



June 28, 2017

Mr. Steve McLellan
Chief Executive Officer
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
1630-1920 Broad Street
Regina, SK S4P 3V2

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Dear Mr. McLellan,

Thank you for your letter and recognition of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program's (SINP) efforts to ensure the program is responsive to employers' needs. SINP's goal is to support Saskatchewan's economic growth by attracting internationally trained workers to meet ongoing labour market demand; and to attract entrepreneur immigrants to help address business succession needs, increase job opportunities, and expand products and services.

The SINP annual nomination target (5,600 nominations in 2017) is an important component of the province's labour market strategy. As such, we continue our efforts to find efficiencies to meet nomination targets, which have grown steadily in recent years. The current pace for processing of nominee applications is required in order to meet the annual nomination target in 2017.

As your letter indicates, there was an increase in processing times for employers' job approval letters (the processing time had increased to eight weeks in May 2017, as compared to the average of four weeks in 2016). Subsequently, the Employer Services Branch recently hired new staff and they are seeing positive effects on the average processing times. While it is anticipated that the backlog will be eliminated in short order, we will continue to monitor human resource needs and make adjustments as required.

With respect to the designated trades list, there are a number of designated trades that are directly related to the hospitality sector including cooks and food and beverage workers. Industry can initiate an application process through the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) at any time to propose the designation of new trades. Additional information on the application process and criteria can be obtained through the SATCC.

...2

Mr. Steve McLellan

Page 2

June 28, 2017

Your letter suggests that the SINP Entrepreneur Category process should have defined timelines and should be kept under three years. In fact, there are currently a number of specific milestones, including: the Expression of Interest (EOI) submission process (the next quarterly selection of EOIs will be July 19, 2017); the application process to obtain SINP support for a work permit (SINP processing target is three months or less); issuance of a work permit by the federal government (current average processing time is six weeks for Chinese applicants); business establishment (minimum requirement of six months); application for nomination (SINP processing target is six months or less); and federal application for permanent residence.

The timelines for many of these milestones are dependent on a number of factors including the responsiveness of applicants and other service providers. In an effort to improve responsiveness, we have recently refined our program materials (i.e., application guides and website information) to ensure that stakeholders better understand the requirements and the stages of the application and nomination process.

Thank you again for your interest and support of the SINP. If you would like to discuss any of the aforementioned items further, please contact me at (306) 787-6509 or anne.mcrorie@gov.sk.ca.

Sincerely,



Anne McRorie

cc: Laurie Pushor, Deputy Minister, Economy
Alastair MacFadden, Assistant Deputy Minister, Economy