



January 23, 2023

Hon. Chrystia Freeland  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
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Dear Minister Freeland,

As you gather with members of your Cabinet to consider “efforts to build an economy that works for all Canadians,” [World Education Services \(WES\)](#) offers the recommendations and observations below as they relate to the social, educational, and economic inclusion of newcomers to Canada, including immigrants, refugees, and international students.

WES shares your government’s goal of “transforming the way we serve Canadians and clients, positioning our immigration system for the future to the benefit of all Canadians”. The following recommendations are focused on addressing the ongoing health human resources crisis through measures to support internationally educated health professionals, building an equitable immigration system for all, and supporting workforce development programs to advance the labour market integration of all newcomers.

### **Internationally Educated Health Professionals**

- WES encourages Health Canada to continue the work to develop and implement an Internationally Educated Health Professionals Blueprint to create systemic solutions to the challenges faced by [internationally educated health professionals](#). This talent is needed to assist with the current national health care shortages as well as our long-term needs.
- Support provincial investments into implementing [measures](#) that can improve access to care, equity, and sustainability within health care workforces, namely by advancing a national Practice-Ready Assessment (PRA) framework for internationally trained physicians (ITPs), equitably expanding access to medical residency training, and enabling pathways for ITPs to practice in regulated Clinical Assistant (CA) roles as a stepping-stone to independent licensure.

### **An Equitable Immigration System**

- In a recent [submission](#), WES provides general and category-specific recommendations to help shape the new category-based selection process within Express Entry to accelerate Canada’s economic recovery and to support Canadian nation-building, including the development a nurturing society and resilient welcoming communities.
- WES encourages your government to examine our October 2022 [recommendations](#) concerning regularizing the immigration status of potentially 500,000 undocumented persons who are contributing to communities across Canada.

- We also encourage your government to support the recommendations offered by WES to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration (CIMM) to support the success of international students by (i) providing accurate information before arrival in Canada, (ii) ensuring equitable access to settlement and employment services, (iii) providing them the opportunity to gain Canadian work experience through different work integrated programs, and (iv) providing them with transparent and consistent information on study permit criteria and immigration pathways.

### **Workforce Development**

- WES encourages your government to design and implement workplace integrated learning, job placements, co-op, internships and other work experience programs for immigrants, refugees, and international students.
- Continue support for the Foreign Credential Recognition Program to advance the labour market integration of skilled newcomers.

WES looks forward to continuing to work with you, the Prime Minister, your Cabinet colleagues, and sector stakeholders to remove the barriers faced by immigrants, refugees, and international students and to co-develop innovative and practical solutions that can leverage the skills and experience of all newcomers to Canada.

For any questions or additional information, please do not hesitate to have you team reach out to me directly at [smadhany@wes.org](mailto:smadhany@wes.org) or 647.222.4176.

Regards,



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