

Dear Mr. Tabasinejad:

As you know immigration is a shared responsibility between federal and provincial governments. Government of Ontario through a number of programs and with collaboration with various community groups assists the newcomers to smoothly settle down in Canada.

Certain professionals need to have a licence to practice in Ontario. Arms-length regulatory bodies such as Professional Engineers Ontario, Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, College of Teachers, College of Nurses, College of Trades, etc. are tasked to assess qualification of foreign trained professionals and if they are successful, issue a license for them to practice their profession.

There are many Iranian trained engineers, dentists and others who were able to obtain a licence and practice here in Ontario. Some MD's find it difficult to obtain such license. This is an issue.

Some MD's, as I understand come to Canada as investors and upon arrival want to practice here. Others may come as "skilled worker" and naturally want to practice medicine, but find it so hard to get into the system.

In any case, I have spoken to former federal Immigration Ministers and the current provincial Immigration Minister on this issue and suggested that our embassies in foreign countries should educate the immigration applicant on the professional licensing process here so that they will know about such major hurdle they have to overcome upon arrival at Canada. By knowing the licensing process, some of those professionals may decide not to come to Canada.

Finally, one should also know that there are many other professions where licensing is not required.

I hope the above is helpful to you.

Reza

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**Reza Moridi, MPP**