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**IMMIGRATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MANDATE**

Manitoba’s Provincial Nominee Program (MPNP) has attracted over 165,000 talented, hard-working newcomers and their families to Manitoba since its inception in 1998, to the benefit of communities across Manitoba. Despite this success and positive job growth, the Manitoba economy is projected to require an additional 15,500 more workers per year for several years. Demand will continue beyond 2025. A steady supply of net in-migrants is needed to address this forecast labour market shortage. The Manitoba *Skills, Talent and Knowledge Strategy* highlights the need for a focused approach across the province, to ensure that this demand can be met, both now and in the future.

Immigration is a crucial enabler to address this shortage. As a joint federal-provincial responsibility, the Canada-Manitoba Immigration Agreement (CMIA) governs it. Manitoba has committed to work with the Government of Canada to further grow the MPNP and leverage federal immigration streams and pilot programs to accelerate Manitoba’s post-COVID recovery and ongoing economic growth. Programs that are more attractive and processes that are more user-friendly will maximize the number of newcomers permanently settling in Manitoba each year. Work is also underway to improve foreign credentials recognition (FCR) processes so that internationally educated professionals gain meaningful employment in their fields of expertise in Manitoba’s diverse economic sectors. Manitoba is and will continue to be a welcoming new home for all newcomers, including immigrants, refugees and their family members, and is also a destination of choice for international students. Retention of newcomers will be increased by investing in more accessible immigration services and ensuring the province’s communities remain attractive places in which to live, work and set roots.

The Manitoba government is creating a new Immigration Advisory Council (IAC) that will serve as an expert panel to recommend improvements to current immigration programs and policies in the province. The IAC will be co-chaired by Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration Minister Jon Reyes and experienced Manitoba statesperson, Dr. Lloyd Axworthy. The council will also include Manitobans who have experienced the MPNP process first-hand, along with representatives from immigration services, ethno-cultural communities, business and academia, both urban and rural. The final composition of the IAC will be announced in the coming weeks. The council will deliver its final report no later than Dec. 31, 2022.

The specific mandate of the Immigration Advisory Council is to review the entire continuum of immigration – from recruitment to retention of newcomers to the province of Manitoba, providing clear recommendations and concrete actions to the Manitoba government to address the following goals:

1. attract more immigrants and business investors to the province;
2. streamline the MPNP and other immigration pathways currently offered, striking the right balance between the province's regional labour market, economic development and community (e.g.: family, minority groups, etc.) needs; and
3. enhance Manitoba's settlement, integration and FCR programs and services, for all newcomers to Manitoba, in order to encourage labour market attachment, improve foreign qualification recognition and bolster immigrant retention.