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Dear Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette,
Ministre de l'Immigration, de la Diversité et l'Inclusion,

I am writing to present my views at the public hearings on the government consultations concerning the new immigration Bill 9 tabled in Quebec.

It is my opinion that the Quebec government must be able to firmly insist on deciding from which countries various potential immigrants should come into Quebec so that they are properly equipped to deal with the Quebec labour market and for Quebec's need to fill in job vacancies. This is especially critical in the outlying regions which are suffering from both an acute labour shortage and serious demographic depopulation. This policy would also make sure that the prospective immigrants would be able fit in and are able to easily integrate into their host society with its modern and progressive social values.

Therefore, countries such as Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Moldova and Bulgaria as well as Brazil and other Latin American countries should be targeted for special consideration. They are Francophile in outlook and these countries, especially Poland, Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, and the Ukraine have developed a large educated and skilled labour force through an extensive network of universities and vocational and trade colleges. Since joining the European Union over 700,000 Polish citizens have immigrated to the United Kingdom and are at presently integrated into the British labour market. They have filled vacancies as bus drivers, in fact, today a large percentage of public transport workers and drivers in Britain are Polish immigrants. Polish women have provided a huge contingent of nurses and other health care workers for Britain's National Health Program. Skilled technicians, such as airplane and truck mechanics, carpenters, plumbers, engineers in all fields, computer programmers, a large array of scientific and technological researchers, academics, etc. are now working in Britain. The same applies to immigrants coming from Brazil, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria and other parts of Eastern Europe as well as from Latin America and Asia.

To the point, President George Bush Junior, while in office, had made a special presidential and Congressional dispensation which was supported and lobbied for by the health care industry to especially bring over to the U.S. 20,000 Polish nurses within just two years, and along with their spouses and the usual three young children, this total amounted to over 90,000 to 100,000 special case Polish immigrants in just two years immigrating to the U.S. and all this was separate from the regular immigration quotas. In Denmark and Sweden, it was said that Poland had lost much of its medical staff and

nurses, to these countries as well as to the U.K. Why, then, is Quebec, then, not actively and aggressively recruiting Polish nurses and other skilled and technical workers who are eager to come and work in Quebec? By the way, Canada has over 150,000 citizens of Polish descent; with just Ontario home to over 100,000 Polish immigrants living and working there while even Alberta tops Quebec with its 15,000 Polish Canadians, while Quebec has merely 12,000 citizens of Polish descent living and working here.

There are today over 700,000 Romanian immigrants as well as over 300,000 Bulgarians working in Spain and they are highly integrated into the local Spanish work force and very much liked by the local Spanish population. It is, therefore, high time that Quebec eagerly and aggressively seek to recruit immigrants that are compatible with its economy and to its social values. Remember that the late Premier Jacques Parizeau's wife is Polish. Polish people, as well as Ukrainians, are very similar in outlook and social values to Quebec people, that is, they are very much like the Irish immigrants who had come before them: Catholic and many from rural areas and small towns and cities, as well as very much amenable to Quebec's climate which is very similar to that found in Poland and therefore would be highly familiar to the Polish people. In France, Britain, Ireland and Greece, Polish immigrants are widely and publically considered and known as the peaceful immigrants.

In Poland, today, there are approximately 1,000,000 Ukrainian immigrants working in the economy. These immigrants are largely unregulated and are semi-legally working there, fleeing the chaos resulting from the economic collapse and hardships existing in the Ukraine. The vast majority are from the western parts of the Ukraine and they belong to the Ukrainian Uniate Church, that is, they are Eastern Rite Catholics united to the Roman Catholic Church and thus, West European orientated, since the region was ruled by the Austro-Hungarian Empire for centuries. Here, again, are potential immigrants for Quebec's labour market, skilled immigrants and easily adaptable and integrated into the Quebec population.

Therefore, Quebec must target and encourage Francophile immigrants even though they may not speak French but are favorably disposed to learning French: otherwise what is occurring right now, is that France is quietly pursuing a policy of encouraging the emigration of its own local embittered Maghrebi, or North African, population with which it has had great difficulties in properly integrating in France due to many and complex factors, including its strict job market with its lack of flexisecurity, that is, the ability of workers laid off who can transfer their previous work benefits to their other new jobs. Turkey, with a very large secular urban population, is also a great candidate for recruitment for skilled labour with many urban Turks having learned French as a second language.

At present, however, with Brexit looming, over 1,000,000 EU citizens working in Britain, including the over 700,000 Polish immigrants are facing a difficult dilemma, since most do not have British citizenship, they will be compelled to return to their home countries be it Poland or elsewhere. Otherwise they will be forced to seek employment in other

parts of the European Union. It is, therefore, a great opportunity for both Quebec and Canada to actively and aggressively recruit these highly skilled and socially compatible Polish and East European immigrants to fill in Quebec's labour shortages as well as those acute job vacancies in the outlying regions which are facing a very serious depopulation problem and, thus, cover Quebec's need in finding scarce labour, which, not only is already becoming quite severe but with the future prospect of this labour shortage getting ever worse. This labour shortage will have the added effect of hindering or slowing the growth and upward trajectory of the Quebec economy. Most Polish workers would feel quite at home in Quebec's regions which often remind them of Poland, along with their outlook and congenial sympathy for the Quebec population. The same would apply to both Ukrainian and Romanian immigrants. Remember that the Canadian government at the beginning of the twentieth century recruited massive numbers of Ukrainian immigrants from the western Ukraine, the region known as Galicia, to settle and farm the underpopulated Prairies, that is in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The same must be said for Romanian, Ukrainian, Moldovan, Bulgarian, and other eastern European peoples. This equally applies to future immigrants from Brazil and other Latin American countries, which, generally are Catholic by background and favorable to modern Quebec social values, and are indeed very easily integrated with minimal social friction. Another area to look for future immigrant labour is from the various Christian populations in the Middle East who are under severe stress and strain and are eager to leave from the Middle East because of the repression and discrimination against them by the ruling governments, and the dangers posed by local Muslims and radicalized Islamic militants which seek to drive them out from their homes including through the use of bombings of churches, businesses and homes, as well as with rapes, kidnappings for ransom and killings.

The Quebec government should also look into recruiting immigrants from Francophone Africa, including countries like Senegal, Cameroun, Ivory Coast, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, etc. which have many applicants with various university diplomas willing to contribute to the Quebec economy. Haiti has traditionally provided many workers in semi-skilled and manual jobs and special efforts should be made to continue recruiting from there. Potential immigrants should be recruited from the Middle East, Iran, India, and South East Asia, (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos) and from China who also have skilled workers. A special case should be made towards the Philippines, especially since Filipino females already provide almost 90% of international domestic workers, and who at present fill in the special category of home care workers throughout the world including even in countries and regions such as Israel, the Arab Gulf, the U.S. and Europe. Quebec has a great need of home care workers for its aging population and Filipino female workers have filled this function in great numbers in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. Why not in Quebec, especially in the outlying regions? They eagerly learn the local language and would easily learn French if only the Quebec government would provide the proper educational means and the qualified teaching staff. By the way,

in Canada there are over 1,000,000 Canadians of Filipino descent, with Ontario having over 400,000, about 3% of its population, and Manitoba topping off with 7% of its population being of Filipino descent, that is, 85,000. Even Alberta has over 200,000 Filipinos living and working there constituting 5% of the Albertan population, while Quebec has about 37,000 Filipinos only.

Thus, we now come to the issue of francization. The Quebec government must upgrade and improve to a high standard its own preparatory courses that teach French to non-French speaking immigrants with experienced and innovated staff. In the Netherlands, highly qualified teachers and staff are hired and effective and efficient courses have been crafted that teach the Dutch language to local immigrants. In fact, the Dutch government has adopted and implemented legislation for the teaching of Dutch to newly arrived immigrants as well as to those who had arrived previously. These Dutch language courses and Dutch civic classes, by the way, are compulsory which immigrants must legally follow for at least a year or two, depending on their circumstances, and, as an incentive they, furthermore, are paid to attend these courses in addition to being paid for their regular full time work. This is a policy that the Quebec government must also try and work out and implement, that is, to develop high quality teaching of French with high standards and to pay immigrants to attend and, of course, for them to successfully complete these French language courses and civic classes. One area is certainly of paramount importance and that is to introduce and teach the new applicants the special colloquial pronunciation and grammar of spoken Quebec French as well as to teach them the standard literary written language. Another feature would be for Quebec to finance the teaching of French in the various highly targeted countries themselves with the object of preparing prospective immigrants with skills and work experience to immigrate to Quebec. This could be done in coordination with France's already established Alliance française, with special emphasis on Quebec spoken French.

Another important point is that if Quebec is to deal with its labour shortages and the ever acute crisis in the demographic depopulation of the outlying regions, then, it must fashion a policy that would **contractually** insist that if the application is to be especially quickly processed, the potential applicant must **contractually sign up** to work at least **five to seven** years in the outlying regions. The government should, furthermore, participate in providing a discount mortgage for a home fitted to the needs of the applicant and his/her family, or even better, pay a certain percentage of the mortgage, be it 25% or even up to 30% of the current mortgage. If the applicants decide to sell it before 10 or 15 years of residence and work in the area, then the government will get its share of the percentage back that it put up. However, if the applicant stays on and works beyond 10 or 15 years, (the government could decide on how many years it would deem necessary), then the home belongs to them to do as they please and the government grants its own share of mortgage to them, fulfilling its part of the contract.

However, one problem with the Programme Vacances/Travail is that even though 30% of students may hail from France, it has been a programme extremely abused thoroughly by

most applicants concerned. It has, in fact, been used by the overwhelming majority of applicants as a real backdoor to enter the U.S. labour market and immigrate there, thus, turning the Quebec programme into a real joke and an open mockery both in France and elsewhere. It has been particularly used by cynical applicants who are looking into loopholes to enter the U.S., thus, creating problems and raising concerns in the U.S. since a large number are either of Maghrebi, or North African, descent born in France or immigrants from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia with no real intentions in staying or working in Quebec. This equally applies to other applicants of the programme from other countries. Indeed, it is an abuse of a well-intentioned programme which does nothing to benefit the Quebec economy or its people. Even criminal gangs and cartels have used it to finance and send “student” operatives to start up operations and for the purposes of using them to money launder criminal proceeds and dirty money through buying real estate properties and send it back to them clean. In fact, it is open secret that they pay all the expenses including the high student fees for both female and male students in the various vocational and trade courses such as design, cosmetician, etc., in order to set up a base for their networks.

The problem facing the U.S. with this backdoor entry from Quebec into the U.S. is not only the security concerns raised by terrorism but more importantly the use of students with diplomas accessing Canadian passports to entry the U.S. as forward scouts to establish and run rings for the sale of narcotics, especially cocaine and heroin, through the formation of new distribution points. In Australia, for example, Albanian students were entering to register at universities to continue studies; however they were later being directed to work at the customs section of the Sydney airport to monitor and facilitate the entry of illegal cocaine and heroin for the mafia in Albania which, by the way, paid for their fares, university fees and other expenses. They were eventually arrested and the Australian government stopped the program from Albania and increased monitoring of other countries sending students. This was all published by Interpol in its report as well as being made known through the Australian media.

The same problems occurred with Afghan refugees, both, before the Syrian crisis as well during the Syrian crisis which simply highlighted the problem with massive numbers of Afghani asylum seekers entering the E.U. The European Union presidents immediately agreed and signed a unanimous accord to send back all Afghan asylum seekers and refugees, since they were reported by intelligence services and Interpol as a potential threat by forming drug distribution groups for the heroin cartels back in Afghanistan. Even Angela Merkel, urgently gave orders to the German police to arrest and to immediately send back to Afghanistan all so-called Afghans claiming asylum, because of reports from Interpol that most of them were connected with the heroin cartels in Afghanistan and were being sent over with the intent to set up drug rings. Their expenses were, furthermore, being paid by the cartels. How is it that a 16, 17 or even a 21 year old Afghani is able to finance his way to Europe from Afghanistan? Because of all this, Australia has also taken an even stricter and strident hardline position towards migrants and the so-called asylum seekers from the Middle East, Iran, Iraq, and elsewhere and this

policy is fully supported by both the Labour Party and the conservative Liberal Party Coalition in Australia, with solid backing from the Australian public and media. One more final case to buttress this presentation is the following: during the Clinton administration, Attorney General Janet Reno ordered **all body cavity searches** for all Nigerian women entering the U.S. at all points of entry by U.S. female customs officials, since Nigerian gangs were using females to transport heroin into the U.S. No one from any of the political parties claimed it as racist or a violation of human rights.

However, Quebec needs not only highly skilled labour but is in dire need of manual and semi-manual labour for its economy. Here, I am referring to agricultural labourers, maintenance workers, warehouse employees, and other menial forms of jobs where a labour shortage is apparent throughout Quebec. In Ireland and the United Kingdom, Polish former agricultural workers and farmers work harvesting the crops and looking after livestock, and doing other agricultural and rural jobs, etc. Here, again, the Quebec government should target Poland, Ukraine (including Ukrainians working in Poland) as well as Latin American workers from Guatemala and Mexico to fill in these vacancies in the rural areas of Quebec. Again, housing as I mentioned further above, and other amenities should be offered by the government to encourage and facilitate their permanent settlement and integration while in the regions and the government may even create programs and provide assistance for them to start and set up their own farms. Pork and chicken abattoirs and meat packing plants are in dire need of workers; why, then, not recruit immigrants from Latin America and Eastern Europe who are willing to do this type of work and are conducive to integrating with the local Quebec population? It should further be noted that Polish immigrants as well as most East European and Latin American immigrants, have some of the highest intermarriage rates of any migrant groups with members of the host country. They are only surpassed by Middle Eastern Christians who on the whole have the highest intermarriage rates, with most even from the first generation, both in the U.S. and in Europe.

The attempt to bring large numbers of so-called investor immigrants from around the globe without any understanding of who they truly are nor what their real intentions are, would not contribute to a healthy and stable growth of the Quebec economy by rather fuel real estate bubbles that eventually will only harm the local population by artificially increasing home, residential and commercial prices. The effect would be to drive the young population away to seek out elsewhere or in other province affordable housing for their new families. This category of immigrant should be vigorously controlled and monitored. Many are simply money laundering operations or tax evaders from other jurisdictions seeking a safe haven to park temporarily their money and then re-invest it in other countries or back home. Perhaps adding a surtax of 15 to 20% might deter some, but certainly not most foreigners from buying real estate here and living elsewhere, like the empty apartments in Vancouver.

I do hope to elaborate on many of the viewpoints in greater detail on my policy proposals during the open public hearings to be held later on.

Yours truly,

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