



Leadership for Workforce Mobility

January 9, 2017

The Honourable Navdeep Singh Bains, MP
Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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Global Skills Strategy

Dear Minister Bains and Minister McCallum,

On behalf of the members of the Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC), I am writing to express our strong support of the Government's announcement to develop a Global Skills Strategy that will allow Canadian companies to access highly skilled talent from around the world. We are also in favour of the proposal to drop the work permit requirement for very short-term work in low risk fields.

These are progressive initiatives at a time when some regions of the world are placing restraints on the movement of skilled workers. We believe these initiatives will deliver significant benefit and create jobs in the Canadian economy.

Following the announcement of November 30, 2016, CERC has been consulting with several of its member companies, including some of Canada's leading immigration legal firms, to gather their insights and ideas about how the Global Skills Strategy could best work.

Areas we discussed included: the types of occupations the Strategy would cover; program management; and conditions under which employers would be able to access or participate in the Strategy. A summary of our findings is attached for your consideration.

Important themes in the discussions were that a Trusted Employer Program should be a key component of the Strategy, and the Strategy should not be restricted to specific sectors of employers, regions or industries. The Strategy should be accessible to all employers that are working to create growth and high skilled jobs for both short and long term projects that will deliver economic benefit to the country.

I trust these comments will be of value to you and officials in your respective departments in developing guidelines and policies to administer the Global Skills Strategy.

We would be pleased to meet with you, or members of your staff to discuss these comments in more detail.

Sincerely,

Stephen Cryne

President and CEO, Canadian Employee Relocation Council

CC The Honourable John McCallum, P.C. M.P.