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## NEWS RELEASE

### ***Temporary foreign workers require additional protections***

**Montreal** – The short-term focus of Canada’s temporary labour migration policy will not help the country realize its long-term labour market needs and is unfair to the vast majority of temporary foreign workers, according to a new study from the Institute for Research on Public Policy.

“Focusing on the short term is unfair to the vast majority of temporary foreign workers, who are expected to spend years in Canada without contributing to our society in the long run. It sends a message that Canada wants lower-skilled individuals only as workers but skilled individuals as future citizens,” says co-author Delphine Nakache.

The study, “The Canadian Temporary Foreign Worker Program: Do Short-Term Economic Needs Prevail over Human Rights Concerns?” examines the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP), in order to determine the Canadian and Albertan approaches to integrating and protecting these migrants. The study draws on documentary research and interviews conducted in spring 2009 with a number of people involved in the TFWP.

“The significant increase in the number of temporary foreign workers has led to a growing concern about their employment-related rights. If, on paper, such workers have the same workplace rights as any other workers in Canada, this is not true in reality,” notes Nakache’s co-author, Paula J. Kinoshita.

Nakache and Kinoshita recommend that the work permit be restructured to allow these migrants greater mobility; enforcement mechanisms be used to protect them from abusive practices; communication between different governmental players be improved; a policy be adopted to support the integration of temporary foreign workers; and public debate about the recent changes in Canada’s labour migration policy be encouraged.

*“The Canadian Temporary Foreign Worker Program: Do Short-Term Economic Needs Prevail over Human Rights Concerns?” by Delphine Nakache and Paula J. Kinoshita, can be downloaded free of charge from the Institute’s Web site ([www.irpp.org](http://www.irpp.org)).*

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