

May 26, 2017

Ms. Anne McRorie  
Acting Executive Director  
Immigration Services, Ministry of Economy  
Government of Saskatchewan  
1000 – 2103 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Regina, SK S4P 3Z8

Dear Ms. McRorie:

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and our Human Resources Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) for its efforts in reducing employer program processing times in recent years. However, many employers are currently experiencing a nearly 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 submit an application. 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.

The Chamber requests that SINP 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.

We would also recommend revisiting the Designated Trades list and consider adding more low-skilled, low wage positions. This is particularly relevant to the hospitality sector in rural municipalities. We believe 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.

Finally, we recommend that SINP consider providing nominations to business investors on a set time frame throughout the process, instead of the current undetermined time frame. We are of 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 in order 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 time frames 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 list of start-up requirements.

Once again, we recognize and appreciate SINP's past efforts in addressing lengthy processing times and hope that the current backlog in applications can be alleviated. We also acknowledge SINP for the work being done to create and implement an option for international students to access entrepreneurship once they are finished their studies. Thank you for your consideration and we eagerly await your response to our members' concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve McLellan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steve McLellan  
Chief Executive Officer

cc Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Human Resources Committee  
Laurie Pushor, Deputy Minister of the Economy, Government of Saskatchewan