



Association of Manitoba Municipalities

LABOUR AND
IMMIGRATION

AUGUST 14

2024

SUMMARY OF MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Malaya Marcelino and representatives of Manitoba Labour and Immigration. The AMM encourages the Province to consider municipal concerns as well as the effects of funding decisions on local communities throughout the budget process. This document outlines the AMM's position and recommendations on a number of important municipal issues relevant to the Labour and Immigration portfolio. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.



Provincial Immigration Strategy

- **Consult municipalities and the AMM on the development of an immigration strategy.**

RECOMMENDATIONS



Consult municipalities and the AMM on the development of an immigration strategy.

As immigration remains a crucial pillar of economic development, it is vital for the Province to reaffirm its commitments and take steps to attract, settle, and retain new Manitobans. A multi-faceted approach is essential to ensure newcomers choose Manitoba. For instance, as the Department of Economic Development, Investment, Trade, and Natural Resources creates new job opportunities to stimulate economic growth, cross-departmental partnerships will be key to ensuring these jobs meet the evolving needs of communities, address current staffing shortages, and offer opportunities for newcomers. Many communities in Manitoba are pursuing immigration as part of their growth strategy, and the municipal-provincial partnership will be crucial in strengthening and growing local communities.

While the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program (MPNP) has proven useful to responding to local economic and community needs, gaps in providing settlement services, language training and credential recognition remain. This is especially problematic in rural areas, as many communities endure labour shortages of healthcare professionals. The AMM recognizes that the Province and Government of Canada are collaborating to ease the process for IENs to work in the Province, including removing barriers to foreign credential recognition, simplifying the licensing process, and increasing access to programs for educated health professionals. We look forward to learning more about this partnership and urge the Province to implement the recommendations from the Immigration Advisory Council (IAC) to accelerate credential recognition and enhance regional settlement incentives for foreign-trained doctors and other professionals.

Additionally, the AMM understands that Canada is providing the Province another opportunity to approve the same number of skilled immigrants through the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program. The Province will be able to issue up to 9,500 nominations in a year, a record number if achieved. The Department has committed to increasing staff to ensure timely processing of applications. Therefore, the AMM would appreciate an update on the MPNP program.