



OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9
p: 250.561.7600 | www.princegeorge.ca

The Honorable Marc Miller
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A 0A6

Via: Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca

January 31, 2024

Dear Minister Miller,

We recognize the work undertaken to ensure fairness to those international students, from around the world, who look to Canada for post-secondary education and opportunity. While this discussion continues, we request that those holding, or who are seeking, key credentials, essential to maintaining the Canadian economy are given due consideration.

We feel it is important to prioritize the permit and visa applications for candidates with aviation industry credentials, such as pilots, to support the industry, especially in rural and remote communities. As work is undertaken to recalibrate international student visas, we suggest that this is a good time to work with industry to develop targeted immigration programs that encourage foreign students to come to Canada for training and to remain here as flight instructors or commercial pilots, and other in-demand occupations.

The call for streamlining of visa applications for applicants who could support this industry is certainly not new. We see this as a priority in the province of BC's aviation strategyⁱ and in the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada, Vision 2025 reportⁱⁱ. Indeed, one of the four areas for greater collaboration identified in the report is fast-tracking and adapting immigration for skilled aerospace workers.

With the work your Ministry is undertaking, and your own acknowledgement that the instruments being used are blunt, we ask that consideration is given to critical industries, such as aviation, during the implementation and review of adjustments to immigration and international education streams.

Sincerely,

Prince George City Council

CC:

Paul Chiang, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Bob Zimmer, Member of Parliament
Todd Doherty, Member of Parliament

ⁱ Connecting with the World: An Aviation Strategy for British Columbia. (2012).

ⁱⁱ Charting a New Course. Canada as a Global Aerospace Champion: Vision 2025. (2019).