

THE HONOURABLE JOE VOLPE, P.C., M.P.
INTERVENTION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
MOTION REGARDING BILL C-50, BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION ACT, 2008
APRIL 17, 2008

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to watch this lover's spat on the issue of immigration. On one side, the NDP wants to separate a portion of a finance bill which has nothing to do with immigration, and on the other the government is trying to justify what it is doing because it thinks it wants to do something about immigration.

Does the Hon. Member for Trinity-Spadina truly believe in increasing the number of student visas in this country? Does she truly believe in fixing the system? Does she truly believe in family reunification? Does she believe in increasing the numbers? If so, then why did she and her party vote against the positive Liberal plan that was associated with dollars?

Both her party and the Conservative Party voted down a Liberal plan that would have put \$1.2 billion toward integration and settlement of those who are here and those who would come here in the future. It would have provided \$700 million to increase the efficiency and operation of the system to ensure that we could accommodate those who had come here under plans which might not have been recognized. This plan would have provided another \$88 million for foreign credentials recognition and ensure that people with qualifications would be matched to the available jobs. Our plan would have provided an additional \$10 million in order to encourage an increase in the number of student visas from 66,000 to 100,000.

Why did her party vote against that?