



June 30, 2014

The Honourable Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister for Multiculturalism
325 East Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Jason Kenney,

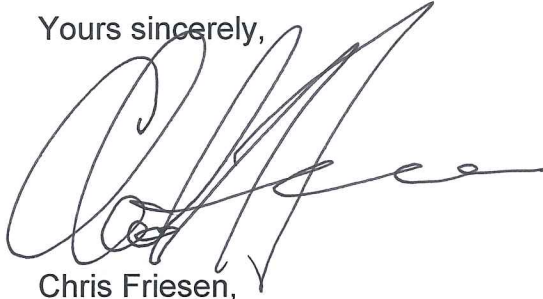
Re: Changes to the Temporary Foreign Workers Program.

We are writing to congratulate you on your leadership with the recent changes announced to the Temporary Foreign Workers Program on June 20, 2014. We welcome these changes and feel that they may help to create more employment opportunities for under-employed permanent residents to Canada. We also feel that if employers in Canada require employees to fulfill certain occupational or labour market gaps that it is far better to adjust our immigration selection process to address these needs through the permanent immigration stream rather than as temporary foreign workers.

We also applaud your leadership in increasing the processing fee paid for by employers when applying for a temporary foreign worker. This fee is reasonable and still far cheaper than is the case in other countries, including the United States. For your information, our members submitted a briefing note in December 2013 to the Department of Citizenship and Immigration as a follow up to the November 2013 National Settlement Conference Vision 2020. This briefing note was submitted for consideration by the Department as part of current settlement policy reform deliberations and this was one area that we proposed, an increase in the processing fee paid by employers. We, however, went further with our proposal and asked CIC to consider creating a separate funding stream paid by employer processing fees to develop a national support program to provide a defined scope of support services to some categories of temporary foreign workers, including principal applicants, spouses and dependent children over and above what is currently provided by some provinces.

Lastly, we would welcome an opportunity to have a targeted joint consultation with your department and CIC to discuss several key areas that interface between the two departments, including the implementation and impact of the Express Entry Class, Canada Job Strategy program, modifying the current labour market opinion process and addressing some key labour market programming gaps to help immigrants and refugees fully integrate into the Canadian labour market.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Friesen', written over a horizontal line.

Chris Friesen,
Chair, CISSA-ACSEI

c.c. The Honourable Chris Alexander, P.C., M.P.
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1L1