

THE SASKATCHEWAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATION		
STA Documents		Date Revised:
<i>New Immigration Strategy</i>	V.: 0.1	Date Printed: 22/06/2009

The Saskatchewan government recently released a new immigration strategy. The following is an overview:

Last year the government met with more than 300 representatives of business and industry, community-based organizations, municipal governments, educational institutions and professional associations. Saskatchewan's new immigration strategy is a direct result of those consultations.

Here are highlights of the new immigration strategy:

- Additional \$2.69 million invested into immigration for a total of \$12 million. This investment will focus on:
 - Enhancing settlement and integration support for newcomers to Saskatchewan;
 - Attracting entrepreneur immigrants to the province to support the economy and create jobs; and
 - Attracting skilled workers to address labour market gaps.
- New services for settlement. The new model has three key components:
 - Pre-arrival information, orientation and planning services;
 - Connections to appropriate community services; and
 - Specialized language and employment services.
- International education
 - The International Students category has been expanded to include students who have graduated in Canada and worked for a Saskatchewan employer for six months regardless of the skill level of the job; and
- Enhanced partnerships and cooperation to ensure a sustainable and effective immigration system. This involves new and enhanced partnerships – public/private, intergovernmental, inter-jurisdictional, federal/provincial and international.
 - Engaged with Canada's other western provinces in exploring a cooperative approach to international immigration;
 - Established Newcomer Information Centres in various Saskatchewan communities in partnership with the federal government; and
- Program Integrity - Fairness and regulation to ensure that Saskatchewan is known as a reputable destination for immigrants and that immigrants experience a fair, responsive and transparent system.
 - A program Integrity Unit was established to protect all workers in Saskatchewan, including immigrant and temporary foreign workers, and respond to issues, fraud, and misrepresentation; and
 - A direct email and telephone number was created to ensure the Unit is accessible to anyone who wishes to raise a concern, while still able to protect privacy and confidentiality.
- Entrepreneurship program – Attracting management talent through the Saskatchewan Immigration Nominee Program (SINP) Entrepreneur and Farm categories, to enrich our society and economy, and create jobs.
 - New process efficiencies have been introduced, which have resulted in a significant increase in nominations.
- Sustaining growth through a continued commitment to immigration that ties nominations to critical assessments of the labour market.
 - In 2008 – 09, labour market nominations in the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) increased by 72% to 2,914 workers – including family members, this equated to approximately 7,800 people;

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- New program efficiencies in 2008 – 09 resulted in processing times being reduced by 24%, while the number of applications received grew by 53%; and
- An innovative Overseas Assessment Process was established

Future Responses and Actions:

- Implement a new service delivery model, settlement programs, and language programs in collaboration with the community partners;
- Launch a comprehensive Competency Recognition Strategy, consistent with the pan-Canadian framework for qualification recognition, as announced by the First Ministers in January, 2009;
- Enhance financial supports for immigrants engaged in licensing assessments and skill upgrading programs, including a new micro-loan program.
- Establish a provincial Council on International Education to facilitate information sharing and promote international education
- Increase immigration of International Students through SINP
- Lead the development and implementation of a government-wide forum and strategy on immigration in Saskatchewan, to ensure that we have adequate public services to respond to the needs of a growing and diverse population;
- Increase our capacity to support employers looking to recruit workers using the provincial nominee program and to work with employers, business associations, and other stakeholders to identify labour market needs
- Engage stakeholders and fund research, program development and delivery to improve existing systems and supports for immigrants seeking to work in key regulated professions and trades
- Partner with stakeholders to develop anti-racism campaigns;
- Establish an auditing function within the Program Integrity Unit to ensure quality assurance in Saskatchewan's immigration programs;
- Regulate the involvement of third party representatives of immigrants and employers;
- Introduce a new application process on **October 1, 2009**
- Introduce four new entrepreneur category streams that will:
 - Encourage succession and investment in businesses where owners wish to retire;
 - Foster active investment in First Nations and Metis-owned businesses;
 - Promote participation in science and technology-based companies; and
 - Facilitate large investments of more than \$10 million
- Nominate 3,400 immigrants in 2009 – 10 that would result in nearly 10,000 newcomers to Saskatchewan
- Simplify the categories to be more understandable to employers and applicants
- Promote our International Student category to foreign students studying in Saskatchewan
- Develop a more fair, predictable and transparent application review process and processing priorities; and
- Develop formal partnerships with specific countries.