The Honourable Marc Miller, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

229 Wellington Street

Ottawa, ON  K1A 0A6

IRCC.Minister-Ministre.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

CC: Your Local MP

CC: The Honourable Rechie Valdez, Minister of Small Business (Rechie.Valdez@ised-isde.gc.ca), The Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development of Canada (ministerofred-ministreduder@ised-isde.gc.ca))

CC: Selkirk College Director of Communications and Public Engagement (mkeczan@selkirk.ca)

BCC: College and Institutes Cannada (GRP-RGP@collegesinstitutes.ca)

*Dear Minister Miller,*

As the *[role]* of [*business/organization name],* I am writing to express our deep concerns regarding the recent reforms to the Post-Graduate Work Permit (PGWP) program and share how it will impact us in *[region/city/town]*. These top-down changes do not take into account the value that international college graduates bring to our community, nor the vital role that Selkirk College plays as a community training and innovation hub.

Despite the need for talent in our community, the sectors identified by Ottawa as “high-demand” simply do not align with the reality of our region and contain significant omissions. These changes threaten essential sectors, including [specific business, or key examples of advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and renewable energy.] I am writing to call upon you to work with the Government of British Columbia to develop a set of policies that make sense for our community. Done improperly, these rapid changes threaten our ability to staff our business, address critical labour shortages, and will jeopardize the integrity of the talent pipeline essential for our operations. Without immediate intervention, our local and regional economic prosperity will suffer significantly.

*[Please highlight any specific examples of any omitted programs your business or organization relies on, mentioning strategic partnerships you may have with Selkirk College. Describe how your business/organization/industry relies on a steady stream of job ready college graduates to do business or to serve the local community. Describe how your work contributes to key federal objectives i.e. advanced manufacturing, auto sector, tourism, renewable energy, green infrastructure, housing, economic development, childcare, dental care, health care and mental health services if applicable.]*

We do understand the need to address recent rapid growth in the international student program, in order to support the integrity of the system and to lessen pressures on essential services in communities, including access to healthcare and housing. However, we feel that the new work permit policy for college graduates does not take into account how colleges work, or the value that different program graduates bring to our community. We urge you to consult with provinces and postsecondary institutions to reframe these policies in a way that works for Canada.

The ongoing changes to the program are leaving Canadian colleges with a $2 billion shortfall. This will no doubt impact Selkirk College’sability to serve our community – not just in providing much needed talent but also in delivering innovative research that helps our businesses grow.

Our economic prosperity as a community depends on a strong post-secondary system, and we see the destabilization of our local talent pipelines as a misguided error by Ottawa. We urge you to reconsider and engage collaboratively to protect the businesses and services that Canadians rely on. If you would like to further discuss this impact these changes will have on our business or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

[Name, business name]