



## TRIEC BACKGROUNDER

### Canadian Government's Announcement on Foreign Credential Recognition

On Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Canadian Government announced a new framework to process foreign credentials.

[Listen to TRIEC executive director Elizabeth McKeac comment on CBC Radio.](#)

#### WHAT the announcement said:

- Under the new Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications, foreign-trained workers who submit an application to be licensed or registered to work in certain fields will be advised within one year whether their qualifications will be recognized.
- The Framework follows the Government of Canada's commitment in the 2008 Speech from the Throne to "work with the provinces to make the recognition of foreign credentials a priority, attract top international students to Canada and increase the uptake of immigrant settlement programs."
- The Framework states that governments across Canada will work towards better practical services, assessments that are fair, transparent, consistent and timely across Canada, and improved workforce participation services for newcomers.

#### TRIEC explains:

##### WHAT will the framework mean?

TRIEC believes that this framework is a step in the right direction. It is the first time a federal government has consulted with the provinces and territories to articulate and strive for a coordinated strategy on credential recognition. However, the framework is not legally binding because it addresses the regulated professions, which fall under provincial/territorial jurisdiction.

##### WHY NOW?

This framework builds on the [2009 new Agreement on Internal Trade](#) signed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Canada's Provinces and Territorial Leaders in January 2009. Overall the agreement aims to improve labour mobility so that Canadian workers' credentials are recognized across provincial and territorial boundaries.

##### WHAT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Close to 80 per cent of skilled immigrants who come to Canada are outside the regulated professions. It is imperative that opportunities are created to build local networks and Canadian experience through mentoring, internship and bridging programs, and that employers are supported in their efforts to integrate skilled immigrants. TRIEC will continue to work with the Government of Canada to find solutions that work.

Continuing to build a repository of employer promising practices and resources is also a valuable strategy. [Check out](#) the Government of Canada's Employer's roadmap to hiring and retaining internationally trained workers.