

**REMARKS**

**IRCC ATLANTIC DIALOGUE SESSION  
'THE FUTURE OF CANADA'S IMMIGRATION SYSTEM'  
PIER 21, HALIFAX, NS  
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2023; 12:30 PM**

**DR. JEAN-PAUL BOUDREAU, PRESIDENT & VICE-CHANCELLOR  
MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY  
AND  
MEMBER, AAU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

***(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)***

**GOOD AFTERNOON.**

**FOR THOSE OF YOU I HAVE NOT MET, I AM JEAN-PAUL BOUDREAU, PRESIDENT AND VICE CHANCELLOR, MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY, SACKVILLE, NB.**

**MOUNT 'A' IS A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES – THE AAU - AN ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF THE REGION'S UNIVERSITIES.**

**IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME AS A MEMBER OF THE AAU'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO CO-HOST TODAY'S DIALOGUE SESSION WITH IRCC MINISTER SEAN FRASER, DEPUTY MINISTER CHRIS FOX, AND ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER LOUISE BAIRD.**

**BEFORE GETTING STARTED, I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT WE ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF MI'KMA'KI, THE UNCEDED, ANCESTRAL TERRITORY OF THE MI'KMAQ.**

**OUR RELATIONSHIP AND OUR PRIVILEGE TO LIVE ON THIS TERRITORY WAS AGREED UPON IN THE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATIES OF 1752.**

**BECAUSE OF THIS TREATY RELATIONSHIP IT IS TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE AND HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPECT THIS TERRITORY.**

**WE WELCOME YOU TO HALIFAX AND PIER 21.**

**THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION AT PIER 21 IS CANADA'S SIXTH NATIONAL MUSEUM. PIER 21'S MISSION IS TO SHARE THE ONGOING STORY OF IMMIGRATION TO CANADA—PAST TO PRESENT AND COAST TO COAST TO COAST.**

**IT IS A MOST APPROPRIATE SETTING FOR TODAY'S CONVERSATION TO HELP INFORM IRCC'S STRATEGIC POLICY REVIEW ON THE FUTURE OF IMMIGRATION.**

**WE ARE HONOURED THAT IRCC HAS CHOSEN ATLANTIC CANADA TO KICK-OFF ITS POLICY REVIEW.**

**INTERNATIONALIZATION IS A HIGH PRIORITY FOR ATLANTIC CANADA'S UNIVERSITIES.**

**UNIVERSITIES ARE A POWERFUL CONTRIBUTOR TO ATTRACTING TALENTED AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED YOUNG PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO ATLANTIC CANADA.**

**TODAY, NEARLY 22,000 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN 160 COUNTRIES STUDY AT THE REGION'S 16 UNIVERSITIES, REPRESENTING GROWTH OF NEARLY 90 PERCENT OVER THE PAST TEN-YEARS!**

**WE WORK HARD AT PROMOTING ATLANTIC CANADA AS AN EDUCATION DESTINATION IN A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MARKETPLACE.**

**ATLANTIC CANADA HAS MUCH TO OFFER:**

- **HIGH QUALITY, HIGHLY DIFFERENTIATED UNIVERSITIES**
- **UNIQUE UNDERGRADUATE AND POST-GRAD PROGRAMS**
- **SAFE, SECURE, WELCOMING CAMPUSES AND COMMUNITIES AND,**
- **UNIQUE PATHWAYS TO IMMIGRATION SUCH AS:**
  - **THE ATLANTIC IMMIGRATION PROGRAM AND,**
  - **STUDY & STAY HERE IN NOVA SCOTIA AND STAY & SUCCEED IN MY HOME PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

**AAU RESEARCH REVEALS THAT NEARLY 70 PERCENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WOULD LIKE TO STAY IN THE REGION FOLLOWING THEIR GRADUATION.**

**THEY REPRESENT A GREAT POOL OF FUTURE CITIZENS FOR ATLANTIC CANADA.**

**HOWEVER, WE CANNOT TAKE OUR RECENT SUCCESS ATTRACTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FOR GRANTED.**

**IRCC IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR UNIVERSITIES, AND OUR REGION, IN THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MARKETPLACE.**

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE STRONG COMMITMENT FROM MINISTER FRASER AND DEPUTY MINISTER FOX TO WORK IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AAU AND ITS MEMBERS TO HELP ADDRESS CRITICAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE SUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO OUR UNIVERSITIES AND REGION.**

**IN RECENT MONTHS, THE AAU AND OUR UNIVERSITY LEADERS HAVE HAD PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH IRCC ABOUT THESE MATTERS AND I AM HAPPY TO REPORT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TO ADDRESS OUR CONCERNS, ESPECIALLY AROUND VISA PROCESSING TIMES.**

**TODAY'S SESSION OFFERS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, ORGANIZED LABOUR, SETTLEMENT AND SOCIAL EQUITY ORGANIZATIONS AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO IRCC'S POLICY REVIEW PROCESS.**

**ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US, I THANK YOU DEPUTY MINISTER FOR YOUR INCLUSIONARY APPROACH TO FUTURE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND YOUR COMMITMENT TO CREATING A PARTNERSHIP TO COLLECTIVELY ACHIEVE AN IMPORTANT GOAL IN WHICH WE ALL HAVE A BIG STAKE:**

***EVOLVING CANADA'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES FROM KEEPING PEOPLE OUT – TO – A FACILITATIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE MODEL, THAT IS MORE WELCOMING AND HELPFUL, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CHOOSE TO COME TO OUR REGION TO LEARN, HOPEFULLY STAY AND THRIVE AS NEW CANADIANS IN OUR REGION.***

**FINALLY, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE REGION'S POST SECONDARY EDUCATION SECTOR IS COMMITTED TO COLLABORATION, COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP.**

**THAT IS TO SAY, OUR UNIVERSITIES ARE A WILLING PARTNER FOR FUTURE PILOT PROGRAMS WITH IRCC THAT SERVE TO EXPEDITE PATHWAYS FOR TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING PERMANENT RESIDENCE STATUS IN ATLANTIC CANADA.**

**WE SINCERELY WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED TODAY TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO IRCC'S POLICY REVIEW PROCESS.**

**THANK YOU.**