



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

---

PETITION No.: **421-03093**

By: **MS. FRY (VANCOUVER CENTRE)**

DATE: **DECEMBER 12, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **HONOURABLE AHMED D. HUSSEN**

---

Response by the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

---

SUBJECT

**EMPLOYMENT**

---

**ORIGINAL TEXT**

---

**REPLY**

Our Government knows that international students bring tremendous economic, cultural and social benefits to Canada. In 2016, international students contributed \$15.5 billion to Canada's economy.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) recognizes that international students are often ideal candidates for permanent residency, given their language skills, Canadian education and Canadian work experience. That is why IRCC made changes to make it easier for applicants with Canadian education to stay in Canada. IRCC is also improving services and wait times for student permit applicants.

IRCC, in consultation with provinces and territories and stakeholders, continues to enhance immigration programs so they respond to Canada's national and regional economic, social, and cultural interests.

Currently, IRCC is undertaking a review of the International Student Program and Post-Graduation Work Permit Program to gain a better understanding of how international students are shaping Canada's education landscape and the extent to which they are fulfilling Canada's short- and long- term labour market and immigration objectives. The Department will take feedback, such as the concerns outlined in the petition, into consideration as part of these reviews.

During studies, international students enrolled in career colleges designated to host international students are able to work off-campus without a work permit (20 hours a week during academic sessions and full-time during regularly scheduled breaks between academic sessions) assuming that all eligibility criteria are met (for example, they are full-time students, duration of program, etc.). This provides the student with Canadian work experience that may support their employment search after graduation.

Although graduates of career colleges outside of Quebec do not have access to the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program, employers may hire these graduates through the Temporary Foreign Worker Program or the International Mobility Program which are designed to support employer efforts to fill labour and skills requirements. Both programs offer a range of options for employers seeking to hire workers in specific sectors or with specialized skills. Furthermore, time spent working under these Programs may count towards Canadian experience requirements for those career college graduates seeking permanent residency in the future.