

BACKGROUNDER

What is the Agreement on Internal Trade?

The Agreement on Internal Trade was signed by all provinces, territories and the federal government in 1994. Its objective is to reduce and eliminate, to the extent possible, barriers to the movement of persons, goods, services and investments within Canada. The AIT focuses on 11 specific sectors, one of which is labour mobility (Chapter 7).

The Labour Mobility Chapter of the AIT aims to ensure that any worker certified to perform a profession or occupation by a regulator in any Canadian province or territory will be granted certification, upon application, in respect of the same profession or occupation in any other province, without the need for additional training, work experience, or examinations.

The Forum of Labour Market Ministers identified 51 occupations and the trades as a priority to comply with the Labour Mobility chapter of the AIT. Saskatchewan had 45 of those priority occupations and 47 trades which it focused its efforts on to ensure full labour mobility. All will have full labour mobility with the exclusion of the six exceptions identified to maintain a legitimate objective.

However, the Labour Mobility chapter of the AIT is intended to ensure there is full labour mobility for all regulated occupations. The province is currently focusing additional efforts on municipalities, additional occupations outside the 51 priority occupations, and the non-Red Seal trades to ensure full compliance by June 2010.

What exceptions were approved for Saskatchewan?

From the 45 regulated occupations in Saskatchewan initially prioritized by the Forum of Labour Market Ministers, a total of six exceptions to maintain a legitimate objective have been approved by Government.

In the case of these six occupations, professionals moving to Saskatchewan will need to demonstrate they meet Saskatchewan standards as follows:

- Chiropractors from all jurisdictions – Basic Life Support, Level C;
- Dental Hygienists from all jurisdictions except Alberta and British Columbia – administration of local anaesthesia;
- Lawyers from Quebec – common law knowledge;
- Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) from all jurisdictions – administration of epinephrine pen and patient assist medications;
- Emergency Medical Technician Paramedics, Advanced Care Paramedics (EMT-P/ACP) from British Columbia and Ontario only – administration of blood and blood products and urinary catheterization; and,
- Emergency Medical Technician, Primary Care Paramedics (EMT-PCP) from all jurisdictions (New Brunswick for blood and blood products only) – administration of blood and blood products and urinary catheterization.

Why were these exceptions approved?

Provinces and territories work with regulatory bodies to ensure occupational standards are maintained and the public is protected.

The work that particular types of professionals do can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. In cases where professionals in other jurisdictions have not been assessed in their home jurisdictions to perform responsibilities that they would be called upon to do in Saskatchewan (for example, dental hygienists in other jurisdictions may not have to be trained to administer local anaesthesia), we allow our local regulatory bodies to require additional assessments.

What do you mean by “legitimate objective”?

Under this agreement, a legitimate objective means one or more of the following objectives are pursued within a province or territory:

- public security and safety;
- public order;
- protection of human, animal or plant life or health;
- protection of the environment;
- consumer protection;
- protection of the health, safety and well-being of workers;
- provision of adequate social and health services to all its geographic regions;
- programs for disadvantaged workers