



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 Web: www.promptinfo.ca

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMMIGRANT PROFESSIONALS UNHAPPY WITH PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR BRIDGE TRAINING

TORONTO – An immigrant led roundtable representing over 20,000 immigrant professionals across Ontario expressed reservations about the province's announcement that it will pump \$14 million into 24 bridge training programs to integrate foreign trained professionals and tradespeople.

Nikhath Rasheed, Coordinator of the Policy Roundtable Mobilizing Professions and Trades (PROMPT) said, "Our current system assumes that immigrants are deficient in some manner and that they all need 'upgrading'. This is simply not true. Many immigrant professionals are work ready but are unable to get appropriate work. We need to be able to distinguish between those who need additional training and those who do not."

The roundtable agrees that there is a definite shortage in the skilled trades. "We need to re-evaluate our immigration system to be more in keeping with the economy's needs, rather than emphasizing on an immigration system that favours highly skilled professionals who, regularly, do not find appropriate jobs matching their skill levels."

PROMPT is currently undertaking research into bridge training programs in Ontario which will be released in summer 2006.

Background:

PROMPT's vision is to ensure equitable employment outcomes for immigrants with professional and trades backgrounds such that they can attain their full potential and be partners in nation building.

Professions represented on the roundtable include: Healthcare (Doctors, Nurses, Physiotherapists and Veterinarians), Applied Sciences (Engineers, Technologists and Technicians, Architects and Urban Planners) and Social Sciences (Teachers and Social Workers).

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For more information contact PROMPT Project Coordinator:
Nikhath Rasheed at (416) 979-8611 ext. 4310 / (416) 305 7830 (cellular)

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