

# ISSUE IN FOCUS



*Celebrating 100 Years*

SASKATCHEWAN  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

## Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) Processing Times

### Background:

The Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) has made efforts to reduce employer program processing in recent years; however, processing times continue to be an issue.

### Issue:

Many employers are experiencing nearly a six-fold increase in employer job approval processing times compared to a year ago. The challenge is that without an employer-side job approval letter in place, an applicant cannot apply. Once an applicant submits, the application can be processed in under a month. The result is that the much more detailed SINP applications are processing significantly faster than relatively simple job approval applications.

### Recommendations:

1. Explore temporarily moving some processing officers to the employer services branch to help with the seasonal increase of job confirmations so that employers can access the labour they need in a timelier fashion.
2. Revisit the Designated Trades list and consider adding more low-skilled, low wage positions. This is particularly relevant to the hospitality sector in rural municipalities. There is merit to the idea of SINP launching a pilot project in which employers would be permitted to hire a maximum of two to three employees per location. Increased flexibility for employers in rural communities is essential to a well-functioning labour market.
3. Consider providing nominations to business investors on a set timeframe throughout the process, instead of the current undetermined timeframe. We

are the view that such transparency and comparable certainty would increase the quality of prospective applicants. The overall processing time from start to finish should be kept under three years to remain competitive and ensure that queues are filled with higher quality applicants. A shorter application process will in turn attract a higher calibre of applicants to the talent pool. Specific recommendations with respect to timeframes would include at the time of landing in Saskatchewan with a work permit, once the applicant has a business license, or once an applicant meets a last of start-up requirements.

## **History:**

Adopted Policy Resolution 2009

Adopted Policy Resolution 2010

Adopted Policy Resolution 2011

Letter to Ministry of Immigration & Career Training 2017