

November 17, 2008

The Honourable Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N6

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC), I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism.

TRIEC is a multi-stakeholder council that convenes local leaders to find innovative solutions that connect skilled immigrants more effectively with the local labour market. We do this by working with a range of stakeholders to raise their awareness of the value of skilled immigrants, increase their acceptance to explore local solutions, and enhance their capacity to act.

While Canada may be facing tougher economic times ahead, it is even more important to take a long-term approach and invest in the areas that can reap future rewards. Skilled immigrants bring a wealth of experience and knowledge that Canada can leverage to grow the economy. But many skilled immigrants continue to be unemployed or underemployed. Studies have shown that early interventions, such as internships and mentoring, are effective measures that build the social capital and networks of skilled immigrants which result in gainful employment. TRIEC has worked closely on these kinds of initiatives with private and public sector partners to achieve successful outcomes for both immigrants and employers.

It is our hope that under your leadership the department will continue to invest in these areas as part of a long-term strategy to build Canada's future labour force. If TRIEC can be of any assistance, we would welcome the opportunity to work with you on these shared objectives.

Once again, congratulations Minister. TRIEC would be pleased to meet with you in the near future to discuss these issues and how we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth McKeen  
Executive Director