

The Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister - Elect of Canada
Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada
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October 26, 2015

Dear Mr. Trudeau,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of OCASI - The Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations on your decisive victory in 2015 general election.

As the umbrella organization and collective voice for Ontario's immigrant and refugee-serving sector, OCASI is encouraged by your statement of commitment in working for inclusion of Canada's diverse communities and residents.

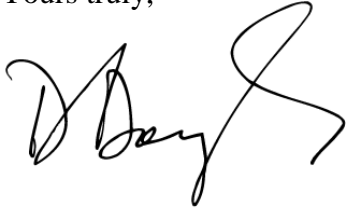
We offer our assistance as civil society partners in implementing the priorities identified by your government and by the immigrant and refugee-serving sector on issues of immigration and refugee protection, immigrant settlement and refugee resettlement. Some of these priorities include:

- Fully restoring Interim Federal Health Program for refugees;
- Expanding and expediting government and private sponsorship of Syrian refugees;
- Granting permanent resident status to sponsored spouses upon arrival;
- Restoring maximum age for sponsorship of immigrant dependents to age 22 from 19;
- Doubling parent and grandparent sponsorship applications to 10,000 a year;
- Repealing the revocation of citizenship of dual citizens and reducing barriers to citizenship acquisition; and
- Implementing other commitments to refugees and immigrants including better access to jobs through foreign credential recognition initiatives and enforcement of employment equity legislation.

We look forward to engaging with you on how the government of Canada can best support the settlement and integration of refugees and immigrants, including by reversing the deep funding cuts to services in Ontario, and by building future sector stability through sustained investment.

OCASI is encouraged by your leadership in countering a growing divisiveness and xenophobia through an expression of unity and appreciation of diversity in Canada. We look forward to the full realization of that message through strong public policy measures, including public education initiatives that will build equitable opportunities for all Canadian residents.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Douglas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Debbie Douglas
Executive Director