

## **BACKGROUND**

In December 2011 the unemployment rate in Ireland rose to 14.4 per.

In the wake of a global economic recession, the Irish Economic and Social Research Institute estimates 75,000 Irish are expected to emigrate in 2012 as unemployment in the country continues to rise.

The Irish Government has identified emigration as one part of the economic recovery plan.

The Government of Saskatchewan was approached by employers interested in actively recruiting skilled workers in Ireland.

The Government of Saskatchewan administers the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP).

The SINP is an economically-driven program that responds to the need of Saskatchewan employers. It allows the Province of Saskatchewan to nominate applicants who qualify under criteria established by the province for permanent resident status.

The program offers the ability to select applicants whose skills and abilities best meet the needs of employers; application processing times that are faster than other federal immigration classes; and, assistance from Immigration Officers who are readily available to explain program requirements and processes.