

TORONTO metro

\$10,000,000
estimated



**Wednesday's
Jackpot**



RAFA RULES NEW YORK

REJUVENATED
NADAL BEATS
DJOKOVIC AT U.S.
OPEN FOR 13TH
GRAND SLAM TITLE

PAGE 40

Syria agrees to hand over chemical arms

But skeptical White House
still pressing for military
action

PAGE 8

Newspapers defend Ford reporting

Hearing scrutinizes Toronto
Star, Globe and Mail stories
detailing drug allegations

PAGE 4

Salinger revealed

Writer spent years on trail of
famed author, wooing
reluctant interviewees and
ultimately producing book,
documentary

PAGE 15

Immigrants hit hardest by foreign service strike: Data

Labour dispute. Visas
for newcomers are
down, while temporary
visas for tourists and
students are up

Permanent-residency appli-
cants appear to be taking the
biggest hit from ongoing job ac-
tion by foreign-affairs officers,
prompting concerns about
whether Ottawa's 2013 immi-
gration target can be met.

According to government
data obtained by the Torstar
News Service, the number of
immigrant visas granted from
May to July of this year has
dropped 7.5 per cent, to 60,416
individuals. That compares to
65,255 in the same period last
year and marks a whopping 22
per cent drop from the same
three-month period in 2010.

Background

- The labour dispute centres on Ottawa's refusal to close the wage gap between foreign-affairs workers and their counterparts in similar types of work. Closing the gap will incur a \$4-million one-time cost.
- There is still no resolution in sight as the job action enters its sixth month.

The numbers appear to bolster claims by the foreign-service workers' union that staff are being diverted to process temporary-resident visa applications at the expense of permanent-resident files, which the government denies. "The processing of perma-

nent-resident visas has been ground to a standstill at a number of (visa) sections we targeted," said Timothy Edwards, president of the Professional Association of Foreign Services Officers (PAFSO), whose members have implemented rotating strikes and work-to-rule at busy visa posts.

Since PAFSO began its job action in April, the number of temporary visas issued to foreign visitors, students and workers from its top-10 countries has actually risen by 11 per cent to 296,531, from the same time in 2012.

Ottawa has been under tremendous pressure from the tourism industry, universities and colleges, and employers to ensure that Canada's tourism industry and international education sector would not be affected by the labour dispute.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



PRETTY WOMAN SHINES

A glowing Julia Roberts and her co-star Dermot Mulroney arrive at the August: Osage County premiere on Monday at Roy Thomson Hall. The Oscar buzz for this comedy-drama based on Tracy Letts' play — and also starring Meryl Streep — is already huge. More TIFF coverage, pages 18 & 20. JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES

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