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For immediate distribution – April 30, 2013

NEWS RELEASE

Report calls for enhanced cooperation and learning between Canada and Australia to improve the recognition of immigrants' foreign qualifications

Montreal – Lowering further the barriers to recognition of immigrants' foreign qualifications requires concerted action on the part of governments, professional regulatory bodies, employers and other stakeholders. The exchange of good practices and learning across jurisdictions – as is taking place between Canada and Australia – can provide valuable support for improvements. These are the main conclusions in a report released today by the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP).

The [report](#) summarizes presentations and discussion at the 2nd Canada-Australia Roundtable on Foreign Qualification Recognition, held in Vancouver on March 20-22, 2013. The event, which was organized by the IRPP, with support from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Australian High Commission to Canada, brought together some 70 Canadians and Australians representing governments, professional regulatory authorities immigrant-serving organizations and academics. It built on the initial Australia-Canada roundtable, held in Melbourne, Australia, in 2011.

Ed Fast, Canada's Minister of International Trade, spoke about the potential benefits of mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) for the mobility of labour between Canada and Australia. Two renewed MRAs, one in the accounting profession and the other between the engineering bodies in the two countries, were signed.

The report makes a number of recommendations, including:

- Develop a Canada-Australia government framework agreement on qualification recognition that could lead to additional MRAs between regulatory bodies and provide for the regular exchange of best practices and information.
- Assess the impact of recent immigration policy changes on foreign qualification recognition in the two countries and make adjustments as necessary.
- Improve research and data collection to support policy-making by ensuring that organizations involved in foreign qualification recognition, immigration policy and labour market outcomes systematically collect data on these issues and share findings with each other.

The [roundtable report](#), by Quinn Albaugh and F. Leslie Seidle, along with background documents and presentations from the roundtable and a research workshop held on March 20, 2013, can be downloaded free of charge from the Institute's Web site (www.irpp.org).

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For more details or to schedule an interview, please contact the IRPP.

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