



Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2019 Budget

By:

Languages Canada

- **Recommendation 1:** That the government implement a system for effectively tracking foreign students applying to and coming to Canada to study.
- **Recommendation 2:** That the government provide funding in the amount of \$ 1 million a year for five years for the creation and implementation of a two-way student mobility program.



Recommendation 1: That the government implement a system for effectively tracking foreign students applying to and coming to Canada to study.

Canada needs to track foreign nationals that apply (and are successful or not in coming) to Canada to study. The data currently available is incomplete and impacts IRCC and CBSA program integrity, poses potential security risks for Canada, and does not support Canada's language (and other) education sectors in competing effectively in the growing and strategically important international education sector.

There are currently many international students that are unaccounted for in Canada. Nobody knows whether they are at the institution of study they selected or even in the country. While designated institutions that receive international students must report to IRCC, the reports are not in real time. Languages Canada proposes that a small system be created as a pilot project that will allow tracking of all students applying to come to Canada to study and that said system track students as they apply to the institutions, apply for visas, arrive at their language education program (if accepted), and return to their country or continue on through educational pathway programs to other post-secondary programs, work programs, and/or permanent residency. When the pilot project is successful, it can be expanded.

The initiative will provide the following support for ensuring Canada's competitiveness:

- It will reduce risk and associated costs related to immigration;
- It will provide valuable data that can be used to improve Canada's export initiatives in international language education; and
- It will reduce cost and risk for Canada's 220 accredited language education programs in universities, colleges, and private sector.



Recommendation 2: That the government provide funding in the amount of \$ 1 million a year for five years for the creation and implementation of a two-way student mobility program.

Languages Canada members received 150,000 international language students in 2017, contributing over \$1.6 billion to Canada's economy and generating over \$204 million in federal and provincial tax revenue. Global growth in language travel education is beginning to slow, yet language learning continues to increase in countries around the globe. To remain competitive, Canada's language education sector must commit to increasing its presence in markets abroad – instead of bringing students to Canada, take Canada to students. Not only is this a growing source of export revenue, it is a vital strategic step in gaining market share of foreign students that choose to invest in Canada as the country of choice for education, work, and immigration. A larger, more diverse, and productive pool of candidates for Canada will translate into:

- The ability to select from a broad range of nations;
- The ability to select the best and the brightest;
- Have access to a more qualified global workforce; and
- Support for potential immigrants to be more productive by having the language skills, education credentials, and workforce experience.

Other countries have such programs embedded into their systems (Fullbright in the USA, British Council, Campus France, etc.). Languages Canada proposes a program to support two-way student mobility with the objective of achieving the outcomes outlined above. The program will:

- Allow Canadian students to travel to target markets within a well-structured program between a Canadian and foreign educational institution as part of the Canadian student's education experience;
- Ensure that the experience abroad will be recognized as part of the student's education (a major hurdle in two-way mobility);
- Provide the Canadian student access to a short certificate program that will allow them to be English/French teaching assistants in the university or college abroad;
- Increase collaboration and relations between Canadian and foreign universities and colleges;



- Provide Canada with a constant stream of brand ambassadors abroad who will have contact with students, faculty and communities;
- Prepare our youth to be global citizens and better able to compete globally support alignment of governments, sector, and institutions in delivering the program; and
- Allow Canada's language education sector to access the ever-increasing funds from foreign governments and private sector dedicated to internationalization efforts.

This last point should not be underestimated. Experience in the last few years demonstrate that nations are racing to prepare their citizens to be productive in the international arena, and language education is often the first step. Many nations do not have expertise in this field, and Canada is in a position to increase export revenues and place itself strategically within the educational context of these nations.

About Languages Canada

Languages Canada/Langues Canada is a non-profit association representing more than 210 private and public members that offer accredited English and French language education programs. As Canada's national organization representing language education, Languages Canada is committed to promoting growth and innovation in Canada's English and French language programs.

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