



## Policy Roundtable Mobilizing Professions and Trades

820-2 Carlton St. Toronto, ON M5B 1J3 Phone (416) 979-8611 Fax (416) 979-9853  
Email: [mail@promptinfo.on.ca](mailto:mail@promptinfo.on.ca) Web: [www.promptinfo.ca](http://www.promptinfo.ca)

For Immediate Release

March 22, 2005

### **TWO KEY PAPERS OFFER POLICY ROADMAP FOR IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION**

TORONTO – Two policy papers launched today offer governments comprehensive recommendations for immediate action on immigrant employment and settlement in Ontario and Canada, said PROMPT spokesperson Faviola Fernandez today.

PROMPT was joined by Toronto City Councillor Olivia Chow.

“The debate has been raging far too long, and government action needs a jumpstart. PROMPT is offering a roadmap with solutions to ensuring Canadian communities and the labour market benefit from settling skilled immigrants, who have been waiting for their chance to contribute and prosper,” said Fernandez about the release of the two research-based policy briefs today. “Leadership committed to boldly transforming the way we understand the potential contribution of immigrants is needed at all three levels of government,” Fernandez added.

*Towards a Comprehensive Labour Market Strategy for Immigrants* is aimed at solving the continuing breakdown between the need for skilled immigrant labour and the reality of hampered immigrant participation in the labour market. The paper spells out a vision for the labour market participation of immigrants, calling for good governance as the overarching code that draws on universal principles and values. Based on the results of a multi-stakeholder survey, it also makes recommendations that include the creation of a coordinated funding strategy for employment programs aimed at immigrants; program expansion to include the stage before professionals and tradespeople immigrate; increased government accountability for the success or failure of those programs; and a greater role for the many more stakeholders in society involved in immigrant employment, especially employers and groups representing skilled immigrant workers.

*Smart Settlement* is a road map for achieving the aims of small cities and communities that increasingly rely on immigration to achieve their regional development goals. Currently, strategies that tie opportunities to settlement in smaller centres, or rely exclusively on government services and programs, are ineffective. PROMPT recommends a community engagement model that recognizes immigrants themselves as partners in the settlement process, in order to build a social stake for newcomers to settle and stay in their new homes.

“Change is inevitable as is globalization”, said Gurmeet Bambrah, a representative from the Council for Access to the Profession in Engineering on PROMPT. “Canada is ideally placed to take governance to a new level that will truly place diverse human aspirations at the centre of development. The question is - are we willing to lead the way to this human centered model for globalization? Once we recognize that immigrants want to be community and nation-building partners, with value-added skills critical in a globalized economy, we will ensure our success in the province and country, and become a true leader of governance in the world.”

PROMPT is the collective voice of internationally educated professionals and tradespeople across Ontario. PROMPT was created to put forward research-based policy recommendations from the perspective of internationally educated professionals and tradespeople.