



Canada Desk Bulletin: **Business Exchange Possibilities**

Canadian-Bolivian Chamber of Commerce
Immigration Process for Canadian Citizens
Traveling to Bolivia

P·P·O

• LEGAL & TAX •

Interview: **ELDY AMPUERO**

Canadian Bolivian Chamber of Commerce



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Director - CBCC

1 **Explain the mission of the Canadian - Bolivian Chamber of Commerce**



The Canadian - Bolivian Chamber of Commerce ("CBCC") is a non-profit organization looking to provide commercial support to Bolivian companies who are interested in showcasing their products or services in Canada on one hand, and/or Canadian companies interested in investing and purchasing products or acquiring services in Bolivia, on the other.

2 **How is the CBCC currently operating and what projects do you have in mind for 2022?**

The CBCC's work ethics are based on efficiency and respect for others by sharing a strong sense of responsibility and commitment with the business community.








The Canadian - Bolivian Chamber of Commerce was created in June 2017 and it was incorporated on Federal level with the idea of meeting the needs to have an organization that encompasses a network of Bolivian professionals willing to provide support to Bolivian and Canadian companies interested in business exchange and investment opportunities between both countries.

From its creation and up until this date, the purpose of the project is to provide general and specific business information, market trends, commercial alerts, networking, support for events and generate interest in different sectors such as agriculture, foodstuffs, industry and services through a subscription model carried out by experienced Bolivian professionals residing in Canada. The CBCC's annual plan includes a post-pandemic reactivation for micro and medium-size companies and addressing the specific requests of some specific sectors such as mining, tourism and foodstuffs, among others.



3 **What type of activities are promoted by the CBCC?**

The CBCC is Bolivia's commercial eyes in the Canadian market for Bolivian companies and professionals. Therefore, the CBCC's activities focus in:

-  Identifying needs and creating new commercial opportunities
-  Connecting companies with entities that can offer solutions and opportunities
-  Offering and attending business round tables focusing on education and commerce
-  Carrying out a preliminary research of potential clients in Bolivia as well as in Canada
-  Coordinating logistics for the commercial missions, including transportation, lodging and meal planning
-  Coordinating commercial trips for individuals or teams to Bolivia or Canada
-  Act as a link in areas of information, networking and leadership



4 What are the main industries that make up the CBCC?



The CBCC is a multisectoral organization that provides commercial support for goods and services. The main industries are foodstuffs, agribusiness, mining, education, and tourism.

5 How does the CBCC perceive the commercial development between Bolivia and Canada?



Canada and Bolivia have enjoyed official bilateral diplomatic relations since 1961.

The development of bilateral programs between Canada and Bolivia are aligned with Bolivia's 2015 – 2024 national plan for social and economic development, and its priorities are the elimination of poverty, and the promotion of health and sustainable economic growth.

In spite of not having a Free Trade Treaty, Canada acts as an active commercial partner, investing in multilateral organizations and funds that benefit Bolivia. The current development program focuses on women's rights, health and sexual and reproductive rights, as well as inclusive green growth. Most initiatives are implemented to a large extent in indigenous communities. Canadian NGOs are particularly active in Bolivia and approximately 100 Canadian expert technicians share experiences with Bolivia every year.

In 2020, bilateral commerce between Canada and Bolivia added up to \$272.7 million. Canadian exports totaled \$16.3 million (mainly vegetables, machinery, wheat and reagents for medical diagnoses). Canadian imports totaled \$256.4 million (mainly silver, zinc and other precious metals and cereals).

It is expected that these relations will be maintained and strengthened in post-pandemic times.

6 Current activities showcased by the CBCC focus on women-held businesses and women's professional development in Canada. Can you offer more details on this?



One of the CBCC's objectives is to foster entrepreneurship and provide commercial support to business initiatives where women and men have the equal opportunities. To reach this goal, concrete and attainable measures have been created and implemented within the CBCC in order to facilitate the empowerment of male and female professionals and entrepreneurs. This is achieved by promoting activities that highlight business owners' achievements in digital platforms along with the help of community-based marketing campaigns to raise awareness. Women focused activities were showcased following worldwide women celebration dates in an effort to highlight and celebrate Bolivian women's achievements in Canada.








Among other activities, the CBCC also provided support to the Bolivian Embassy in Canada in different events and was invited to participate in various activities representing the Bolivian community.



7 Can you detail some representative examples of the CBCC's role in terms of business development between Canada and Bolivia?



Our services focus on providing support for the international showcase of Bolivian companies in Canadian territory. To that extent, the CBCC:

-  Promotes and facilitates better commercial relations between Canada and Bolivia
-  Provides essential information about how business doing in both markets
-  Gathers business leaders and provides networking platforms to facilitate contacts in both countries
-  Represents members' mutual interests and adopts measures to promote their interests
-  Facilitates the mobility of members, companies and their employees in both countries
-  Fosters good corporate citizenship to benefit the communities where members do business
-  Promotes advantages of both countries as great places to do business









8 What are the benefits of being affiliated to the CBCC?



The CBCC nurtures a constructive environment that allows companies and business persons with interests in Bolivia and Canada to expand their contacts network facilitating new alliances and associations.

The CBCC has the necessary experience to seek attractive opportunities to undertake successful businesses, forge alliances and offer unique activities designed to create a more vibrant economic climate between Canadian and Bolivian business persons.

Some of the benefits that the CBCC has to offer to its members are:

-  Special prices for feasibility studies
-  Market and price research
-  Development of market data per product
-  Verified lists of potential buyers
-  Personalized business agendas for the market
-  Access to preferential fees for flights, tourist packages, hotels, car rentals
-  Participation in newsletters
-  Promotion of goods and services in social networks, among others

The CBCC offers personalized benefits based on the needs of each affiliate.



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Interview: **LUIS PÉREZ**

*Immigration Process for Canadian
Citizens Traveling to Bolivia*



Luis Pérez

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Immigration Process for Canadian Citizens Traveling to Bolivia

The purpose of this interview is to describe the immigration process applicable to Canadian citizens entering Bolivia as well as the application of travel measures related to the Covid-19 pandemic. To that effect, Luis Pérez – head of the immigration practice at PPO – provides further details concerning these procedures.

1 From an immigration standpoint, what are the legal provisions applicable to Canadian citizens traveling to Bolivia?



According to Bolivian Immigration Law, Canadian citizens correspond to the first group n°1. Travelers included in this group do not require a visa to enter the country as tourists. However, immigration status for group n°1 travelers can change according to the activities they may decide to undertake in Bolivia, for example, work, study, family or other activities.

2 In which cases Canadian citizens need a visa to enter Bolivia?



Law 370 and Regulatory Decree 1923 establish that Canadian citizens do not require a visa to enter Bolivia for tourism. The presentation of a valid passport (valid for at least 6-months prior to expiry date) will suffice to enter Bolivian territory. However, if Canadian citizens enter Bolivia for work, they will need to apply for a transitory permanence visa.

3 What are the costs of obtaining a visa?



Permanence term	Cost (approx. in USD)
30 days	55
90 days	125
180 days	210
Temporary work for 1 year	330
Temporary work for 2 years	430
Temporary work for 3 years	535



4 What are the conditions of this visa (tourist, work, maximum term)?



The authorization for tourist or visitor activities is granted to Canadian citizens through an entry stamp for the purpose of rest and recreational activities. The tourism visa does not allow Canadian citizens to undertake any remunerated or profitable activities in Bolivian territory. The maximum term of the visa is 90 days per calendar year.

The transitory permanence visa applies to Canadian citizens looking to carry out remunerated or profitable activities in Bolivian territory, under a work contract or not, for a period of 180 days per calendar year at most.

The temporary permanence visa to develop work activities is granted to Canadian citizens that will carry out remunerated or profitable activities in Bolivian territory, with or without a relation of dependency, for a period of three years at the most.

5 With respect to the safety measures resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, are there any special conditions applicable to Canadian travelers traveling to Bolivian?

In accordance to Ministerial Resolution No. 01 dated April 27, 2022 the following epidemiological surveillance measures are applicable all citizens that wish to enter Bolivian territory:

- A)** Covid-19 vaccination certificate (print or digital format) evidencing the application of two doses or a single dose, at least 14 days prior to the entry date; or
- B)** Certified negative RT-PCR test for persons older than five years of age. The following process is applied:
 - i)** Air travel, up to seventy-two hours prior to departing the country of origin.
 - ii)** Land, fluvial or lake travel, up to forty-eight hours prior to entering Bolivia
- C)** Certified nasal antigen test for persons older than five:
 - i)** Air travel, up to forty-eight hours prior to departing the country of origin.
 - ii)** Land, fluvial or lake travel, up to forty-eight hours prior to entering Bolivia.

6 In your experience, how frequently does immigration regulation change in Bolivia?



Immigration regulation changes every 3 or 5 years, however internal rulings can be modified between 5 and 7 times per year.

7 In your experience, which difficulties do you frequently encounter in terms of immigration law enforcement?



The difficulties that arise in terms of immigration law in Bolivia are mainly due to the fact that law enforcement tends to be uneven depending on the immigration office location or border control.



8 What practical advice can you offer Canadian travelers entering Bolivia?



We recommend the following:

- Confirm that your passport is valid for at least six months prior to your trip
- Verify that all the documentation to be used in Bolivia is apostilled and translated to Spanish
- Process the adequate visa in the country of origin in case the reason for travelling involves carrying out work activities, in order to shorten the processing terms so the traveler can start working immediately upon entering the country
- In the event that travelers must bring personal criminal record certificates with them, confirm the date of issuance of the certificate is within 90 days of being presented to immigration authorities
- When the Canadian citizen has obtained a temporary permanence in Bolivia, he/she must not leave the country for a period exceeding 90 days without an express authorization issued by the Migration Office, otherwise his/her permanence will be automatically cancelled
- Comply with the bio-safety and epidemiological measures established by the Bolivia (mentioned above).



Mining Event



Brunch discussion on **“Latin American Emerging Mining Jurisdictions: Bolivia and Ecuador”**

McCarthy Tétrault, PPO and Robalino hosted a brunch to introduce and discuss the topic of “Latin American Emerging Mining Jurisdictions: Bolivia and Ecuador” at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto on June 14.

PPO partners Pablo Ordonez (Tax) and Mattias Garrón (Energy and Natural Resources) attended the event and participated in the discussion.

This event was held alongside the PDAC’s Premier Mineral Exploration and Mining Convention in Toronto, Canada. PPO participated in the convention for the fifth consecutive year.



Canada Desk Team

The PPO Canada Desk team is integrated by members of our firm who are constantly working alongside Canadian companies and law firms, with unique ability, knowledge and experience to expand this ground-breaking initiative.



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