

**Ministry of Citizenship
and Immigration**

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**Ministère des Affaires civiques
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Ontario

February 12, 2008

Dear President:

Our government recognizes the valuable contribution international students make to our thriving campuses across the province. Students from abroad bring diverse perspectives, sparking creativity and enriching the learning experience.

We are taking steps to attract and retain international students by expanding Ontario's Pilot Provincial Nominee Program, which was introduced last May.

Under this program, Ontario has the ability to select a limited number of immigrants to meet labour market needs and provincial priorities.

Currently, we have more than 35,000 international students enrolled in Ontario's colleges and universities – some of the best and brightest students in the world. Many of them want to stay in Ontario after they graduate. For the first time, the Pilot Provincial Nominee Program will make it easier for them to do so.

Effective immediately, the program has been expanded so that international students enrolled in any publicly funded Canadian college or university are eligible to participate, if they have a job offer and are within two years of completing their studies.

The program will also help your institution to recruit international students. Having more options after graduation is one more reason for international students to choose to study in Ontario.

I ask you to help inform your international students about the opportunities open to them under this program.

Melinda Gibson will be in contact with your international student office to discuss outreach efforts. In the meantime, your staff and students can contact her at Melinda.Gibson@Ontario.ca for additional information.

Together, we will build a better Ontario for all.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Chan'.

Michael Chan
Minister