





have already impacted international student numbers, and prospective students are hesitant to apply given the reduced provincial allocations, and the uncertainty surrounding their ability to work post-graduation. This, in turn, has negative effects not only on international students but also on domestic students limiting the programs that can be offered.

VCC and other public colleges are integral to ensuring that our workforce is prepared to meet the evolving needs of the economy, and these reforms threaten to undermine that vital contribution. The shortage of qualified workers in healthcare and skilled trades is well documented, with Canada needing to fill over 700,000 skilled trade positions by 2028. Restricting international student enrolment and linking post-graduate work eligibility to national labour market targets creates a disconnect between institutional capacity and the actual needs of local businesses and industries. We have worked closely with industry and government to align academic programming with the estimated 85,000 expected job openings in B.C. in the next five years. By introducing these reforms, government risks creating gaps in essential industries that rely on a steady stream of qualified graduates. Meeting the needs of the regional economy will suffer.

