



For Immediate Release

### **Dr. Ruby Dhalla Welcomes the creation of a Foreign Credential Recognition (FCR) Secretariat**

Ottawa – Dr. Ruby Dhalla welcomes the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development's announcement of the creation of a Foreign Credential Recognition (FCR) Secretariat, within Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) which will consolidate the work currently under way within its FCR program.

Since getting elected Dr. Dhalla has championed the issue of FCR on behalf of many new Canadians who have come to Canada and had difficulty in getting their qualifications recognized and accredited. Dr. Dhalla introduced a Private Member's Motion M-195 calling on the government to work in collaboration with all stakeholders to create a Secretariat for FCR. On June 4th, 2005, this motion was passed in the House of Commons with overwhelming support from her colleagues from across Canada.

Motion M-195 stated:

"That, in the opinion of the House, the government should create a secretariat responsible for overseeing the FCR program, which would work with all stakeholders and provincial representatives to coordinate and collaborate on activities, implement processes, and assist in the research and the development of national standards that recognize foreign-training credentials in Canada."

Dr. Dhalla believes that the creation of the Secretariat will be a significant step forward in helping to address the difficulties many new Canadians with foreign credentials encounter.

"We as a nation must utilize the tremendous talent and potential of Canadians with foreign credentials. The Secretariat is another reflection of the Government's commitment to ensuring that we as a nation are prepared for the future demands of our labour market. The recognition of foreign credentials has a direct impact on our economic growth, prosperity and competitiveness as a nation" said Dhalla.

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