Dear [name of MLA],

I am writing to you to share my concern about the gross underutilization of Internationally Trained Physicians (ITPs) within the Canadian healthcare system despite the obvious health care staff shortages that have worsened during the pandemic. I am disappointed with the unfair policies put in place by British Columbia that have prevented these qualified professionals from working within their field and improving the healthcare of all British Columbians.

I am a member of your constituency and want to be confident that I am represented by someone who works towards advocating for and implementing equitable policies for all Canadians regardless of whether they were born here or immigrated. I request a meeting to allay my concerns.

 **IDEAS TO WRITE:**

Your background: years of studying, training, research; previous practice, specialization; describe your abilities, technical/highly educated skills; etc.

Your current work-life situation: what type of jobs you have to apply to; your current job; your current difficulty in finding a job; etc.

Reasons why you are in Canada: spouse, family; looking for a better life for family/children; looking for a safe place to raise your family; looking for a stable economy and safer society; etc.

**If interested:**

- Put your current status as a Canadian Citizen if you are one, as they probably value that information. But in case you are a PR, do not write PR because technically, PR's do not vote, so it's not that interesting for them.

- State the obvious: your skills, knowledge, abilities, potential, intelligence are being underutilized in Canada.

**EXAMPLES AND TEMPLATES:**

**Example for immigrants:**

To put this into context, I will share my own experience. I came to Canada to give my partner and children a better life. Back in my home country, I used to perform complex head and neck video oncology surgeries. Once in Canada, the closest healthcare job I got was selling ear aids. As a Canadian Citizen, I genuinely believe Canada is not taking advantage of my abilities and potential in times of great need.

**Template for immigrants:**

To put this into context, I will share my own experience. I came to Canada in search of a better life. Back in (name your country or just say “home country”), I (studied and/or trained) for (number) of years and I have worked with (insert here what fits best your reality). Here in Canada, I have been (insert here what fits best your reality). I believe Canada is not taking advantage of my abilities and potential in times of great need.

**Example for non-immigrants:**

To put this into context, I will share my own experience. I was raised in Canada but had to leave in search of my medical education. I studied for six long years, and have cared for countless patients. Here in Canada, I had limited options of jobs I could apply for and almost none in healthcare. As a Canadian Citizen, I genuinely believe Canada is not taking advantage of my abilities and potential in times of great need.

**Template for non-immigrants:**

To put this into context, I will share my own experience. I left Canada in search of my medical education. I (studied and/or trained) for (number) years and I have worked with (insert here what fits best your reality). Here in Canada, (insert here what fits best your reality). I believe Canada is not taking advantage of my abilities and potential in times of great need.

Internationally Trained Physicians of Ontario [(ITPO)](https://www.itpo.ca/about) is an organization that has been advocating for fair policies for Internationally Trained Physicians (ITPs) and International Medical Graduates (IMGs) that will allow ITPs to contribute comprehensively to the Canadian healthcare system by providing high standard medical care to all British Columbian. ITPO will represent the interests of ITPs on our behalf as they have several solutions to these issues. I would like to set up a meeting with you and your team at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

[your name/s, email address/es, phone number/s]