

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Date Updated: March 23, 2015

Minister Responsible: Hon. Shirley Bond

Microsoft Excellence Centre & TFWs

SUGGESTED RESPONSES:

- Our economy is growing and diverse and a big reason for that is because we welcome the best and the brightest from around the world.
- Let's be clear – this is a Training Centre.
- Microsoft's decision to build their training centre – the Canada Excellence Centre - in Vancouver cements the city's place as a global technology hub.
- B.C. is joining an esteemed network of world training centers for one of the world's biggest companies.
- The Centre is creating an internship program for Canadian students, hundreds of direct and indirect jobs for Canadians, and expected to bring in \$90 million per year in investments for seven to ten years.
- We believe the \$181 million in direct and indirect economic benefits to the province, the creation of new jobs for Canadians, plus giving Canadian students exposure to one of the world's biggest tech companies is a good decision.

Page 2 to/à Page 3

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BACKGROUND:

Microsoft has set up a Center of Excellence in Vancouver. The new Center will be staffed with a mix of Canadian and foreign workers.

In the summer of 2013, the Province and the federal government met to start discussions for B.C.'s use of the TFW Annex in the Canada-British Columbia Immigration Agreement. B.C. recommended Microsoft's exemption from the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) process because the project would have significant economic benefit for the province.

In October 2013, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) approved B.C.'s use of the TFW Annex, allowing employees of Microsoft to enter Canada without the need for an LMO, as it was then known.

Microsoft intends to invest approximately \$90 million per year, for up to ten years, in the Centre with approximately 400 long-term and temporary jobs, including:

1. *Rotational employees*: new university graduates in and outside of Canada who will be provided with a 24-month work permit;
2. *Core employees*: executives, software development engineers, and program/project managers in and outside Canada who will be provided with a 36-month work permit; and
3. *Foundry employees*: domestic and international students attending a Canadian university who will be provided with a 16-month internship opportunity.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

The province of BC has been working collaboratively with Microsoft and Citizenship and Immigration Canada to ensure all new employees meet the criteria set out by the federal and provincial governments for any work permits required by employers to conduct their training in BC.

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