



# MEDIA RELEASE

Association of Canadian Community Colleges

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## Colleges Welcome Support to International Students

**Ottawa, April 18, 2005:** Colleges and institutes of technology across Canada welcomed today's announcement by the federal government that international students will be allowed to work off-campus while completing their studies, and work for two years after graduation in the Canadian workplace.

"We have long sought these measures to support international students in their choice of Canadian post-secondary education as a world-class viable option in today's global education marketplace. By introducing measures that allow for mobility and transferability of credit, and increase students' capacity to experience and benefit from their exposure to Canadian society, Canada can benefit enormously", said Gerald Brown, President of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC). "By allowing students to transfer between programs of study and institutions heightens the attractiveness of the Canadian learning experience," added Mr. Brown.

With 900 campuses and over two million full- and part-time students, Canada's more than 150 colleges, institutes of technology, university colleges and cégeps attract thousands of international students each year. Competition among developed countries to attract international students is fierce, and today's announcement signals the government's renewed commitment to facilitate the efforts of Canadian institutions to present the Canadian post-secondary learning experience as world-class, vibrant and inclusive.

"To further promote Canadian education to overseas markets, we encourage the federal government to also assess the student visa process. Prospective international students should not have lengthy waiting periods for a visa; they must be able to follow through with their selection of Canada as the destination of choice for their higher education studies and international experience," said Gerald Brown.

The Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) is the national and international voice of over 150 colleges and institutes. For more information on ACCC, visit [www.accc.ca](http://www.accc.ca)

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