

## **Ontario passes law waiving school fees**

On May 19, 2005, the Ontario government passed legislation that will expand the list of newcomers to Canada who do not have to pay fees to receive a public education. The government estimates that some 250 immigrant children and their families will benefit from the exemption. This means they will no longer have to pay fees ranging from \$7,000 to \$10,000 annually.

The new amendments to the *Education Act* will extend publicly funded education to any person who has applied for permanent resident status or Canadian citizenship and whose parent or guardian is a Canadian citizen resident in Ontario, and to any person whose parent or guardian is in Canada and applying for permanent resident status. A person whose parent or guardian is authorized by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to study at a publicly funded Ontario university or college will also benefit.

The legislation is tentatively scheduled to come into force on September 1, 2005. For further information, please contact [Paul Marshall](#) at (613) 940-2754.

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