

## The Guardian, Page 17 (December 06, 2006)

### Canada woos investors from Nigeria

**E**VEN as Nigeria continues its search for Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) inflows into the country, Canada has taken a bold step to attract Nigerians to invest in her

*From Mathias Okwe,  
Abuja*

country, offering such mouth watering concessions such as unconditional citizenship to immi-

grants that are willing to settle in the North American country.

This initiative is being jointly undertaken by the Canadian government and Desjardins, Canada's sixth

largest bank.

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### Canada woos investors from Nigeria

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country's sixth largest bank, Nigerian investors are urged to take advantage of Canada's Immigrant Investor Programme to migrate into the country and do business. The Immigrant Investor Programme is a scheme operated by Desjardins, and it allows investors from all over the world to migrate into Canada, get residence permit and establish any form of legitimate business like any other citizen of the country.

Mr. Marc Audet, the Desjardins' vice president, Immigrant Investor Pro-

gramme recently declared in Abuja at an event organised to enlighten potential Nigerian investors about the programme that the scheme grants unconditional visas to successful applicants, thereby giving them the rights to engage in what-

ever kind of legitimate activity they may want to get involved in.

According to him, the bank currently promotes the scheme in over 70 countries across the globe, pointing out that over 700,000 applicants have expressed interest in the

programme so far.

Under the arrangement, Audet explained that the investor is expected to pay \$400,000 to the Canadian government. The government will in turn invest the money and return the exact amount to the investor after five years, without interest.

## Financial Standard, Page 9 (December 06, 2006)

# Canada woos Nigerian business community

**A** team of Canadian immigration advisors and leading world financial experts will today, in Lagos, meet with Nigerian business professionals to educate them on investment opportunities that can be explored through the Canadian Immigrant Investor Programme (IVP). The Canadian delegation had earlier held similar discussions in Abuja on Monday.

At the meeting today, the foreign experts would share their business and managerial experiences with the participants on how they can harness the platform for stress-free migration to Canada.

"This is to showcase to the Nigerian business community

the vast business opportunities and benefits available in Canada," said Mr. Okwunna Ekpunobi, facilitator of the seminar and managing director, Nobis Limited.

"It is also to educate, direct and assist interested business individuals in the most appropriate and legitimate ways of migrating and establishing in Canada."

He added that the interactive sessions would offer opportunity to prospects to be registered for the April, 2007, business exploratory/seminar trip to Canada.

He said the Canadian government created the IVP to offer qualified business people from around the world a simple way to immigrate to

that country by contributing to the development of its economy.

One of the criteria for qualification, according to Ekpunobi, is a minimal investment which must be 100 per cent guaranteed, explaining that immigrant investors are individuals who possess managerial experience in business in the North American country. He pointed out further that the programme is structured and guaranteed, thereby making investments risk-free and fully secured.

Under the IVP, he said qualified immigrants and their families enjoy the privilege of unconditional visa and permanent resident status leading to citizenship,

immediately upon arrival, with the same freedoms and rights as other Canadians. These include the right to live, study and work in any part of the country, right to a democratic government, equality and protection under the law, right to free education and university scholarships, free medical services as well as the freedom to enter and leave the country at will.

Other benefits are access to Desjardins Bank facilities and exclusive business opportunities made available through Desjardins' vast network of business clients, beside the complete support that would be given to qualified candidates before, during and after arrival in Canada.

## **Canada initiates scheme to boost economic ties with Nigeria**

**T**O make it easy for Nigeria investors to penetrate the international business environment, Desjardins, a Canadian Banking, brokerage and insurance company, has introduced the Immigrant Investors Programme into the Nigerian market.

According to the Vice President of Desjardins Immigrant Investor Programme, Mr. Marc Audet, to qualify, the investor must possess a global net worth of at least \$800,000 Canadian dollars, have management experience and "commit to a 100 per cent government guaranteed passive investment of \$400,000 for a five year term."

Audet, who briefed the media on the immigrant investors programme in Lagos recently, stated that the Canadian government created the immigrant investors pro-

*By Roseline Okere*

gramme to provide qualified business people and their families with a simple way of immigrating to Canada, while at the same time contributing to the expansion of the country's vibrant economy.

He noted that the programme's requirements were easy to meet as it was designed to give investor applicants an important head start and also did not require them to establish a business while in Canada.

"As a result, larger numbers of investors are successfully completing the immigration process clearly, the numerous advantages of this first class programme become apparent when administered by a world class financial institution like Desjardins, which has help thousands of eligible candidates obtain uncon-

ditional visas, permanent residence and ultimately, Canadian citizenship," he added.

Speaking further, the Desjardins representative disclosed that the government, in full at maturity, would reimburse the required investment, even as the investment was risk free and fully scanned by government.

Audet, who said that Desjardins offered financial plan to help significantly reduce the investors payment, added that the programme also gave the right to live, study and work anywhere in Canadian, right to a democratic government, equality and protection under the law and the right to free education and medical services.

He, therefore, advised Nigerian investors to take advantage of Desjardins Immigrant Investors' programme to expand their business frontiers.

## **BusinessDAY, Page 3 (December 08, 2006)**

### *Finance Experts Speak on Investment Opportunities in Canada*

**KIRK LEIGH**

**A** team of Canadian immigration advisors and leading world financial experts were in the country to educate Nigerian business professionals on investment opportunities that can be explored through the Canadian Immigrant Investor Programme (IVP).

During the two-day seminar which held in Abuja on Monday, December 4, 2006 and Wednesday, December 6, 2006, the foreign expert shared their business and managerial experiences with the participants on how they can harness the platform for stress-free migration to Canada.

Facilitator of the seminar and Managing Director, Nobis Limited, Okwunna Ekpunobi said: "This is to showcase to the Nigerian business community the vast business opportunities and benefits avail-

able in Canada. It is also to educate, direct and assist interested business individuals in the most appropriate and legitimate ways of migrating and establishing in Canada."

He added that the interactive sessions would offer opportunity to prospects to be registered for the April 2007 business exploratory/ seminar trip to Canada.

On the Immigrant Investor Program (IVP), he revealed that it was created by the Government of Canada to offer qualified business people from around the world a simple way to immigrate to Canada by contributing to the development of its strong and prosperous economy.

Among the criteria and procedures for qualification, according to Ekpunobi, is a minimal investment which must be 100 per cent guaranteed while explaining that immigrant investors are individuals who possess managerial experience in busi-

ness in the North American country.

He pointed out further that the program is structured and guaranteed, thereby making investments risk-free and fully secured.

Under the IVP, qualified immigrants and their families enjoy the privilege of unconditional visa and permanent resident status leading to citizenship immediately upon arrival, with the same freedoms and rights as other Canadians. These include the right to live, study and work in any part of the country, right to a democratic government, equality and protection under the law, right to free education and university scholarships, free medical services as well as the freedom to enter and leave the country at will.

Other benefits are access to Desjardins Bank facilities and exclusive business opportunities made available through Desjardins' vast network of business clients, beside the complete support that would be given to qualified candidates before, during and after arrival in Canada.

**Financial Standard, Page 18  
(December 18, 2006)**

## Canada seeks closer trade ties with Nigeria

By **Frederick Mordi**

Canada has indicated its interest to do business with the Nigerian business community as part of its ongoing efforts to open up that country for investments. Mr. Marc Audet, vice president, immigrant investor programme, Desjardins, a leading Canadian financial institution with more than \$130 billion in assets and the 92<sup>nd</sup> largest bank in the world, who stated this in Lagos recently during a meeting with Nigerian businessmen, said the company is willing to introduce them to Canadian firms in the areas of supply/distribution, real estate and joint venture projects. Audet also said business opportunities exist in franchising.

He said Canada's dynamic

economy and relative cost advantages provide a first-rate business environment for foreign business people and new immigrants, adding that one of the reasons Nigerian businessmen should consider investing in Canada is that the country has the lowest overall business costs among the G7 countries. The others are Italy, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and Japan. He also cited friendly corporate income tax system, low labour cost, strong economic fundamentals and easy access to markets, as other reasons.

Tessy Ekpunobi, president, Destined4Canada Inc, was the coordinators of the programme. Ekpunobi arranged the event to enable Desjardins to brief Nigerians.

Trade between both countries has been upbeat since Canada restored ties with Nigeria in September 1998. Last year, the volume of Canada's export to Nigeria stood at \$176 million, while its import was \$111 million, within the same period.



OBASANJO