

BACKGROUNDER

SINP Annual Nominations Allocation

Each year, the federal government determines the maximum nomination numbers for Provincial Nominee Programs (PNPs) across Canada. A single nomination allocation is assigned to the principal applicant and includes accompanying dependents.

Over the period 2010-2012 nomination allocations were unchanged for all PNPs. In Saskatchewan, the SINP was capped at 4,000 nominations. For 2013, the federal government increased the SINP allocation by 450 to 4,450 nominations.

Consultations – Future Directions of Immigration in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan is facing a labour force shortage. As such, the Government of Saskatchewan requested an increase to the SINP nomination cap with the intent to increase the number of foreign skilled workers immigrating to the province. Citizenship and Immigration Canada agreed to increase the cap by 450 nominations contingent on a provincial government commitment to review the program criteria, specifically the Family Referral Category.

Economy Minister Bill Boyd consulted with stakeholders and his federal counterparts and has announced a comprehensive provincial consultation on the future of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program, including a review of immigration categories and settlement. While the consultation will focus on the overall direction of the program, specific emphasis will be placed on revisions to the Family Referral Category including a proposal to establish a prequalified skilled professional category that would eliminate the need for a job offer in advance of nomination and assess applications on a points-grading system that provides points for family connections in Saskatchewan.

The consultation process will begin on May 27, 2013. At that time, an outline of consultation themes and considerations will be posted online at www.economy.gov.sk.ca/immigrationconsultations to solicit input from stakeholders.

Written submissions in response to the consultation overview will be received by post or electronic mail until July 8, 2013.

In addition, stakeholder group representatives will be invited to participate in facilitated meetings in Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Humboldt and Prince Albert in June 2013.

Immigration Services will conduct an analysis of Saskatchewan labour market needs, stakeholder feedback and jurisdictional comparisons to inform the future direction of the SINP. Any program changes resulting will be announced in August 2013.

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Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP)

The SINP operates under the economic stream of the federal immigration program. Its mandate is to attract and retain foreign workers with the skills and education to meet labour market needs and establish permanently in Saskatchewan.

The SINP is an employer-driven program. This means the nominations are assigned to individuals best suited to assist to contribute to provincial workforce development by obtaining permanent full-time employment in Saskatchewan. The job requirement also allows Saskatchewan Immigration Services to review and assess employers to ensure they are compliant with SINP criteria, labour standards and occupational health and safety regulations.

Since 2007, about 43,000 people have arrived in Saskatchewan in response to critical labour shortages. Newcomers have arrived from more than 179 countries and settled in 351 communities across Saskatchewan, contributing to the social, cultural and economic growth of the province.

More information is available online at www.saskimmigrationcanada.ca