

January 27, 2005

Pat Hoy, MPP
Chair
Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A2

To the Standing Committee:

OCISO, the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization, is writing to support the enclosed submission which you received from Jennifer McKenzie and Luz Maria Alvarez-Wilson.

OCISO is a multi-service immigrant settlement agency which touched the lives of over 17,000 newcomers last year. Enclosed you will find our annual report.

Although OCISO is very appreciative of the efforts that the current provincial government is making with regards to access to trades and professions for internationally trained immigrants, we are concerned about the tiny amount of money being spent on basic settlement services through the Newcomer Settlement Program (NSP) of the Ministry of Citizenship. There are approximately 140,000 new arrivals a year in Ontario and only 3.9million spent on basic settlement services.

We urge you to consider increasing the amount available for settlement services and to allow for increases in the cost of living.

Sincerely,

Nancy Worsfold
Executive Director