

June 30, 2021

The Honourable Parm Gill
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism



Dear Minister Gill,

Congratulations on your recent appointment to Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism.

The Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON) represents over 200 residential builders of high, mid, and low-rise buildings in the province, with a focus on the GTA. Our members build Ontario's communities, homes, and future. We are committed to providing leadership and fostering innovation in the industry through the following six core focuses: Training and Apprenticeship; Government Relations; Labour Relations; Health and Safety; Building Science and Innovation; and Building Code Reform and Technical Standards.

RESCON looks forward to working with you on settling new immigrants and integrating them into Ontario society, and exposing them to the wide range of fruitful career opportunities that exist in the skilled trades and construction.

Immigration has been the focus of several of our [publications](#) in which we highlighted the importance of immigration to Ontario's economy and Ontario's construction industry. Historically, Ontario's construction industry heavily depended on immigrants from Europe to fulfill labour needs. Over the last 20 years, our industry has grown, and immigration patterns have changed.

As the industry readies for its future, construction leaders are aware that diversity – long described by our elected officials as a tower of strength for Canada – is essential to help fill the 92,500 skilled trades jobs gap that will open up in Ontario between now and 2030. Through RESCON's recently established Anti-Racism Roundtable, we have committed to ensuring our industry is welcoming and respectful of people from racialized communities through improving and enshrining workplace policies and expanding training opportunities for recent immigrants and Black youth.

To continue the conversation and progress on this topic, we would like to meet with you and your team to discuss ways RESCON can collaborate with the government to lead new immigrants on pathways to success in the skilled trades.

Please contact Amina Dibe (dibe@rescon.com) to set up a time that is convenient for a meeting.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RL", is positioned above the name of the sender.

Richard Lyall
President

Copy to:

Robert Thompson, Chief of Staff

