



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES | CANADA

ASSOCIATION DES FIRMES
D'INGÉNIEURS-CONSEILS | CANADA

BRIEFING: TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER PROGRAM



Canada needs changes to TFWP to ensure a competitive marketplace

- Allow high-skill foreign workers to be evaluated and to enter the Canadian labour market more quickly by providing a separate stream for them that is not wrapped-up in red tape.
- Deem high-skill workers with valid work permits who have been working in Canada for more than one year to have a qualifying job offer for Express Entry, without the employer having to repost the job.
- Provide international students graduating from Canadian universities in science, engineering or management studies a clear and rapid path to permanent residency. Allow these students to qualify for Express Entry into the TFWP.

How you can help improve TFWP

- Share our concerns about the TFWP and its impact on high-skill workers with your caucus and with relevant Parliamentary committees.
- Clarify misconceptions about TFWP, help your caucus and committees make informed decisions regarding these proposed changes.
- Engage your constituency and discuss TFWP with them. Work with stakeholders to explain the benefits it can bring to their communities and why the proposed changes are necessary.
- Give us feedback. Is TFWP working in your community? How do your constituents feel about TFWP? ACEC wants to know the real world effects of TFWP.

Benefits to Canadians

- Allowing an expedited application process for high-skill workers already working in Canada will ensure that Canada is a strong competitor in the international market, attracting both highly skilled labour and investment from multinational companies.
- Successful companies will be confident about investing in Canada, thereby encouraging economic growth and creating more job opportunities for Canadians.
- Post-graduation job opportunities for international students with Canadian degrees will ensure that Canadian universities continue to attract high caliber students from abroad, thereby ensuring their elite status in an evolving marketplace.
- By making employment more accessible to high-skill workers, Canada will be a more attractive place to seek employment, thus mitigating the “brain-drain syndrome”.

Current Situation

- There is a shortage of qualified and experienced high-skill labour in Canada so that design, engineering and construction firms need to look abroad for prospective employees.
- Advertising requirements for the TFWP are onerous and unproductive. Hiring foreign workers also requires a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA), which is resource and labour intensive and in many cases unnecessary. These are major impediments to hiring qualified and otherwise available workers.
- While many companies have immediate needs, the TFWP process takes 18 – 24 months. Canadian companies need highly skilled labour now, not 18 – 24 months from now when their needs have changed.
- Canada’s growing economy means that our many high-skill workers cannot satisfy demand, hindering Canada’s growth. Foreign high-skill workers are eager to join Canada’s labour force and satisfy that demand, but they face discouraging roadblocks.

For more information, please contact:

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