



April 6, 2023

## **IMPORTANT FOREIGN LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION UPDATES FOR ACFA MEMBERS**

A number of federal and provincial updates to labour and immigration have been announced in recent weeks. Below is a summary of those announcements and ACFA's actions accordingly.

### **Government of Alberta - Changes to the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program**

The Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP) is an immigration program that nominates people for permanent residence in Alberta. Nominees must have skills to fill job shortages or be planning to buy or start a business in Alberta. A new phone number is now available to offer an additional option to contact the AAIP. Phone: [780-644-7534](tel:780-644-7534)

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada sets AAIP's annual nomination limits, and Alberta recently received an increase in nominations from 9,750 nominations in 2023 to 10,140 nominations in 2024 (estimated).

Recent changes to the AAIP program relevant to ACFA members include:

- AAIP Rural Entrepreneur Stream – Minimum investment required by applicants has been reduced from \$200,000 to \$100,000
- AAIP Rural Renewal Stream – Removal of Settlement Organization Endorsement Letter in Community Designation Application Process to streamline the community designation application process.

### **Federal Immigration and Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) Updates**

#### **Increased Immigration to Address Labour Shortages**

Canada will admit 500,000 new immigrants per year by 2025 to address labour shortages in all areas (not agriculture/agri-food specific).

#### **COVID-19 Pandemic TFWP Workforce Solutions Road Map**

Measures that will remain in place until October 30, 2023 include:

- Keeping the Labour Market Impact Assessments (LMIA) validity period for 18 months
- Maintaining the maximum duration of employment for low-wage positions up to two years

#### **Advertising Requirements**

TFWs in **primary agriculture positions** benefit from **suspension of minimum advertising requirements** when applying for LMIA's until **June 30, 2023**.



### **Trusted Employer Model**

The federal government is working to implement a model in 2023 to reduce red-tape for repeat employers who meet the highest standards for working and living conditions, and protections.

### **Temporary Foreign Worker Compliance Program**

The federal government is committing \$50 million more in funding for the TFW compliance program, including more program inspectors and the maintenance of the worker protection tip line.

### **Engagement Opportunities for ACFA / NCFA and Feedlots on Labour Issues:**

#### **Federal government investment to address labour shortage for the agriculture and agri-food sector**

On February 15, 2023, the Government of Canada [announced](#) that it is investing over \$19.7 million for two agriculture and agri-food projects under the [Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program](#) (SWSP). The funding the following: it included

1) The **Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC)** will receive an investment of just over \$12 million for its *Growing the Agriculture Workforce of the Future: Cultivating Canada's Post-Pandemic Recovery Project*. With these funds CAHRC is launching a survey to evaluate the post-pandemic labour market situation in the industry, an update to the previous LMI study completed in 2018. This project will help to address human resource shortages in Canada's agriculture sector by identifying skills most in need, providing innovative and targeted training programs to 1,175 employers and employees and by setting sector-wide standards for recruiting and retention.

To participate, the survey is open until April 29, 2023 at <https://cahrc-ccrha.ca/agri-lmi-survey>

2) **Food Processing Skills Canada** will receive \$7.7 million for their *Achieving our Workforce Destination: Qualified People, Successful Careers & Competitive Business Project*. The project will offer training programs, develop resources, tools and certifications for supervisors and employees to 1,250 Canadians in the food and beverage processing sector.

For more information: <https://fpsc-ctac.com/new-national-program-for-the-canadian-food-and-beverage-manufacturing-industry-promises-a-skilled-workforce-and-improved-employer-recruiting-and-retention-strategies/>

#### **Federal engagement on the future of immigration in Canada**

On February 23, 2023 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada [announced](#) the start of a broad-based engagement initiative—*An Immigration System for Canada's Future*. The initiative is aimed at exploring how immigration policies and programs can support a shared vision for Canada's future. The engagement, which will continue throughout the spring, will include in-person dialogue sessions across the country, thematic workshops and a [survey](#) for the public.