

Talking Points Re Temporary Foreign Worker Program Changes Announced June 20, 2014

Background:

Sweeping changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program were announced by the government on June 20, 2014. The changes will affect employers by imposing caps on numbers of TFWs per employer and by increasing the fees from \$275 to \$1,000 per application per worker requested.

Key messages:

- The government has made sweeping, costly and restrictive changes to the program.
- Major policy decisions seem to have been taken with little regard for their potential impact on Canadian businesses and the economy.

- Every employer will face a cap on the number of temporary foreign workers it can request.
- There is no logic to a cap in this program.
- If an employer cannot find the workers he needs, why will the government help him only *partly* solve his problem?
- A small number of TFWs sometimes makes the difference for hundreds of Canadian jobs.

- The new policy will restrict TFWs in areas of high unemployment.
- Banning TFWs doesn't magically make those locally available workers more suited to the jobs.
- The government is taking a big gamble.

- Employers will have to decide if they can pass the increased costs along to consumers and still stay in business.
- If they can't, they face bleak choices: reduce services or increase wages dramatically in the hopes that unemployed Canadians will move to take those jobs. But what wage increase will be enough?

- The government is punishing everyone for the offences of a few.
- Why didn't the government punish the offenders while respecting "trusted" employers who do play by the rules?

- This program was invented to ensure Canadian businesses had access to the workers they need.
- That is still the most important priority.

- We object to all the restrictive changes announced on June 20, but we find the cap on TFWs per employer particularly arbitrary and harmful policy.

- We request MPs to urge government to lift the cap per employer.