



THE CANADIAN
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January 26, 2017

Via email: Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Patricia A. Hajdu, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour
165 Hôtel de Ville Street
Gatineau, QC K1A 0J2

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Immigration Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA Section), I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour.

The CBA is a national association representing over 36,000 jurists, including lawyers, notaries, law teachers and students across Canada. Our primary objectives include improvements in the law and the administration of justice. The CBA Section has approximately 1,000 members across Canada practising in all areas of immigration and refugee law. We are excited to work with you and to develop an ongoing dialogue on priority issues throughout your mandate. These priorities reflect the challenges currently faced by our labour market as a result of an aging workforce and increased globalization. They include growing our economy through the creation of good quality permanent jobs, improved access to quality job training, and affordable post-secondary education.

They also include creating opportunities for economic immigrants, such as international students, academics, artists and key business people. Immigrants are an important part of Canada's labour supply, and attracting and retaining these skilled workers, who make valuable cultural, social and economic contributions to our nation, strengthens Canada's global competitiveness.

Immigrants have been inappropriately disadvantaged through changes to immigration programs over the past decade through issues such as client service shortfalls and reduced transparency in processing labour market impact assessments. More work is required to streamline these processes, and help immigrants to succeed in securing meaningful employment in Canada through measures like foreign credential recognition, as well as pre-and post-arrival employment supports.

We are pleased that your government has committed to addressing many of these important issues, and applaud improvements that have occurred over the past year. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss how we can help you to achieve these goals.

In addition, we would like to invite you to be a keynote speaker at our Immigration Law Conference in Toronto on Friday, June 9, 2017 during our 1:00 pm EST luncheon as we celebrate Canada@150: The Immigration Experience. Our annual conference is the preeminent Canadian immigration law event, offering you an unparalleled opportunity to engage with the largest gathering of immigration lawyers and key stakeholders from across the country. We would request that your office respond by February 15, 2017 to confirm your availability to speak at the conference. There is some flexibility in the timing if that would better suit your schedule.

We look forward to offering you and your government our expertise and assistance as you strive to improve the working lives of Canadians.

Yours truly,

(original letter signed by Kate Terroux for Vance P. E. Langford)

Vance P.E. Langford
Chair, CBA Immigration Law Section