

Media Release

CERC calls on government to reduce red tape and improve Canada's economic immigration stream

Toronto, October 10, 2019 – The Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC) today released its platform of recommendations to improve Canada's Economic Class immigration programs. The recommendations, if acted upon by the next government, will provide Canadian businesses with expedited access to international talent.

According to CERC President and CEO, Stephen Cryne, "There is a global war for talent between businesses and countries. 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."

Canada welcomed 286,000 permanent residents in 2017. Of the total admissions, 159,262 were in the economic class, slightly below the target range of 164,100, and seven percent below the 170,390 economic immigrants admitted in 2015. Looking ahead, the number of economic class immigrants is targeted to reach 191,600 in 2019; 195,800 in 2020 and; 202,300 by 2021.

In releasing its recommendations, CERC notes that one in two Canadian CEO's are challenged to find appropriately skilled workers; this during a time when unemployment rates are at their lowest level in 43 years. Government of Canada forecasts predict that all growth in Canada's workforce will come about from immigration for the foreseeable future.

Key recommendations put forward by CERC include: the establishment of a Business Advisory Council for economic immigration and migration – including temporary foreign workers – that would advise government on improvements to programs and; establishment of a Trusted Employer Program that would pre-clear already compliant employers resulting in greater efficiency and predictability for employers, while at the same time freeing up government resources towards ensuring compliance with government regulations and securing our borders.

In 2017 CERC commissioned Ipsos Public Research to conduct a poll of 11,000 global employees across 20 countries about their willingness to move to another country for work. The findings of that polling show that Canada is now the second most popular destination among global employees who would consider emigrating for employment; the US remains in top spot.

According to Cryne "The current system is working well, but more must be done to reduce unnecessary barriers in the system. For sure Canada is a top destination country, but we can't rest on our laurels and say the system is great while other countries are implementing changes to make it much easier for companies to attract talented people."

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About CERC

The Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to removing barriers that restrict mobility and deployment of human capital, which are vitally important to Canada's future prosperity. Established in 1982, the Council represents the interests of its members on workforce mobility matters. Since 2006 CERC has been providing government with constructive recommendations to improve Canada's immigration system and temporary foreign worker programs. Many of the Council's members are listed in Canada's Financial Post Top 500. www.cerc.ca