



## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CAREER COLLEGES**

2018 Pre-Budget Consultation

Submission to the House of Commons  
Standing Committee on Finance

**August 4, 2017**

## Executive Summary

The National Association of Career Colleges (NACC) is the national voice of regulated career colleges in Canada. For the last two centuries, students have chosen to attend a regulated career college to get the skills they need to get a job. Regulated career colleges are required to abide by strict regulations and must receive government approval of programs, instructors, curriculum, etc.

Currently (with a few exceptions), international students who attend regulated career colleges are not eligible to obtain a Post-Graduate Work Permit, unlike their public-sector counterparts. This policy results in fewer international students choosing Canada for their education and greatly affects the productivity of small and medium sized businesses across Canada.

The National Association of Career Colleges is requesting that students who attend regulated career colleges be able to obtain Post Graduate Work Permits.

## Introduction

The National Association of Career Colleges (NACC) represents regulated career colleges (RCCs) in Canada. For the last two centuries, our colleges have been a key part of Canada's post secondary education landscape. Today, over 175,000 students choose to attend one of Canada's many RCCs every year.

Strict provincial regulations exist regarding the operations of career colleges. Provincial governments approve (in most jurisdictions) the location, instructors, curriculum and financials. Career college programs can also be accredited as some are by the Law Society of Upper Canada, Canadian Medical Association, etc.

The colleges are for-profit and not-for-profit employers that provide 35,000 people the rewards associated with working in education: a fulfilling career dedicated to improving students' lives.

Students choose programs at career colleges for a number of reasons, including;

- Flexibility. Programs are condensed and shorter, and many are offered on the weekends or in evenings, to accommodate a work schedule or family.
- Smaller Class Sizes. Allowing each student to interact directly with the instructor.
- Hands on, practical experience. Work experience/training increases chances of getting a job, faster.
- Credibility. Provincial government oversight ensures quality education standards.

## Post Graduate Work Permit Program

Currently, international students who are enrolled in public institutions are eligible to obtain a Post-Graduate Work Permit (PGWP), allowing them to stay in Canada and gain work experience. Currently this does not apply to private institutions. There are very few exceptions to this:

- Most career colleges located in Québec are eligible; and
- Degree granting private post-secondary institutions are also eligible.

A few years ago, a pilot project also took place in B.C. where students registered in some career colleges were able to get post-graduate work permits. Results, based on a Citizenship and Immigration Canada (now Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) report, were positive.

By design, most programs offered at regulated career colleges are condensed and focused on job-ready education, both of which appeals to international students. Often times, comparable programs are not available at public institutions.

This federal government policy is hindering the productivity of small and medium sized employers, who are creating jobs in communities across Canada.

As a direct result of this government policy, international students are choosing different destinations. This is resulting in missed opportunities: the lack of revenues from international students deciding to go elsewhere is costing jobs and economic growth.

Considering that:

- Many international students wish to attend programs at regulated career colleges in Canada;
- Jobs will be created – both directly (at the colleges themselves) and indirectly (from other services that students would need – housing requirements, other services, etc);
- A federal government report (2015) stated that “opening up the Post Graduate Work Permit Program to private career college could make study in Canada more attractive to a larger base of potential international students, as well as assist with facilitation of transition to Permanent Residency for international students in Canada”;
- The business community is also supportive of career colleges getting access to this program as evidence by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce passing a resolution to that effect in 2016; and
- This change in policy would result in more productive small businesses in every corner of the country,

***The National Association of Career Colleges is requesting that students who attend regulated career colleges be able to obtain Post Graduate Work Permits.***

## **About NACC**

Established in 1896, the National Association of Career Colleges is the oldest post-secondary association in Canada. We represent nearly 500 regulated career colleges and are the national voice for the sector.

Our members are located across the country and offer programs in high-demand sectors, including:

- Skilled trades
- Health care
- Information technology
- Business
- Media/Video