

Federal Government Plans to Reform Express Entry for New Canadians

The 2021 federal Budget has introduced several changes to Canada's immigration system that will have implications for skilled trades employers. Canada's Express Entry system has been in place since 2015. The objective of Express Entry is to bring in highly skilled immigrants to Canada who will succeed in our economy and society.

Announced in the 2021 Budget, the federal government intends to streamline Express Entry. It is the main way that Canada selects economic class immigrants. It accounts for about 25% of all the immigrants Canada welcomes each year and allows the government to ensure our immigration system responds to Canada's growing economic and labour force needs.

The Government of Canada intends to propose amendments to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* to provide the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada with authority to use Ministerial Instructions to help select those candidates who best meet Canada's labour market needs from among the growing pool of candidates who wish to become permanent residents through this program.

We will be engaging with the Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship and on the proposed amendments to *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, and the implications for the Association.

Association members have an important role to play in ensuring that immigrants that directly benefit our industry can come to Canada for good paying jobs, particularly where we struggle to find Canadians to fill them.

If you have an interest in this system and would like to provide feedback into the consultation process, please contact Steven Crombie (905-629-7766 or steven.crombie@oswca.org)