1. **Backgrounder for the application to revoke the LMIA exemption for foreigners seeking medical residency training positions in Canada**
2. **What is an LMIA?**
3. Under the Immigration Act, the government has an obligation to put the interests of Canadians first: Jobs for Canadians first; training resources for Canadians first. This is accomplished through the Labour Market Impact Analysis (LMIA) which requires employers to prove that (a) there is no Canadian citizen or permanent resident who is able and willing to take the job the employer seeks to fill with a foreigner, and (b) that Canadian interests will not be negatively affected before a visa can be issued to a foreigner.

In 2010, the federal government exempted foreigners seeking medical training in Canada from the LMIA.

**Why must foreigners seeking residency training in Canada undergo the LMIA process?**

This exemption is no longer defensible because foreign medical residents:

1. fill essential jobs which are to go to Canadians first;
2. foreign medical residents take away from Canadian medical school graduates post-graduate training jobs necessary to obtain a license to enter the medical profession from Canadians,
3. deplete scarce and needed medical training resources,
4. exacerbate the physician shortage[[1]](#footnote-1) and public access to health care,
5. leave Canadian medical graduates unemployed and unable to access the profession for which they are trained, and
6. springboard select foreign IMG physicians into full medical licensure in Canada ahead of Canadians.

This exemption runs contrary to the government’s mandate to:

a. Improve workers’ access to good quality job training that provides Canadians with pathways to good careers;

1. Develop policies that ensure all Canadians can use their talents, skills and resources to participate in learning, work and their community;
2. Deliver programs that help Canadians move through life’s transitions, from school to work, from one job to another, from unemployment to employment and from the workforce to retirement.

1. Ministries of health often claim that there is not physician shortage. They speak in terms of “distribution imbalance”. However, one need only look at the statistics of the provincial recruiting agencies including the positions they are unable to fill to obtain an objective view of the fact that Canada does not train enough Canadians to meet the public need for physicians. The statistics of the provincial colleges of physicians and surgeons of foreign registrants also provides evidence in this regard. The media, the Fraser Institute, and common experience should also cast skepticism on any statement that there is no physician shortage. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)