

Election Campaign

ENGINEERING^{*} on the Hill

www.engineerscanada.ca

REPORTING ON ISSUES ON PARLIAMENT HILL OF INTEREST TO THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION

This publication is not extensive and represents statements and activities made by the different federal parties during the last weeks relating to our position statements. Engineers Canada will work with the newly elected government on issues of importance to the engineering profession. This week the focus is on the issue of immigration.

Immigration

Engineers Canada supports international mobility for qualified engineers

To ensure equitable and fair treatment for international engineering graduates, Engineers Canada supports a transparent process for admission into the engineering profession in Canada.

In the interest of public safety, international engineering graduates must demonstrate that they meet Canadian standards for admittance into the profession prior to licensure.

The federal government's immigration legislation and policies should not create regulatory and enforcement problems for the provinces' and territories' self-regulated professions.

Engineers Canada believes prospective immigrants require information about the engineering regulatory system to make knowledge-based decisions about immigration to Canada.

The Liberal Plan on Immigration

According to the Liberals, immigration will account for 100 percent of Canada's net labour force growth over the next five years. Canada is in fierce global competition for skilled and talented people. And according to the Liberals, our current immigration system is currently not up to the task.

The Liberal immigration plan is built on the principles of fairness, accountability and opportunity. The Liberals believe that the immigration measures contained in the Conservatives' budget bill, Bill C-50, which will give sweeping

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NDP Immigration Plan

On Immigration, the NDP plans to repeal the Conservative government's new immigration law (C-50). The NDP opposes the measures of the legislation. Bill C-50 means increased exploitation of 'guest workers', more delays and restrictions for family reunification, less effective strategic planning for labour market needs, and more secretive and arbitrary decisions by cabinet ministers.

The NDP plans to accelerate and streamline the recognition of foreign credentials, overseas degrees and previous employment experience in conjunction with provinces and licensing authorities.

They want to review the current point system used to assess new applications to match the reality of work in Canada, including specific provisions for blue-collar workers and trades people.

The NDP would further increase financial support for the settlement process for new Canadians to assist with literacy, community integration and orientation, including bridging, mentorship, English and French as a second language (ESL and FSL) programs and resource service centres.

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NDP Party (continued from page 1)

On the issue of family reunification New Democrats plan to significantly increase resources and support for immigration processes to reduce the huge and unacceptable backlogs that currently exist in processing applications, work to meet Canada's target of annual immigration (1% of population), and establish firm targets for on-time completion of family class and spousal sponsorships.

The New Democrats plans to develop credible, accountable procedures and appeal processes for potential visitors to Canada for important family events such as weddings, births and illness, and for the reunification of married couples.

The NPD plan to properly regulate immigration consultants to stop abuse of immigrants and potential immigrants, and crack down on unscrupulous and illegal activities.

The New Democrats want to immediately implement the provision in the Immigration Act for a refugee appeal division to help facilitate a fair refugee hearing and determination process, and ensure that all vacancies on the Immigration and Refugee Board are filled in a fair and transparent manner. They also plan to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities in admission processes.

They would also allow people without status who are living in Canada the opportunity to apply for legal status.

Furthermore, the NDP would continue to ensure that all new Canadians have access to the "core" immigration system, rather than expand the temporary "guest worker" and "live-in caregiver" programs. These programs deny basic employee rights, do not allow application for immigration, and result in longer delays in the entire system.

Furthermore, in what the New Democrats call an effort to create a more compassionate Canada, Jack Layton and his team of New Democrats will:

- Through the refugee class of immigration, offer new hope to people fleeing persecution, violence and repression.
- Based on the recent decision by the Federal Court of Appeal that overruled the "safe third country" approach, abrogate the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States so all refugee claimants are granted a hearing outside of Canada.
- Establish a special program to allow "Iraq War resisters" from the US to remain in Canada.

For further details and a more in depth view of the various party platforms, please consult their websites at:

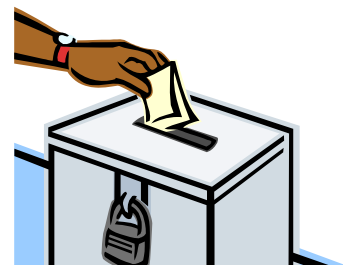
www.ndp.ca
www.liberal.ca
www.presentpourlequebec.org
www.greenparty.ca
www.conservative.ca

On October 14th, Do You Know Where to Vote?

Go to www.electionscanada.ca and punch in your home postal code in the Voter Information Services Box in the centre of the web page. You will find the name of your home riding, be able to determine whether you are on the eligible voters list, and who to contact if you appear not eligible.

Engineers Canada National Position Statements and Priority Issues

For a full and comprehensive version of the national position statements and priority issues, please visit the following web site:
http://www.engineerscanada.ca/e/prog_government_3.cfm



From Consideration to Integration

Launched in January 2003, *From Consideration to Integration* is a three-phase project. In Phase I, work focused on understanding the international engineering graduates experience, examining provincial and territorial engineering licensing procedures, and learning from those who work with and employ international engineering graduates. In Phase II, the Steering Committee analyzed the information, determined where the process of integration needs improvement and began to build consensus among stakeholders on possible solutions. In Phase III, Engineers Canada and its partners are working with key stakeholders to implement the recommendations and to develop supporting communications materials (i.e. fact sheets, Power Point presentations).

The goal of *From Consideration to Integration* is to develop new processes and/or improve current processes by which international engineering graduates are able to obtain an engineering licence without compromising public safety or lowering professional standards, and to find meaningful engineering employment. Doing this successfully means that the initiative is also looking at activities that take place prior to immigration. The project is fully funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

For more information on *From Consideration to Integration*, please visit <http://www.engineerscanada.ca/fc2i/e/index.cfm>

The Liberal Plan on Immigration (continued from page 1)

discretionary power to the Minister to pick and chose between classes of people, fail that test and a Liberal government will repeal them.

To streamline and improve the immigration system and reduce the current backlog, a Liberal government will invest \$400 million over four years to modernize its information, data gathering and processing procedures. A Liberal government will respect Canada's international commitments to refugees while providing a timelier and efficient refugee determination system.

A Liberal government will revamp Canada's immigration points system to give greater weight to skilled trades, to better align our immigration policy to the needs of the labour market. We will create In-Canada Fast Track – a new program to allow temporary workers, international students and live-in caregivers to apply for permanent residence within Canada, as well as increase the number of landed immigrants into our country consistent with our "immigrant success strategy."

The Liberals plan to introduce the Welcome Canada Pass – a five-year renewable, multiple-entry visitor visa for individuals sponsored by Canadian citizens and landed immigrants. Under this visa, the financial and personal responsibility for visitors will be borne by the sponsor, not the taxpayer. In addition, the Liberals would create a Canada Express Pass for frequent business visitors to reduce processing times and promote trade and commerce.

To help new Canadians reach their full potential, a Liberal government would invest \$200 million over four years in New Beginnings Canada – an enhanced language training initiative designed to help newcomers master the language necessary to get jobs that match their qualifications. They plan to commit \$200 million over four years to Bridge to Work – a new initiative that will better prepare newcomers for the workplace through the use of internships, mentorship and work placement opportunities.

The Liberals would further assist with foreign credentials recognition, by providing direct financial support to assist foreign-trained doctors and other professionals in obtaining their Canadian qualifications.

To ensure that all parts of Canada share the benefits new Canadians bring, a Liberal government would work with the provinces while respecting their jurisdiction, to help them attract and retain immigrants by strengthening their Provincial Nominee Program, providing better information about opportunities in all parts of Canada, and enhancing settlement resources for smaller centres. In essence we welcome New Canadians everywhere in Canada to help us enrich our country while we provide and expand their opportunities to succeed.

Conservative Party of Canada

By the time that this publication was prepared on Monday, October 6, 2008, the Conservative Party of Canada had not yet released their election platform material. Once a comprehensive platform is made public, we will include their position on **immigration**.

Bloc Québécois

In what the Bloc Québécois call: " *A Québec Approach to Integration*", they perceive that in recent decades, Québec has developed an approach to integrate immigrants into the Québec nation. This open approach goes against Canada's multiculturalism ideology, which encourages various communities to live in isolation. The Bloc Québécois is the only party that defends Québec's approach, while the other Canadian parties defend Canadian multiculturalism.

NEW - Voter Identification at the Polls

Option 1:

Provide **one original piece of identification** issued by a government or government agency containing your photo, name and address.

Option 2:

Provide **two original pieces of identification** authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada. **Both pieces must contain your name, and one must also contain your address.** For a full listing of accepted identification, please go to www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=ele&dir=ids&document=index&lang=e&textonly=false#two.

Option 3:

You can be vouched for by an elector whose name appears on the list of electors in the same polling division and who has an acceptable piece or pieces of identification. Both will be required to make a sworn statement. An elector cannot vouch for more than one person, and the person who has been vouched for cannot vouch for another elector.

For more information please go to www.elections.ca

The Green Party of Canada on Immigration

The Green Party immigration policy is a multicultural work-in-progress that will focus on ensuring that Canada's image around the world is also its reality, by investing in the human potential that 300,000 new Canadians bring to our country each year.

The Green Party pledges to:

- Work to remove unnecessary barriers recognizing the professional credentials of immigrants.
- Support multicultural communities by assisting cultural organizations to obtain charitable status.
- Improve cultural and business links with the home countries of new Canadians.
- Work with municipalities and provinces to improve the integration of new Canadians into the multicultural fabric of our country.
- Toughen the regulations governing the practices of immigration consultants; ensure enforcement and increase penalties for those convicted of human smuggling.
- Conduct a full and open review of the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Public Safety Act to eliminate security certificates and the release of the five people detained under them unless formal charges are brought against them.
- Regularize the estimated 200,000 people living in Canada without official status
- Open an investigation into allegations by the United Nations Human Rights Committee of Canadian officials cooperating with foreign agencies known to use torture.