

SUPPLEMENT SUGGESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE FOR HONG KONGERS

By Eric Li

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1. GRANT EXEMPTION TO ENTER CANADA DURING TRAVEL BAN

Because of the big round up of democratic activists in Hong Kong in the past week, many activists need to escape from Hong Kong from further persecution by the National Security Law. I urge the Ministry of Immigration to provide some flexibility in granting travel ban exemptions for those activists in need. For example, it could be some special code while filling out the online form. Of course, all those coming in through this channel will follow each province's guideline in quarantine protocol.

2. EXPANSION OF ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS LIMITS

Other than university students, many other people, especially the young people also participated in the event. In the future they would also face the possible fate. It is therefore recommended that the academic qualification limits be expanded at least to high school graduates and technical training graduates. As detailed in the following section, other than humanitarian reason, economic factor also indicate that these young people are also needed in Canada's future.

3. SUPPORT FOR THE SPECIAL NEWCOMERS

3.1. Mental Health

These young people, even arriving in Canada, may be facing situations that would disturb them. Besides post traumatic stress and Covid-19 threat, the uncertain unknown future would also make them very concerned, like employment, social adaptation, discrimination and family, problems that may even be more than the regular immigrants.

Therefore, there should be a special support arrangement for them in mental health care which would have the knowledge of the background situations and care skills specifically for this category of newcomers.

3.2. Retraining

Regardless of the young people's academic qualifications or work experience, they are facing a new work environment that have different work philosophy and practices, even if they have the knowledge, skills, and experience in a job similar to those in Canada.

Studies in the economic and employment development indicate that Canada will be reviving, and have more new lines of jobs in the future and immigrants will "have real hope that they can ride the wave of economic growth in Canada"; "Immigrants to Canada don't take jobs from Canadians – they create for Canadians" ([2021 Economic Outlook for Canada | BDC.ca](#))

According to the studies, 'buy local' will be a growth opportunity, and investment in technology, remote work and online sales and services will be important trends for progression and growth in Canada's economic development and job creation opportunities.

These many of these new lines of jobs and business do not need a university degree, university and college graduate as well-educated high school graduates would both have much more chances of getting work and helping the development of Canada.

Therefore, retraining of these educated and experienced young new commers with more programs other than those already catered for the locals is recommended. Retaining these young people to get into these future lines of work and businesses would be beneficial and critical for these special new immigrants and Canada.

3.3. Social Adaptation and Integration

Most of the community organizations are serving mainly the seniors, youth, and children. These social programs would not be suitable for these new commers who are young and better educated. Therefore, the government would have more 'young people' social programs, which would help then not only integrate into the society but also release their mental stress.

Recently, Asian hate is appearing in the community, and this is mainly due to misunderstanding amongst the ethnic communities. Social programs and activities currently are mainly conducted within a certain ethnic community, and seldom programs are jointly organized different ethnic community. As these young people would understand and speak English, and young people in other ethnic communities would also know this common language, and as such integrated activities and events help improve better understand, it is recommended that such joint-ethnic programs be more provided, not only for these young people but also the local young people. ([Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program - Canada.ca](#); [Building a Diverse and Inclusive Public Service: Final Report of the Joint Union/Management Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion - Canada.ca](#))