw me after 6 hrs of waiting, at which point vision had already started to come back to my eye. She said she didn't see anything wrong but advised me to see an optometrist. When I did, they scanned my eye and told me it was completely healthy, and I've not had any major issue with the eye since.



SISTER DAMILOLA ADEROUNMU

I can't remember the week again but it was on a Tuesday, I went to pick my daughter up and instead of her to come and meet outside, her teacher beckoned that I should come in. When I got in and saw her sitting down and her teacher explained she could not walk. I thought it was a joke until I told her to stand up but she couldn't walk, she had

to be carried in and out of the car, like play like play we landed in an emergency. On a scale of 1 to 10, she said the pain was 8 and she could not remember falling or hurting herself. At the emergency, they ran tests, scans, and culture. The doctor said he wanted to rule out Tendonitis but that was not the case, as the tests could not prove that. We prayed and she also declared Jesus healing on herself and with time she started limping, holding things for support. At that point, we were discharged. A day later she started walking perfectly without support or aid.



PASTOR BANKOLE ABEJIDE

The spiritual indeed controls the physical. On the 31st of January 2024, I led the morning prayer and went back to bed after the morning prayer. I had a revelation of an attack. I informed my wife and we prayed about it. The following morning which was the 1st of February, 2024, my wife went to work at 7am and my kids were dressing up to go to school. I had training at 9am and I decided to have my shower before taking my kids to school so that I could resume training

immediately.

It was when I was having my bath that I felt a pain on the left side of my chest. I couldn't breathe or talk but managed to walk to the living room where my child helped with my clothes. I couldn't pray outwardly but was praying in my heart for protection and also reminded God that I still took Holy Communion the day before. I was taken to the hospital where all sorts of tests were carried out and nothing was seen but I declared that 'I bear the mark of God in my body, nothing shall by any means hurt me.' The doctor said 'You are perfectly okay' and tried to confirm the reality of my complaint. I knew it was a spiritual attack and only went to the hospital to confirm the satanic enterprise. It was not a natural medical issue so my testimony will be full. I bless God for his healing and confirmation of his words in my life and my family."

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Pastor E. A. Adeboye
GENERAL OVERSEER

Pastor Folu Adeboye
MOTHER IN ISRAEL

Mononucleosis

The Kissing Disease

BY AJIBOLA OLAOSEBIKAN

Mononucleosis is an infectious disease caused by the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV). It is a common disease among teenagers, young adults and college students (CDC, 2020). At least one out of four teenagers in United States of America with EBV get mononucleosis (Mayo Clinic).



Kids can also get Mono from kissing an infected person, or after sharing a fork, glass cups or straws with an infected person.

According to Mayo Clinic, it takes more than a cough or sneeze to spread Epstein-Barr virus (EBV). It spreads primarily through saliva.

Transmission from infected person is through saliva during kissing, sharing drinks and food, sharing cups, straws, utensils and or tooth brushes.

The symptoms of Mono includes, extreme tiredness, fever, sore throat, headaches and body aches, swollen lymph nodes, swelling in the liver, spleen or both, as well as skin Rash.

The period between when an individual



is exposed to EBV and having the symptoms (incubation period) is about four to six weeks.

While some viruses may not be contagious during their incubation periods, EBV is contagious during the incubation periods, this simply means, an asymptomatic individual infected with Mono can spread the virus unknowingly.

There is no vaccine to protect against infectious mononucleosis. You can help protect yourself by not kissing or sharing drinks, food, or personal items, like toothbrushes, with people who have infectious mononucleosis.

While there is no specific treatment available for EBV, you can help relieve the symptoms of infectious mononucleosis by drinking water or other fluids to stay hydrated, having lots of rest and taking over-the-counter pain relievers to treat a fever or sore (Mayo Clinic)





International Student What You Must Know

BY TOLU OKE

Being a student and moving to a new country is an exciting journey full of chances for personal development, academic enrichment, and cultural immersion. Canada is a popular choice for many foreign students because of its top-notch educational system, diverse community, and stunning natural surroundings.

However, transitioning to life in a new country can also present its challenges. To thrive in their new academic and social environment, international students must equip themselves with essential survival skills. Here's a comprehensive guide to navigating the Canadian experience:

1 Adaptation: As you get used to Canadian culture, embrace the spirit of adaptation. Be adaptable and open-minded when it comes to new experiences, traditions, and cultural conventions. Engage with locals and become fully immersed in the community; Canadians are recognized for being amiable and inviting.

2 Weather Resilience: Get ready for Canada's varied environment, which,

depending on where you live, may range from pleasant summers to very cold winters. Invest in suitable winter clothing, such as insulated gloves, waterproof boots, and a thick coat. Learn the proper ways to be safe in the cold, such as wearing layers of clothing and avoiding extended exposure to extremely high or low temperatures.

3 Financial Literacy: Gain a solid grasp of banking procedures, Canadian money, and budgetary concepts. To manage your spending,

including your everyday living expenditures, housing charges, and tuition, make a financial plan. Look into part-time jobs both on and off school to augment your income and acquire useful work experience.

4 Health and Wellness: Make your physical and mental health a priority by using the support systems and healthcare services that are accessible to foreign students. Learn about Canadian insurance alternatives and healthcare coverage. Use self-care techniques, such as mindfulness training, physical activity, and, if necessary, counseling resources on campus.

5 Cultural Competence: Gain an understanding of Canada's multicultural society and Indigenous history. Recognize cultural differences and communicate across cultural boundaries with tact and understanding. Take part in cultural gatherings, festivals, and events to extend your horizons and create deep relationships with others from many backgrounds.

Be adaptable and open-minded when it comes to new experiences, traditions, and cultural conventions. Engage with locals and become fully immersed in the community; Canadians are recognized for being amiable and inviting

6 Academic Success: Achieve academic success by adjusting to the demands and expectations of the Canadian educational system. Participate in seminars and orientation events to become acquainted with your institution's academic policies, resources, and support services. Create efficient study habits, learn time management techniques, and ask lecturers or academic advisers for help when you need it.

7 Networking and Community Engagement: To successfully negotiate the difficulties of Canadian student life, establish a robust network of classmates, mentors, and community members. Become involved in volunteer work, student organizations, and clubs to meet like-minded people and give back to the community and school. Networking opportunities may result in priceless friendships, business relationships, and career advancement.

8 Legal Rights and duties: Learn about the rights and duties you have as an international student in Canada, such as limitations on your work permit, immigration laws, and other legal requirements. To guarantee compliance with Canadian laws, be updated on changes to immigration policy and visa requirements.

9 Communication Skills: To interact successfully in social, professional, and academic contexts, improve your communication abilities, particularly your command of the English or French language. To increase your confidence and fluency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing, make use of language exchange programs, discussion groups, and learning tools.

10 Resilience and resourcefulness: Develop these traits to get over obstacles and disappointments you may face while pursuing your education in Canada. Gain problem-solving abilities, ask mentors and support systems for advice, and persevere in the face of difficulty. Adopt a growth mentality and see obstacles as chances for knowledge acquisition and personal progress.

11 Place to Stay: It's important for international students studying in Canada to find appropriate accommodation. A few choices to think about are homestays, shared flats, private rentals, and on-campus

housing. Consider things like closeness to the college, ease of access to transit, safety, and price while looking into housing choices well in advance, and you can search for apartments on the Facebook Marketplace and Ebrandon website.

12 Create a survival plan to help you deal with the difficulties of relocating to a foreign nation. Establish a network of friends, faculty, and community organizations for assistance. Learn about healthcare resources, safety procedures, and emergency contacts. To overcome challenges and succeed in your new setting, be organized, set priorities for your duties, and keep a positive outlook.

13 Bring layers of warm clothes, water-resistant gear, sturdy shoes, and accessories like hats, scarves, and gloves. Pack for Canada's varied climate. Invest in high-quality winter clothing to ensure your comfort during the chilly months. To cut costs on clothes purchases, make use of internet marketplaces, sales, and secondhand stores. Examples are Thrift stores, plateaus stores, Village and so on these are stores where you can get clean second-hand clothing.

14 Phone Bill: Look into inexpensive cell plans and carriers that provide special offers or discounts for students to save money on your phone bill, for example rogers, fido, and so on. To steer clear of long-term agreements and exorbitant costs, think about pay-as-you-go or prepaid alternatives. To discover the best deal for your requirements, compare data, call, and text plans. To reduce data use, make use of free Wi-Fi hotspots wherever you can.

15 Food Bank: To obtain wholesome food and other supplies at a discounted or free price, make use of food banks and other community resources. Food banks and assistance programs for students experiencing financial difficulties are available in many Canadian

communities. To obtain food bank services when needed, research the eligibility requirements, operating hours, and local food assistance programs. Be aware that sometimes your school may provide provision of foodbank to students.

To sum up, studying abroad in Canada presents a plethora of chances for personal development, education, and discovery. Your new home away from home may be a place where you flourish intellectually, socially, and emotionally if you arm yourself with basic survival skills and welcome the journey with an open mind. As an international student, embrace the experience, take advantage of every chance, and maximize your time in Canada.



PICS ON PAGE: WWW.FREEPIK.COM

Avoid these mistakes when you arrive in **Canada as a student:**

1. Ignoring the requirements for immigration
2. Neglecting the Cost of Transportation
3. Neglecting Health Insurance
4. Ignoring Academic Obligations
5. Injudicious Budgeting
6. Incapacity to Adjust to Canadian Culture
7. Putting off looking for a place to live
8. Packing too much or too little
9. Ignoring safety precautions
10. Ignoring Help When It's Needed
11. Excessive Spending on Non-Necessities
12. Missing Out on Networking Chances
13. Underestimating the Weather
14. Failure to Utilise Student Discounts
15. Excessive involvement in extracurricular activities
16. Steer clear of language practice
17. Ignoring Mental Wellness
18. Not Trying the Local Food
19. Ignoring the Rules Regarding Work Permits
20. Not Making an Emergency Plan

Best Ways to Cut Costs:

1. Establish and adhere to a budget.
2. Prepare meals at home rather than eating out.
3. Take public transport or a bike instead of driving a car.
4. Make use of student discounts and freebies.
5. Split the Cost of Your Accommodation by Renting with Roommates
6. Look for clothing and household goods at thrift stores and discount retailers.
7. Seek Part-Time Employment to Supplement Your Income.
8. Cut Back on Entertainment Spending and Choose Free or Cheap Activities.
9. Make Use of Affordable or Free Health Services on Campus.
10. Lower Utility Bills by Using Less Water and Energy.

International students may successfully manage their finances, adjust to their new surroundings, and make the most of their academic experience in Canada by putting these techniques into practice and avoiding common mistakes.

Saving Is Not Same as Investing — *Know the Difference*

BY SIFAWU USIKALU



PICS ON PAGE: WWW.FREEPIK.COM

Many people use the terms saving and investing interchangeably. They assume that tucking away money in fixed deposits or retirement accounts means investing sensibly for the future.

But there exist key differences between just saving cash versus actively putting capital into market instruments targeting growth. Understanding these distinctions is essential to build long term wealth.

LET'S FIRST DEFINE SOME BASICS:

Saving means keeping money in highly liquid and low-risk assets that don't fluctuate much but offer very modest if any returns.

Examples of savings vehicles include standard bank accounts, Fixed Deposits, money market accounts, and some types of annuities yielding small, guaranteed incomes. The

priority here is capital protection and stability over earnings potential.

Investing on the other hand means strategically placing money in assets that carry calculated risks in return for anticipated profits exceeding inflation/Fixed Deposit rates over 5–10 year horizons.

Common investing instruments are stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, commodities etc. While principal preservation remains important, the incentive is higher returns justifying inflation risks.

Now you can see that savings prioritize safety and liquidity without much growth. Investments prioritize compounding and maximizing money over stability in the short term.

Many folks unfortunately limit themselves to only saving because

investing appears daunting or risky. But saving alone cannot beat inflation long run and leads to loss of purchasing power over decades.

Even retirement funds should emphasize balanced investing not just saving if you want to maintain lifestyle many years post exiting workforce.

Aim to allocate at least 20–30% portfolio towards solid investing vehicles for healthy compounding. As income rises, increase investment allocation even up to 50% if your risk appetite permits.

Don't confuse saving for investing. Ensure you engage both gears strategically throughout earning years to enter retirement with sizeable nest egg that maintains principal while delivering returns beating inflation.

How To Navigate Immigration Hurdles - WIS Boss

*In an inspiring feature for the maiden edition of D' Restorer, **Funmilola Abiola-Odutola** sits with Enver Naidoo, the CEO of Westman Immigrant Services (WIS), to discuss the important role the organization plays in helping immigrants and newcomers navigate the complexities of settling into a new life in Canada. This interview highlights the broad spectrum of free services WIS offers to facilitate the integration of immigrants into the community, underscoring the essential contribution of immigration to Canada's economic stability and growth amidst labour market shortages and an aging population.*

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With a focus on the challenges and opportunities that come with migration, the conversation with Mr. Naidoo offers invaluable insights into how WIS supports individuals and families in their transition, from securing employment to integrating culturally and building connections within the local community.

This feature is not only a testament to the resilience and determination of immigrants but also a call to action for our members and readers to leverage available opportunities to assert dominion in their new environment.

As we explore the theme of "Dominion," let this interview serve as a beacon of encouragement and guidance for those embarking on the journey of immigration, highlighting the importance of community support, adaptability, and the pursuit of opportunities in forging a successful path in a new land.

Could you provide an overview of Westman Immigrant Services and the primary mission behind your organization's establishment?

With the support of federal, provincial, and community funders, Westman Immigrant Services (WIS), provides a broad range of free services and programs to help immigrants and newcomers settle and integrate in their community. With a team of 70+ staff in 6 Brandon locations, and 3 regional locations including Russell, Virden, and Cartwright, WIS helps immigrants and newcomers across 27 municipalities. With Canada's aging population, and with the current and projected labour markets shortages, immigration is going to play a critical role to stabilize the tax base and grow the economy. WIS is here to help immigrants and newcomers build their new life.

How do WIS services ease the transition of new immigrants arriving in Brandon (provide available statistics)?

As the pathways to immigration continue to evolve and as Brandon continues to see record levels of permanent residents, government assisted refugees, sponsored refugees, asylum seekers, international students, temporary foreign workers, and naturalized citizens, WIS provides direct services to help the unique needs of individuals and families. Of all permanent residents arriving outside of Manitoba's capital last year, Brandon received close to 50%, and last year was the highest number of newcomers recorded Brandon received in a single year. With the unique needs of immigrants and newcomers, WIS takes an holistic approach to support the settlement journey of individuals and families.

What are some unique challenges that new immigrants face when arriving in Brandon and how would you advise them to address them?

While immigrants arrive in Brandon with a significant amount of skill and experience, there may be some challenges that they may experience at some point. Some of these challenges could include navigating new systems like enrolling their kids into schools, finding suitable housing, or understanding where to get support during a life crisis. Other challenges could include finding meaningful employment or navigating how to start a new business. As circumstances may be different for each person or family, we recommend immigrants and newcomers start with meeting our settlement facilitators who can assess their current situation and provide appropriate advice and referrals to a respective WIS department or community resource. By getting



appropriate information, accessing valuable resources, and understanding local systems, individuals and families can improve their settlement journey in Brandon.

Cultural integration is a significant hurdle for new immigrants. How does Westman Immigrant Services assist immigrants in understanding and integrating into the local culture while preserving their own?

WIS offers a variety of free programs to individuals, families, youth, and seniors to support their ability to explore the local culture and appreciate the multiculturalism in Canada,

Manitoba, and Brandon. Some of these programs include the opportunity to preserve and share the rich and unique cultural background that immigrants and newcomers bring with them. While other programs could include supporting immigrants and newcomers understanding and appreciation of Indigenous history and culture. Through a variety of free programs offered throughout the year, immigrants and newcomers are able to find an experience that suits their interests best.

Finding employment is crucial for new immigrants. Could you share the employment support services provided by your organization and how do you assist immigrants in leveraging their skills and qualifications in the Canadian job market?

WIS provides free pre-employment supports to assist immigrants and newcomers understand how to convey their valuable skills, qualifications, and experience in the local job market.

This could include adapting their cover letter and resume, support with understanding the local industry and business community, and free training to enhance skills. In addition, WIS also develops networking events for international experienced professionals and helps support career development opportunities. Referrals are also made in cases where funding or resources are available to support individuals looking to train or retrain for jobs in specific industries. For individuals looking to start their own business or purchase an existing business, there may other supports available that they can access at no cost.

How does Westman Immigrant Services facilitate connections between new immigrants and the local community in Brandon and are there specific programs or initiatives designed to foster these connections?

WIS offers a variety of opportunities for immigrants and newcomers to facilitate professional and personal connections in Brandon. Some of these could include recreational opportunities, educational opportunities, social opportunities, volunteer opportunities, networking opportunities, professional development opportunities, and cultural experiences. Programing could be specific in nature for youth, women, men, seniors, and families, or programing could be for the whole community. With year round free programs and initiatives, there is something available for everyone.

Brandon continues to see record levels of permanent residents, government-assisted refugees, sponsored refugees, asylum seekers, international students, temporary foreign workers, and naturalized citizens.

Love Is Not Enough In A Family



The importance of family in a nation building cannot be over emphasized as it is the first school in a person's life. No school can make any impact in a child's life without first getting schooled by a family. Family values and traditions have been argued to be the first and valuable assets in anybody's life.

The concept of family was institutionalized by God when he told Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28 to be fruitful, multiply, replenish and subdue the earth. With this verse, it is proven beyond reasonable

doubt that God was the originator of family.

However, despite the warning Jesus gave in Matthew 19:9 about divorce, it is now a popular act even among Christians. Nowadays marriages that lasts five years is worth celebrating, talk less of a decade or 2 decades and upward.

*To learn from their 22 years experience, Mr Taiwo and Mrs Olubukola Akinbode, blessed with 6 children, shared their story with **Samuel Adeleke**. Excerpts:*

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN CANADA?

Mr. Akinbode: We moved to Canada in 2021 December 5, and this year December will mark our 3 years in Canada.

Mr. Akinbode: We thank God for the fear of God that we have, we started our relationship from church around the throne of God, we didn't meet at the party or any bar beach, we met in church. It goes this way on that day because I'm a popular person in church that plays with everyone and I noticed something special about

this young lady that was selling book for the church, and indeed I wanted to buy book to read, but I got there, she collected my money and asked me to wait 'book she no give me, change she no give me' and I waited, from there she began to attend to other people and I said aaah, madam, where is my book and my change and she said ahaa, are you not the one, just wait you'll collect your book, from there I began to study her, developing interest but to God be the glory, God said I'll be the crown on her head and be her king and here we are today.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES YOU'VE FACED IN THIS MARRIAGE?

Mrs. Akinbode: Challenges in marriage is relative, one cannot really specify which area such as finances, interactions, childbearing, there are phases in every challenge in marriage but with God's help, He has been able to sustain us, like what I tell singles and new couples is that they should study their partners, that is number one, it's not that you won't listen to counsel, but first study the person you're dealing with because what works for A might not work for B and that has really helped me, with God's patience and endurance, we've been able to put up with each other for 22 years, and I must say that Rome was not built in a day, it's step by step.

Mr. Akinbode: I don't believe we have challenges really and I really thank God I have a calm, cool headed, gentle maiden by my side which I really appreciate God for and I always tell her that I thank God I have her as my wife because of the kind of nature I have, it's not boasting I know that I'm strong and I can go for anything when it comes to fighting, struggling, I know that im rugged but because of her presence in my life, I dropped some things that would have even probably affected my own life because as you're seeing me I've done a lot of darings even in the political realm. But because my wife is so gentle, she took me for who I am, I always appreciate her for that.

There are numerous challenges but she always make sure things are resolved because I have a hadened heart, if anything happens, I always want to get to the root and finish everything but thank God he made a sensible and reasonable wife for me.

WHAT STRATEGY CAN YOU SAY HAS KEPT YOU TWO TOGETHER FOR 22 YEARS SIR AND MA?

Mrs. Akinbode: I have two principles, number 1 is God is love and where God is, there's peace, it's not that there won't be fight, in as much he will want to prove the 'I'm a man' syndrome but I always have that mind God is love that I just want peace, I don't want anything else. Secondly, I also usually use a second scripture which is 'Love covereth multitudes of sins' there so many things we've done to offend each other but whenever I wanted to react, those scriptures helped me. I was raised in a polygamous family and people also had beliefs that Lagosians don't stay long in marriage, this made me made up my mind to ensure my marriage works. By nature, I don't talk and I talk, my mouth is sharp but people won't know because I don't talk. That's why I said you have to study your partner, when I noticed that applying sharp mouth in this marriage won't help me, I had to discipline myself to be keeping quiet and in some certain area, that is what helped me.

Mr.Akinbode: Like we said, the template God adopted for us may not be useful for any other person

“
When there's no good foundation in a family, the product that comes out of that place will not be profitable to the society.”

but characters and attitudes of partners matter a lot, respect she gave, humility she has, like she said now, she doesn't reply me abusively, even if I'm hurt and I want to use her words against her she won't reply, but if I want to give a better example of what singles and young couples can adopt as a template, I would refer them to the bible part that says wives respect your husbands and husbands love your wives, the love has to come from within. Love has helped us a lot and we're now like brother and sister, my wife always supports me in so many ways. My wife strengthens my weaknesses so many times and I do the same.

DIVORCE IS NOW A THING OF PRIDE AMONG THE GEN Z , WHAT CAN YOU SAY IS THE CAUSE OF THIS SIR AND MA?

Mrs. Akinbode: Divorce! What I can say causes it is impatience, I can only recommend divorce when there's domestic violence, other than that both parties should work on their relationship. What divorce to me is when they cannot forgive themselves, if not they can work it through.

Mr. Akinbode: The bible says if the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do? I will say upbringing matters a lot in marriage, when there's no good foundation in a family, the product that comes out of that place will not be profitable to the society. Most parents have left their children to copy from the society. For instance in thus western world children are allowed to shout down their parents and when such children grow up what kind of home do you expect them to have. But when you look at our culture from Africa, you'll see that we don't give room to all of that, we instill discipline in our children.

USING YOUR MARRIAGE AS A TEMPLATE, WHAT ADVISE CAN YOU GIVE THE NEWLY MARRIED AND THE INTENDING COUPLES MA?

Mr. Akinbode: Everybody always mentions love but that cannot do it all, if I want to say what new

couples should emulate from our marriage, I will say they should study themselves, that's not all, they shouldn't use church or society as a standard scale to measure their home because most times what people claim they are in church is not what they are outside even some pastors live double lives. Another advise I will give new couples and singles is to make God the centre of everything, with that no challenges will be too big for them to crush. They should also be contented with what they have and not compared each other with anyone.

Mrs.Akinbode: To me, like what my husband said, they should be contented, bible says Godliness

with contentment is a great gain, I could remember vividly when I met my husband, one of my pastors said, 'only love cannot sustain marriage, you need to discipline yourself', that means you'll always see a far more beautiful/handsome person than your partner, but when you decide that this is the person you want to be with for the rest of your life, it becomes your cross to carry.

IN THIS PERILOUS TIME, HOW ARE YOU ABLE TO RAISE SUCH GOD FEARING CHILDREN SIR AND MA?

Mr. Akinbode: We thank God because the bible says God plants apolo waters it is God that makes the seed to germinate, we put our

efforts in raising them, the bibles also made us to understand that God said I know Abraham, he will teach his son my way. That should be the motto of every home, not only church will teach my children, for instance if you allow your child to go and live with somebody, the vision God has for that child has been defeated because you're the one God knows not the person, God said he has given you this child to nurture and to raise and God has given you the ability to do so. So in this perilous time God has so helped us that I will always call my children to talk to them, I give them life examples so they can learn. Discipline is also very important, no child should be above discipline no matter their age. Most importantly, let the word of God be the guidance to every home.

Mrs.Akinbode: I remember when we started having children, my husband will always quote that scripture which is 'God said I know Abraham, he will teach his son my way'. That has always been our guidance, I also will advise that wives should not counter their husbands when he's trying to discipline the children especially when they have conflicts, they should rather support and join in the discipline.

CAN YOU ALLOW ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN TO MARRY ANY RACE AND WHY SIR?

Mrs.Akinbode: Why not, as long as you have peace of mind, no matter the race as long as God is leading them I have nothing against that, may be because of the way I was raised, I'm Libra.

Mr.Akinbode: For me too, I always encourage it, take for instance we're in Canada, if there's no love they won't allow us to come to their country, there's a purpose why we're here. My role as a parent is to know who the guy is and make sure it's God's will for my child's life through prayers. Colour doesn't matter as long as he/she is a child of God.





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The First Time Home Buyer Account: **A Pathway to Canadian Homeownership**

BY SIFAWU USIKALU

Owning a home is a dream cherished by many Canadians. It signifies financial stability, personal achievement, and a place to call your own. However, the road to homeownership can be strenuous, especially for first-time buyers. In recognition of this, the Canadian government has introduced the concept of a First Time Home Buyer Account to help make this dream a reality. This article will explore what a First Time Home Buyer Account is, its advantages, and potential disadvantages.

Firstly, let us delve into the essence of a First Time Home Buyer Account. In Canada, this account is a savings vehicle designed exclusively for individuals looking to purchase their first home. Created under the federal Home Buyers' Plan (HBP), it enables homebuyers to withdraw funds from their Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) without incurring taxes, penalties, or withholding tax. By pulling money from their RRSP, individuals can accumulate a substantial amount towards a down payment, easing the financial burden associated with homebuying.

The advantages of a First Time Home Buyer Account are manifold. Firstly, it allows Canadians to maximize their savings potential. By contributing to an RRSP, individuals benefit from the potential growth of their investments in a tax-free environment, facilitating the accumulation of a more substantial down payment over time. Through this account, individuals can harness the power of compound interest, providing an attractive prospect for long-term savings.

Additionally, the First Time Home Buyer Account promotes responsible financial planning. It serves as a disciplined approach towards saving for a specific purpose, preventing the temptation to tap into retirement savings haphazardly. Furthermore, the ability to withdraw funds from an RRSP without tax implications gives first-time buyers a momentous advantage in achieving their homeownership goals.

Despite its advantages, the First Time Home Buyer Account does come with some potential downsides. Firstly, the funds withdrawn from an RRSP must be repaid within a specified timeframe, generally over a 15-year period. Failure to make the required repayments will result in the amount being included as taxable income. Therefore, individuals must be diligent in meeting their repayment obligations to avoid facing unnecessary tax burdens.

Another potential disadvantage is

the opportunity cost associated with withdrawing funds from an RRSP. By pulling money out of their retirement savings early, individuals miss out on potential investment gains and compound interest that could have accrued over the years. While the immediate benefit of a larger down payment is appealing, the long-term impact on retirement savings must be carefully considered.

In conclusion, the First Time Home Buyer Account is a valuable tool for aspiring homeowners in Canada. Its advantages, such as tax-free growth, responsible financial planning, and withdrawal flexibility, make it an attractive option for those seeking to make their first property purchase. However, it is crucial for individuals to be aware of the potential downsides, including the repayment requirements and the impact on retirement savings. By weighing these factors carefully, prospective homebuyers can make informed decisions and embark on their journey towards homeownership with confidence.



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The First Home Savings Account: A Pathway to Canadian Homeownership

In today's competitive real estate market, saving for your first home can be a daunting task. Owning a home is a significant milestone for many Canadians, providing security, stability, and a sense of accomplishment. To support aspiring homeowners, the Canadian government offers a valuable tool known as the First Home Savings Account. Designed to facilitate savings for individuals looking to purchase their first home, this account provides various advantages and disadvantages that potential homebuyers should consider.

First and foremost, the primary use of a First Home Savings Account is to accumulate funds specifically for the purchase of a first home. It serves as a dedicated savings vehicle, allowing individuals to set aside money exclusively for this purpose. By establishing a separate account, individuals can avoid the temptation to dip into their savings for other expenses or investments, ensuring they remain focused on their goal of homeownership.

One of the significant advantages of the First Home Savings Account

is the potential for tax benefits. Contributions made to the account are tax-deductible, meaning individuals can reduce their taxable income by the amount contributed. This can result in a significant tax savings, ultimately helping to boost their home savings even further. Furthermore, any interest earned on the account is also tax-free, allowing the savings to accumulate untouched by the burden of taxes.

In addition to tax benefits, the First Home Savings Account offers flexibility and accessibility. Individuals can contribute to the account at their convenience, with no minimum contribution limit. This allows savers to tailor their savings strategy to fit their unique financial circumstances. Furthermore, the accumulated funds can be withdrawn at any time, providing individuals with the freedom to use their savings when the time is right to secure their dream home.

However, it is crucial to consider the potential disadvantages of the First Home Savings Account. Firstly, any funds withdrawn from the account that are not utilized for a home purchase need to be

included as taxable income in the year of withdrawal. This can result in additional tax obligations and reduce the overall benefit of using the account. Therefore, it is vital for individuals to carefully plan and consider their timing to fully utilize the savings accumulated in the account.

Another disadvantage is the maximum contribution per year per individual is \$8000 for a maximum of 5 years. This means the maximum contribution for this account is \$40,000. While this may sound as a disadvantage, you are able to claim the amount contributed from their taxable income.

Additionally, another potential disadvantage is that the First Home Savings Account is only available for Canadian residents who have not owned a home within the last four years. While this stipulation ensures that the account is exclusively targeted towards first-time homebuyers, it may limit its accessibility for individuals who do not meet the criteria. Therefore, it is essential for potential savers to review the eligibility requirements before embarking on using this account.

In conclusion, the First Home Savings Account is an invaluable tool for aspiring homeowners in Canada. It provides individuals with a dedicated savings account tailored towards the goal of purchasing their first home. With tax benefits, flexibility, and accessibility, it enables Canadians to save efficiently and maximize their home savings potential. However, it is crucial to be aware of the potential disadvantages, such as the tax implications of withdrawing funds without utilizing them for a home purchase and the eligibility requirements. By carefully considering these factors, individuals can make informed decisions and take advantage of the benefits offered by the First Home Savings Account, bringing them one step closer to achieving their dream of homeownership.

Teenagers Versus Dominion

BY TITILAYO LAWAL

Teenagers are known for crises because of their present state. They are children with adult bodies. They look like adults but think like children. Puberty has set in but they don't understand how to handle it. Private hair is growing, breasts have formed and for males, a beard is also growing. They think they have grown and can handle their own life. They sometimes look at adults as their mates: it's like what do you have that I don't have? Most mistakes in life happen at this stage. To prevent these mistakes we the adults, parents and guardians have to prayerfully help them.

The table is turning for a new set of teenagers. They are ambassadors of Christ and they walk in dominion! They are a pattern in the mold of Samuel that hears the voice of the Lord at the age of Twelve (1 Samuel 3:9). They are like Joseph who had a dream about his future at the age of seventeen (Gen 37:5-10). They are like David who killed Goliath at the age of

seventeen (1 Samuel 17:50-53). Josiah at the age of eight became king (2Chro. 34:1) and Uzziah also became king at the age of sixteen (2Chro 26:1). Daniel and the three Hebrew boys stood for God and

walked in the spirit of excellence as teenagers (Daniel 1:17-20). These and many more examples of outstanding teenagers can be seen in the Bible. They practically walked In dominion.



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Tips for teenagers

1. Love and fear God.
2. Love yourself.
3. Study the Bible.
4. Be prayerful.
5. Befriend the Holy Spirit.
6. Respect your elders, your mates and your juniors.
7. Obey your parents in the Lord.
8. Face your academics.
9. Befriend believers in Christ who are manifesting the fruits of the Spirit.
10. Discover your purpose early and pursue it.
11. Don't associate with haters of God.
12. Be a positive role model to others.
13. Grow in grace and remain loyal to God no matter what. Josiah and Uzziah started well and they prospered but they missed it and lost it at the end.



For Body and Soul

Learn personal hygiene and practice them: Clean your body daily. keep your clothes clean and wash them after use.

Put your clothes, bed and other things in your room in order. Not doing this shows that you are disorganised. Be modest in your dressing. Your nakedness is pressures cover it.

Avoid anything that will lead to premarital sex. Kissing, necking, pecking etc keep your virginity till you are married.

Read books and other materials that will help you academically, socially and spiritually.

Build your self-confidence and don't allow anyone to dominate you.

Avoid too much TV, games or other internet stuff.

Tips For Adults, Parents and Guardians That Can Help Teenagers



Be a positive role model.

Pray for them.

Show them love and correct them in love.

Be firm with them.

In conclusion, you as a teenager can walk in dominion even now. Declare this prayer: Lord I receive grace to be who you want me to be in every department of my life in Jesus' name!

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Immigration Policy

What You Need To Know

BY TOSIN SALAU

In recent years, Canada has been one of the top destinations for international students seeking top-notch education and diverse cultural experiences. However, in an effort to boost revenues, several institutions have increased their intakes, which has resulted in a rise in the number of students arriving in Canada without the necessary resources and support. Also, the housing and healthcare systems are under pressure due to this rapid increase in the number of international students in Canada. In response to the growing number of international students in Canada, the Government has put some new policies in place to control and stabilize this rapid growth.

1 TEMPORARY CAP ON STUDY PERMITS AND PROVINCIAL ATTESTATION LETTER

On the 22nd of January, 2024, an announcement was made by Honourable Marc Miller, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship on the introduction of a two-year intake cap on applications for international student permit. This change in immigration policy is aimed at addressing concerns on how long the rapid growth in the number of international students can continue.

This cap is expected to result in about 360,000 approved study permits for the year 2024, which is a significant decrease of 35% from the numbers recorded in 2023. The cap for the year 2025 will be determined by the end of the year 2024. The caps will not apply to students pursuing their master's or

doctoral degree in Canada, it will also not apply to existing international students who are renewing their Canadian study permits.

To implement the cap, The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will allocate a share of the study permit cap to each province and territory beginning on January 22, 2024. These regional authorities will then distribute the portion among the recognized educational institutions. Every study visa application submitted to the IRCC after this date must be accompanied by an attestation letter from the relevant province or territory approving the student's application. To guarantee a seamless rollout of the new policy, provinces and territories must set up a streamlined procedure for providing these attestation letters to students by March 31, 2024.



2 MODIFICATION TO POST-GRADUATE GRADUATION WORK PERMIT (PGWP)

In certain provinces, Public colleges may license their curriculum to associated private colleges, enabling students to attend private schools in person while receiving diplomas from public institutions. However, concerns have risen regarding the educational quality and availability of adequate student assistance at these establishments. The Ontario Auditor General has drawn attention to the lack of



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oversight in these settings with regard to program quality and student services. As a result, Post-Graduation Work Permits (PGWPs) for organizations operating under such arrangements are now restricted by IRCC policy change.

International students enrolled in study programmes through curriculum licensing agreements offered by public-private partnership (PPP) universities will no longer be eligible for PGWPs upon graduation as of September 1, 2024. This metric attempts to incentivize increases in educational standards and support services while addressing concerns about program quality. Although current international students enrolled in these programs will retain PGWP eligibility if they meet all other criteria, new students enrolling in such programs will not be eligible for post-graduation work permits.

3 LONGER PGWPS FOR MASTER'S GRADUATES

Commencing on February 15, 2024, there is a significant change in the law pertaining to post-graduation work permits (PGWPs). This change introduces the availability of an extended three-year PGWP. Specifically, graduates of master's degree programs that last fewer than

two years will be eligible for this extended PGWP, given they meet all other eligibility criteria for the PGWP. Additionally, graduates of master's degree programs will be eligible for the recently established three-year PGWP, even if their duration is less than two years. This change is aimed at providing more opportunities for foreign students completing their education in Canada, especially those seeking shorter-duration master's degrees. Through alignment with the study program duration, up to a maximum of three years, this policy reform aims to improve international graduates' post-graduation prospects and ease their entry into the Canadian workforce.



4 REVISED COST OF LIVING REQUIREMENT

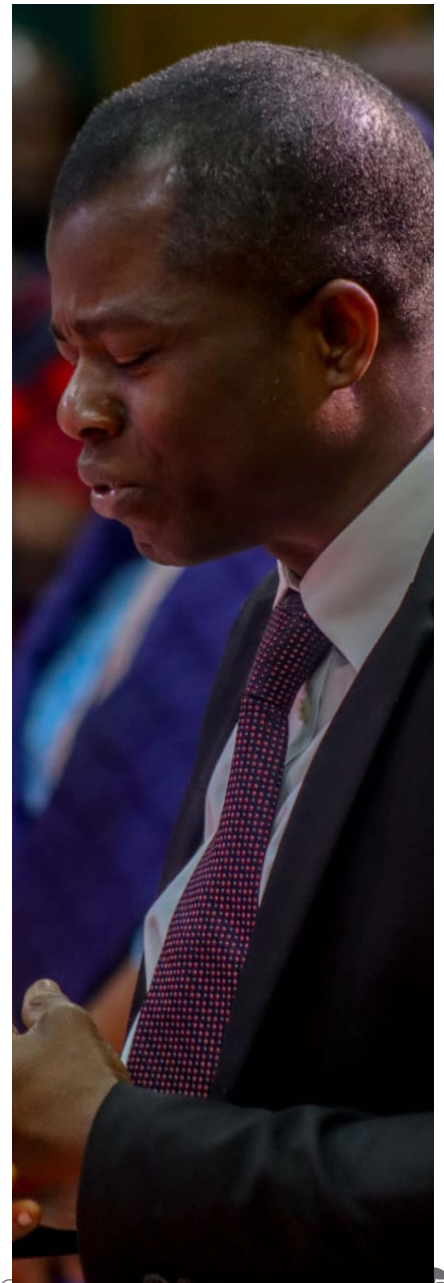
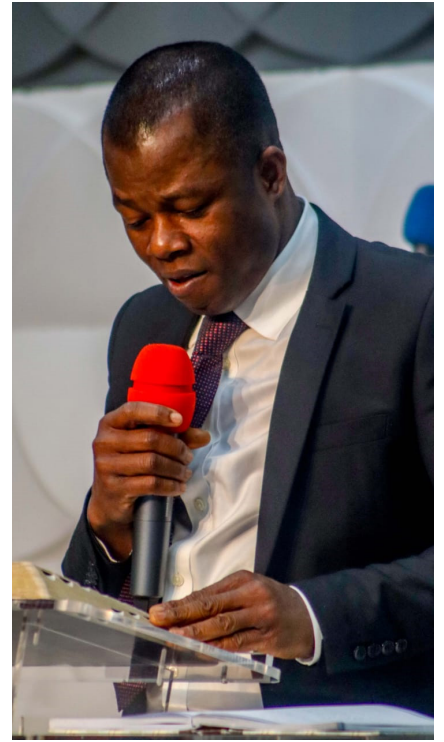
International students who want to study in Canada must meet a higher cost of living criterion starting on January 1, 2024. It is now set at CAD 20,635, which is a significant increase from the previous CAD 10,000, excluding tuition expenses. Notably, Quebec has a minimum proof of financial support requirement of CAD 15,078 but, with some exceptions for students under the age of eighteen who must show that they have access to at least CAD 7,541. Prospective international students must provide sufficient proof of financial support to meet these new standards in order to apply for a study permit to study in Canada on or after January 1, 2024. This will ensure that they have enough money set aside for living expenses while they are studying. This change, which aims to give a more accurate reflection of students' living expenses in Canada, highlights the commitment to helping international students and relieving their financial concerns so they may concentrate more on their academic goals. Furthermore, these actions aim to address previous complaints of foreign students facing financial difficulties in Canada, highlighting the continued commitment to improve support systems and create an atmosphere that supports international students' academic success.

5 CHANGES TO OPEN WORK PERMIT ELIGIBILITY FOR SPOUSES

The availability of open work permits for spouses of overseas students studying in Canada will undergo a major adjustment shortly. Spousal Open Work Permits (SOWPs) were previously eligible to spouses of international students enrolled full-time in any qualified Canadian study programmes. However, this regulation is about to change. Going forward, spouses of master's and doctorate students as well as those enrolled in professional programmes such as law and medicine will be the only individuals eligible for open work permits under section C42. Open work permits will no longer be available to spouses of international students participating in undergraduate and other college programmes.

The recent study permit restrictions for international students in Canada reflect a commitment to enhancing education quality. Employers in Canada gain from modifications to work permit programmes, while clarity on living costs aid students in planning. Despite potential competition in the admissions and permit processes, these initiatives demonstrate Canada's commitment to promoting a thriving global academic community.







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