



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Public Forum on the effects of the Temporary Foreign Worker program on the skilled trades in BC

SURREY, BC – On Friday, May 2, 2014, students of KPU Tech in Cloverdale are hosting a Public Forum inviting members of the Liberals, NDP, Conservatives, Green Party, unions, and the Surrey Board of Trade to discuss the effects of the Temporary Foreign Worker program on the skilled trades in BC. At 12 noon, the Forum will begin at the KPU Tech Campus located at 5500 180 Street, Surrey in Cloverdale.

The Temporary Foreign Worker program is under review for the potential exploitation of Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs). "**The main concern is that TFWs are not always provided with a livable wage and sound working conditions, and new graduates are also less able to gain employment,**" states Jessica Lar-Son, Director of External Affairs at the Kwantlen Student Association (KSA).

Dustynn Diack, a level C welding student at KPU Tech, is concerned that employers are using the TFW program to fill welding jobs in British Columbia when there is an abundance of local labour willing to work. "**In my opinion, these jobs are being offered to foreign workers before residents of BC or Canada. This is a potential threat to employment opportunities affecting myself and my fellow tradespeople,**" Diack says.

Cloverdale Campus Representative for the KSA, Richard Hosein, is concerned with the government's practice of recruiting and training workers through the TFW program instead of investing in training and local programs that build BC's economy. "**Students are paying into a program in which they expect to be employed in the province they live in. If there is uncertainty in this, these students are not going to be confident in continuing their studies,**" Hosein asserts. "**All levels of government need to be accountable and give students access to the data that is needed to make effective decisions concerning their post-secondary education.**"

The KSA encourages students to speak to their local MP or MLA on this issue. The event will be held at the KPU Tech campus in Cloverdale at 5500 180 Street, Surrey. The event begins at 12 noon on Friday, May 2, 2014.

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The Kwantlen Student Association represents more than 17,500 students enrolled at the four Metro Vancouver campuses of Kwantlen Polytechnic University.