

# A New Labour Market Strategy for Immigration Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program (MPNP) Renewal FAQs

**Question:** What is the objective of Manitoba's new Labour Market Strategy for Immigration?

**Answer:** A new Labour Market Strategy for Immigration will support the renewal of the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program (MPNP) by better matching skilled worker applicants to Manitoba employers and putting priority on business applicants can establish higher investment businesses that create jobs for Manitobans.

- This approach will become part of a broader Labour Market Strategy for Manitoba to ensure that we have the skilled workers and entrepreneurs needed to meet our workforce and economic development needs for the future.
- Manitoba's Labour Market Forecast projects 177,800 job openings between now and 2021. Sixty-three (63) per cent of these openings will be created by losses to the workforce through retirements and an aging population.
- The highest demand for jobs is in the service, business, finance, trades and transportation sectors with ongoing labour pressures in the regions to fill jobs in manufacturing, agri-business, and health-care.
- Skilled immigrants are needed for at least 25% of the projected job-openings, most of which are skill-specific, requiring both post-secondary and on-the-job training.
- A Labour Market Strategy for Immigration will ensure that we are selecting the economic immigrants who can meet this demand and also create new jobs.

**Question:** What will the new Labour Market Strategy for Immigration include?

**Answer:** A new Labour Market Strategy for Immigration will include five main components:

1. *An annual MPNP nomination plan* that puts the priority on skills and job creation and will be updated regularly to communicate Manitoba's labour market and business priorities to potential applicants.
2. *Innovative partnerships* with industry and education that will build pathways to employment for international students and other immigrant skilled workers, including those in regulated occupations, to better prepare and match applicants to jobs.
3. *Priority selection* for skilled workers with existing employment, or demonstrating a high potential for early and strong attachment to the labour market, in all regions of Manitoba, including occupation-specific education, training and language requirements.
4. *Priority selection* for business nominees demonstrating a high potential to establish higher investment, value-added, job-creating businesses in all regions of Manitoba.
5. *A cost recovery model* that re-invests the revenues generated by the MPNP application fees into improved service standards and supports for immigrants and refugees.

**Question:** What are the specific MPNP criteria changes that are being proposed?

**Answer:** Potential criteria changes for the MPNP skilled worker category will be discussed with Manitoba industry and training partners to ensure that the MPNP is supporting successful pathways for immigrants and international students to employment in the jobs required by the labour market. The specific details of changes to MPNP criteria will be announced in early 2017 after program changes have been approved by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

**Question: How much will the application fees be under the new cost recovery model?**

**Answer:** The MPNP has been charging application fees of \$2500 for business applications since 2013. A new application fee for MPNP skilled worker applications will be introduced in 2017 which will be competitive with other provinces currently charging similar fees. The exact amount of the applications fees will be announced in 2017 along with the specific criteria changes for the MPNP, once these have approval.

**Question: What will be in the annual Nomination Plan?**

**Answer:** The MPNP will provide clear communication about our current labour market and business investment priorities for potential applicants submitting expressions of interest to apply to the program.

- These priorities will reflect the needs of Manitoba employers ready to hire new immigrants and international students, the in-demand occupations of the Manitoba labour market based on current information and projections, and the occupation-specific skills and language requirements necessary to be hired in those jobs.
- The nomination plan will also inform applicants about our current priorities for business applicants.
- Candidates submitting expressions of interest to the MPNP will be weighted and invited to submit complete applications based on their documented ability to meet the quarterly updated priorities defined in the Nomination Plan.

**What kind of partnerships is the MPNP developing with employers and post-secondary institutions?**

**Answer:** The MPNP is open to exploring partnerships with Manitoba Sector Councils, and other industry associations, as well as public post-secondary colleges and universities to build clear pathways for potential immigrants and international students to employment opportunities consistent with their skills, training and experience.

- These partnerships will also help to improve our information related to current labour market demands which will be used to inform and update the priorities in our Nomination Plan.
- By building stronger recruitment pathways with employers, including post-secondary labour market training pathways for international students, we will be able to increase the numbers of provincial nominees who have jobs consistent with their skills and with labour market demand earlier in the arrival process.

**Question: When will the changes be implemented?**

**Answer:** Our first priority is to eliminate the existing application backlog by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017.

- The MPNP will also continue to give priority to current applicants who have confirmed employment in Manitoba.
- Potential criteria changes for the MPNP skilled worker category will be discussed with Manitoba industry and training partners to ensure that the MPNP is supporting successful pathways for immigrants and international students to employment in the jobs required by the labour market.
- The specific details of changes to MPNP criteria will be announced in early 2017 after program changes have been approved by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and implemented shortly after.