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**To:** BC Employers accessing temporary foreign workers from Mexico **Date:** October 16, 2018  
**From:** Veronica Moreno, WALI Program Manager and  
Glen Lucas, WALI Assistant General Manager  
**Topic:** Biometrics Update

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Biometric data (fingerprints, and retinal scans) will be required for all Mexican citizens traveling to Canada after December 31, 2018. This requirement also applies to all Temporary Foreign Workers (including SAWP) arriving from Mexico. Biometric requirements have already been in place for Caribbean workers for several years already.

As the Canadian government office in Mexico City that will be collecting biometric data has limited capacity, we are expecting increased processing times for work permits in 2019.

**An update with more information will be provided after the binational meetings on October 18-19.**

For now, please refer to the information sheet provided by the Government of Mexico that can be found on the WALI website [News and Updates](#) page.

#### **ACTION REQUIRED**

- Submit your LMIA application to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) **six months before the desired arrival date of your first worker.**
- Work permit applications received by the Mexican Ministry of Labour by December 7, 2018 and by IRCC (Canadian Government in Mexico) by December 15, 2018 should not require biometric data.
- **Submit LMIA applications for workers arriving in January - March as soon as possible.**