

Employer group supports changes to interprovincial labour mobility

Toronto ON, July 21, 2008. The Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC) - Canada's only organization devoted to advancing the interests and issues for workforce mobility - today voiced its support of The Council of the Federation's announced agreement that opens the door to full labour mobility within Canada by the summer of 2009.

CERC Executive Vice President Stephen Cryne said, "We are pleased to see the premiers have finally taken decisive action on an issue that is vital to Canada's economic future. While it is long overdue, this agreement is good for the provinces and certainly good news for employers who are experiencing labour shortage in many areas and sectors of the economy. Employers have been lobbying governments at all levels to address these long standing restrictions on labour mobility."

The proposed changes will level the playing field as Canada competes with other modern economies for increasingly scarce sources of skilled labour. Skilled immigrants looking to enter Canada have been deterred not only by an overburdened immigration system, but also by the inability to move freely for employment within Canada when they arrive.

If implemented the agreement will mirror what has proven to be the highly successful Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) in place between B.C. and Alberta. Under that agreement there is recognition of credentials and training between the provinces in many occupations. Quebec is also in discussions with France for an open mobility agreement that would see a plumber licensed in France being able to ply her trade in Quebec.

Statistics Canada reports that some 563,000 Canadians moved to a different province or territory between 2001 and 2006.

According to Cryne, "This announcement is one more step in addressing Canada's future labour shortages, which are expected to become even more acute within the very near future. The challenge now", said Cryne, "will be getting the over 400 regulatory and licensing bodies on the same page to develop the national frameworks needed to make this work by the 2009 deadline."

The Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC) represents the interests of leading organizations across Canada that relocate their employees for employment purposes.

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