



Leadership for Workforce Mobility

Toronto, September, 26, 2016 – The Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC) supports the recommendation of the House of Commons Standing Committee, studying Canada’s Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP), to establish a Trusted Employer Program. CERC has been a long-time proponent of a program that reduces red tape and recognizes the efforts of accredited employers that need to access the program for in demand skills. This was just one of 21 recommendations for revamping the TFWP contained in the report of the Committee released on September 19th.

According to CERC’s CEO, Stephen Cryne, “While we were pleased to see the inclusion of our recommendation for the adoption of a Trusted Employer Program (TEP), the report falls short in several other areas. The future of Canada’s economy lies squarely on our ability as a nation to attract high skilled talent to our shores and the recommendations do not adequately address that challenge.”

CERC provided 15 recommendations to the Committee earlier this summer. In addition to the Trusted Employer Program, CERC recommended a separate stream to expedite applications for in demand high skilled workers, and improved program administration.

In a 2015 CERC survey of employers that access the program, 75 per cent said they do not have access to timely and accurate information about the programs managed by Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, which oversees several areas of the temporary foreign worker program. In that same survey, two thirds of employers surveyed pointed to “ambiguous and ongoing changes to immigration rules” as the number one challenge when transferring employees into Canada.

According Cryne “There is little in the report that will address these issues and employers will continue to experience delays and inconsistencies unless a separate stream for high skilled talent is in place and administrative improvements are implemented. CERC would like to see the trusted employer program extended to the immigration system”, continued Cryne.

The report also calls for enhanced enforcement and on-site inspections, something CERC believes to a waste of resources for high wage employees. Stephen Green, of Green and Spiegel, and a member of CERC’s board of directors said, “Inspection should be based on ‘risk management’ and not apply to high wage employment relationships. Low wage workers are the ones in need of protection

According to Cryne “More time should have been taken by the Committee to study these issues in greater depth, further tinkering is not the solution.”

To arrange an interview with Stephen Cryne, please contact Catherine O’Neill at 416 593 9812, or via email coneill@cerc.ca

The Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to removing barriers that restrict mobility and deployment of human capital, which are vitally important to Canada’s future prosperity. Established in 1982, the Council represents the interests of its members on workforce mobility matters. Many of the Council’s members are listed in Canada’s Financial Post Top 500.