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August 2, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin P.J. Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the members of the Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC), I am writing to congratulate your government's open approach to global trade, and particularly economic migration. CERC is a not for profit organization representing the interests of business in matters relating to the movement of employees for the purposes of employment,

As you are aware, shortages of skilled workers are impacting economic growth and business expansion around the globe. The supply of highly skilled workers is not growing fast enough to meet the increasing demand and access to key talent is a priority for many companies. In fact, according to research conducted by PwC earlier this year, some 77 per cent of global CEOs worry that skills shortages could impair their company's growth.

At a time when many regions of the world are turning away from global trade, and public opposition to migration is building, we believe your government is taking the right approach in promoting the benefits of free trade and implementing more progressive immigration policies.

The new Global Skills Strategy for example is one program that can help to attract the brightest and the best talent to Canada's shores. Government staff at the Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour and the Ministry of Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada, consulted extensively with the employer community in bringing this new program on line so quickly. We applaud those efforts.

In fact those efforts are bearing results and today Canada is viewed as a more desirable destination on a global level. Earlier this year CERC and Ipsos Global Public Research collaborated to conduct a survey across 20 countries with over 10,000 working women and men about their willingness to move to another country for employment purposes.

Our research found that while overall employees are less inclined to move for work than they were in 2012, the last time the poll was conducted, there some very positive trends. Global employees, for example, are most likely to consider relocating to a country that has a high

quality and accessible health care system (82%); is friendly to immigrants (77%); and has a good social security system in place (77%). All of which Canada has in place.

We also learned that while the United States of America remains the number one choice among employees considering relocation, Canada has moved to second choice ahead of the United Kingdom, Australia and Germany. Fewer people selected the United States as a first option than in 2012.

To retain our competitive position with other countries that are seeking out international talent, it is vitally important that Canada maintain a commitment to a robust, flexible economic immigration system that is responsive to the rapidly changing needs of business.

CERC remains committed to working with your government in achieving these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Cryne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Cryne  
President

Attachment

cc: The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada  
The Honourable Minister Patty Hadju, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour  
The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development