

CANADA INDIA FOUNDATION



CIF appeals to Government, Canadian Universities & Colleges for a relief package for International Students

Toronto: Canada India Foundation (CIF) appeals to the Government, Canadian Universities and Colleges to help International Students with a relief package so they can be relieved from the stress of paying their room rents and grocery bills in this hour of grim crisis. International students are under tremendous stress due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Majority of students meet their ends with the temporary part time jobs but due to the present crisis they are running out of their resources as the help coming from their back home is also got affected badly due to this pandemic.

In the last five years, Canada witnessed exponential increase in international students from India. Presently, there are over 600,000 international students studying across Canada at all levels at Canadian educational institutions out of which 50% studying in Ontario. It is estimated that over 200,000 international students in Canada are from India. Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) reported increase of 154% international students in Canada during 2010-2018. The growth of Indian students to Canada was just under 350% since 2014. In 2019, out of 111,244 Indian students who received their visas, 73, 237 of them applied for colleges and most of them are in Ontario.

Mr. Anil Shah, Chair Canada India Foundation said that these students will play an important role of bridge builder between Canada and country of their origin. They will also contribute their share in future skilled work force to complement the Canadian economy as most of them will stay back as permanent residents.

Mr. Satish Thakkar, National Convener, Canada India Foundation said that international students are paying almost three times more fee than their Canadian peers which is a huge contribution to the Canadian economy. In

2018, international students in Canada contributed an estimated \$21.6 billion to Canada's GDP. This is a significant economic contribution—and one that is felt right across the country.

Mr. Pankaj Dave, National Co-convener, Canada India Foundation said that International students can work 20 hours a week as per their study permit, but the present reality is different. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, several regular Canadian jobs have been disappeared so it will be very difficult for international students to find a job to run their routine expenses.

Canada India Foundation appeals to the government, Canadian Universities and Colleges for their timely intervention in helping the financially stressed 'International Students' which can build confidence among the current and future students coming from India and elsewhere that Canada Cares.

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