

Ministre  
de la Citoyenneté  
et de l'Immigration



Minister  
of Citizenship  
and Immigration

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

### **Greetings from the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism**

On behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Government of Canada, I am pleased to extend my best wishes to the organizers and attendees of the 2011 Global Skills Conference.

I would like to commend the organizers for their continued efforts to help newcomers put their professional and technical skills to use in our labour market. By connecting newcomers with Canadian employers, this conference opens the door of opportunity.

Every year, Canada welcomes thousands of newcomers for their potential contributions to our economy. The success of Canada's immigration system is ultimately determined by the ability of these newcomers to integrate into our labour force and broader society. Much of their personal success will be defined by their ability to find employment in the fields in which they are trained.

Governments, professional organizations and employers all have a role to play in helping newcomers transition into our workplaces and succeed in Canada. Since last year's conference, I'm pleased that the Government of Canada has achieved much progress with Ontario as well as the other provinces and territories to accelerate foreign credential recognition.

For example, under the Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications, all governments have committed to improve pre-arrival services for newcomers, and to provide them with skills assessments that are fair, consistent and timely across Canada. Under this new Framework, 10 regulated occupations are now developing and implementing clear and improved foreign credential recognition processes that will enable us to provide a decision within a year as to whether qualifications can be recognized.

This is an important milestone, but we must all continue to help address the barriers that prevent newcomers from entering their chosen profession in Canada. Through initiatives such as the Foreign Credentials Referral Office and events such as this conference, we are making great progress towards achieving our goal to help internationally-trained workers put their training and knowledge to use sooner.

As Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, I'd like to thank the conference organizers once again for their efforts in helping newcomers to find meaningful employment. I look forward to partnering with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Kenney'.

The Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP  
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism



**Canada**