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"Together we can continue our work toward an Ontario where civic engagement is encouraged and valued. Whether it's our province's newcomers, established Canadians, or the millions of volunteers who make our province a better place, all Ontarians deserve access to the many opportunities that life in Ontario presents." The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.



ChangeTheWorld - Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge - Ramping Up for 2011

Planning for the fourth annual ChangeTheWorld - Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge is ramping up. This year's campaign will run from April 10, 2011, the start of National Volunteer Week until May 1. Twenty-one volunteer centres have signed up for the 2011 Challenge. Keep up-to-date by linking to our FaceBook and YouTube

pages. Watch for the announcement of our video contest for high school students.

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Success Story: More Internationally Trained Doctors Closer to Practicing in Ontario

Today 126 internationally trained doctors are a step closer to treating patients as a result of the one-of-a-kind program at the Catholic Immigration Centre of Ottawa.

One hundred and ten out of 126 internationally

Important dates

November

1. Independence Day (Antigua and Barbuda)
2. Independence Day (Panama)
3. Diwali
4. Independence Day (Cambodia)
5. **Remembrance Day - Ceremony @ Queen's Park**

trained doctors in the [Medical License Bridging Program](#) have passed their licensing exams says Program Manager Arber Zapluzha. Of these, 102 have secured an observership position and 36 have found residency positions.

Funded through Ontario [Bridge Training](#), the 120-hour program is ten years old and has been fine-tuned to suit the bridging needs of internationally trained doctors.

According to Arber, the key to success was developing partnerships with the University of Ottawa, two community health clinics and 60 private health clinics. These partnerships provide a place for the doctors to observe Canadian medicine practices to help them bridge into the Canadian system and ultimately to pass their licensing examinations.

Bridge Training helps newcomers get their license or certificate in their profession or trade. In the last seven years more than 40,000 people have found work in their trade or profession in Ontario.

Since 2003, more than 220 bridge training programs have been funded in over 100 professions and trades, including medicine, nursing, pharmaceutical sciences, engineering, accounting, teaching, social work and skilled trades.

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6. Independence Day (Poland), (Angola)
7. Republic Day (Brazil)
8. Eid-al-Adha
9. International Day of Tolerance (UN)
10. Independence Day (Latvia), (Morocco)
11. Universal Children's Day (UN)
12. Independence Day (Lebanon)
13. International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
14. Independence Day (Suriname)
15. **[Holodomor Memorial Day \(Ukrainian genocide/famine\)](#)**
16. Independence Day (Mauritania), (Albania)
17. Independence Day (Barbados), (Yemen)

Ontario Presses For a New Canada Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA)

The first Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) expired in March, 2010. Seven months ago the province signed an extension until March, 2011 to allow time for new negotiations. However, the federal government has continued to delay the start of formal negotiations.



In September, we convened the COIA Stakeholders' Summit to discuss the upcoming negotiations, and to hear from settlement agencies, newcomer advocates, and businesses from across Ontario about how Ontario can help them serve our province's newcomers.

And we want to continue that conversation. We hope you'll visit our COIA page online so that we can [hear from you](#) on the best way to ensure newcomer success in Ontario.

With an aging population, and a declining birth rate, Ontario's future prosperity depends on immigration. Attracting skilled newcomers, helping them get settled, and retaining them here in this province is an economic imperative for Ontario.

Your advice will inform the Ministry's approach to the negotiations for the next COIA.

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Nominate a Deserving Ontarian

Each year, through the Honours and Awards Secretariat, we honour Ontarians who have made contributions to this province through [14 honours and awards programs](#). Nomination periods for five programs have opened or will open soon.

- [Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers](#) - Deadline Date - December 10, 2010
- [Hilary M. Weston Scholarship](#) - Deadline Date - December 15, 2010
- [Volunteer Service Awards](#) - Deadline Date - January 25, 2011
- [James Bartleman Aboriginal Youth Creative Writing Awards](#) - Deadline Date - May 31, 2011
- [Newcomer Champion Awards](#) - Deadline Date - March 15, 2011

Nominate someone in your community who deserves special recognition. Use [our online nomination template](#). It's easy to use and allows you to securely fill it out online.

Update on Ontario's Fairness Commission

The work of the [Office of the Fairness Commissioner](#) is paying off. All of Ontario's regulatory bodies have made changes to their registration processes to make sure that newcomers have an opportunity to apply their skills in Ontario.



Ontario MPP's from all three parties came to hear [the Honourable Jean Augustine](#) report on the progress of the Commission at two briefing sessions on October 27. The Office, which was established in 2006 under the [Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act](#), is responsible for making sure that licensing procedures in Ontario's professions are transparent, objective, impartial and fair.

Ontario remains a key destination for highly skilled immigrants with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Over the past 3 ½ years the Office has helped newcomers find work in their profession by helping Ontario's 40 regulated professional bodies to meet their obligations under the Act.

To find out more about the progress of the Commissioner, visit the Commissioner's website and listen to some of the [individual stories](#) about how the work of the Commissioner has helped foreign trained professionals find work in their fields.

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Coming soon!!

Watch for the mobile version of [Welcome to Ontario](#) coming out this month.

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Honouring Veterans at Queen's Park

Honour and remember the men and women who have served, and continue to serve Canada in war, conflict and peace at Queen's Park on November 11. The ceremony takes place rain or shine on the front lawn of the Legislative Building at 10:45 A.M.

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Holodomor Memorial Day - Remembering the Ukrainian Genocide

November 29 is Holodomor Memorial Day in Ontario. In April 2009, the Ontario Legislature passed the [Holodomor Memorial Day Act](#) proclaiming the fourth Saturday in November as Holodomor Memorial Day. The day memorializes the approximately 10 million Ukrainians who perished as victims of genocide by famine that occurred in Ukraine from 1932 to 1933.



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