



Parliament of Canada
Mr. Rod Bruinooge, MP

27 February 2013

Student exchange between Norway and Canada

Dear Mr. Bruinooge,

It has been brought to my attention that you in your capacity as chair of the Post-Secondary Education Caucus are working to promote increased mobility of Canadian students, and that you consider exchange between the Arctic countries important. As Chair of the Arctic delegation in the Norwegian parliament I am excited to learn about your work as I am a strong believer in exchange of students to promote information sharing, understanding and cooperation between our countries.

Knowledge is the key to sustainable development of the North and vital for the people living in the North to make use of the opportunities in for example the extractive industries. As two countries with a strong Northern identity I believe student exchange is even more beneficial to our countries as we face many of the same values, but also some of the same challenges. Student exchange between Canada and Norway strengthens the Northern identity of the students and they learn new skills which are directly relevant for their further studies and work in their home country. Exchange is also an important factor to increase innovation, creation of new jobs, and secure long term business opportunities between our countries.

I will therefore use this opportunity to inform you about the main programs and plans in Norway to promote student exchange between our countries.

The Norwegian government has a strategy to improve the exchange between Norway and North-America. The aim is to increase the exchange students from Canada to Norway from 148 (2010/2011) a year to 250 in 2015 and Norway to Canada from 309 in 2010/2011 to 650 in 2015.

To reach this goal the Partnership Program (2012-2015) with approximately 1 mill Canadian dollars is important to encourage cooperation between institutions for higher education. On an individual basis in 2011/2012 180 Norwegian students received funding to participate in an exchange program with a Canadian institution. 145 students received support to take their degree at a Canadian University. Financial support is facilitated by Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund.

This activity adds to the ongoing University of the Arctic north2north mobility program where the Canadian government provided in total of almost 1 million Canadian dollars for a pilot phase from 2004 to 2010 for outgoing Canadian students, which were matched by

Nordic funding for Nordic students going to Canada plus considerable contributions from the post-secondary education institutions.

I hope this information is relevant for you in your work in the Canadian parliament. I hope we together can find ways to further stimulate Arctic student exchange, continue to learn from each other and together promote prosperous development in our countries.

Yours,



Morten Høglund

Chair of the Arctic delegation to the Norwegian parliament