

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
MEETING NOTE

Cliff #: 100332

Updated: August 16, 2013

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING:

Saturday, August 17, 2013, 3:00pm

ATTENDEES:

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour, and Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).

ISSUE(S):

Meeting to:

1. Discuss the federal government's Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program review and British Columbia's position in regards to TFWs.
2. NR
3. Follow up on direction from the Council of the Federation (COF) for British Columbia and New Brunswick's respective Premiers to pursue a solution with the federal government on the proposed Canada Job Grant.

BACKGROUND and KEY MESSAGES in attachments

ATTACHMENTS:

APPENDIX 1: TFW Background and KMs

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APPENDIX 3: LMA Renewal / Canada Job Grant Background and KMs

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APPENDIX 5:

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(draft, confidential)

APPENDIX 1

Temporary Foreign Workers

BACKGROUND:

- The TFW Program is a federal program jointly administered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) formerly Human Resources and Development Canada (HRSDC).
- On July 15, 2013, Minister Jason Kenney was appointed Minister of ESDC and Minister Chris Alexander was appointed Minister of CIC. Prior to this date, Minister Kenney held the CIC portfolio from October 2008 until July 14, 2013.
- Under Minister Kenney, ESDC is responsible for Labour Market Opinions (LMO) which is designed to ensure Canadian workers are given priority over TFWs. Unless exempted from the LMO process (e.g. youth mobility programs, NAFTA), TFW's work permit applications must have an LMO. Through the LMO process, employers must demonstrate they have tried to recruit Canadians for their vacancies (e.g. through advertising positions on job boards).
- Under Minister Alexander, CIC is responsible for issuing work permits to TFWs. Work permits issued under the LMO process are usually valid only for a specific employer, job and length of time.
- In 2012, there were an estimated 74,216 TFWs in BC. Ontario had the largest share of TFWs in Canada (35.5%), with BC second (21.9%) and Alberta third (20.2%). A large proportion of TFWs in British Columbia (40 per cent) are admitted under youth mobility programs, which allow foreign nationals to work for any employer while they experience Canada.

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- BC is using every available source of workers to address the workforce challenge of "jobs without people", while also investing heavily in upskilling workers to address "people without jobs".
- The BC's Skills and Training Plan specifies the importance of matching local workers first for jobs, followed by regional, national and finally international workers. The TFW Program plays a specific role among these priorities.

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- In 2013, the TFW Program received heightened public and media attention mainly based on two controversies:
 - In BC, judicial review of ESDC's decision to issue a positive LMO approving the hiring of 201 Chinese TFWs by HD Mining.
 - In Ontario, the Royal Bank of Canada's decision to lay off 45 information technology workers and outsource jobs to a firm in India.
- In response to widespread concerns with the TFW program the federal government accelerated its program review, first unveiled in Budget 2012. In 2013, two sets of changes were announced, the first in April and the second at the end of July. s13, s16
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- The province supports the TFW Program review and understands the federal government's requirements to ensure program integrity. In sectors where there are projected skill shortages such as liquefied natural gas however, the province must also support the use of TFWs by employers who are compliant with federal and provincial laws and who have genuinely sought to hire domestic workers but were unsuccessful.

KEY MESSAGES:

- **Given his strong record of leadership on immigration reform, BC is pleased to be working with Minister Kenney on the appropriate use of temporary foreign workers. The work in this portfolio can build on positive realignment of Canada's approach to immigration for greater labour market responsiveness.**
- **BC supports the federal government's review of the TFW Program. Ensuring the program is only used when domestic labour sources have been exhausted and that appropriate mechanisms are in place to protect TFWs is of mutual interest.** s16

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- **As the federal government continues its review of the TFW Program, BC is interested in learning what other program changes are under consideration and potential dates when these might take effect.**
- **BC is seeking a balance between improvements to program integrity and the need for expeditious access to TFWs for compliant employers that have legitimate workforce shortages.**
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Pages 4 through 5 redacted for the following reasons:

Not Responsive

APPENDIX 3

Labour Market Agreement Renewal

BACKGROUND:

- On July 16, 2013 Employment and Social Development Canada provided BC with an offer on the renewed Labour Market Agreement (LMA), which includes a Canada Job Grant (CJG).

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- On July 25, the Council of Federation (CoF) tasked BC and New Brunswick (NB) Premiers with taking the lead on the issues of labour market, labour force development and skills training, and to report back to Premiers in the fall (November).

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- A PT FLMM meeting is expected in the last two weeks of September, where Premiers' Clark and Alward are in attendance.

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- An FPT FLMM meeting is expected in October to discuss LMA negotiations.

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KEY MESSAGES:

- **BC recognizes it is in everyone's best interests for the provinces and territories to work together with the federal government to ensure our labour market programs continue to support Canadians and employers across the country.**
- **The current Labour Market Agreements have been very successful in helping some of our most vulnerable people find and keep jobs.**

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- **I appreciate the time you've taken to meet with me today and I think we can find a way to meet all of our respective labour market needs.**

Pages 9 through 14 redacted for the following reasons:

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Sawchuk, Bindi MIT:EX

From: Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 10:46 AM
To: Lewis, Kaaren JTST:EX; Ferguson, Suzanne A JTST:EX
Subject: RE: Quick question from SERGEI - FW: FYI - FW: Fed consultation re Canada Job Grant etc.

I don't have a strong opinion one way or the other, so fine with me.

Bindi Sawchuk, CMA | Executive Project Director, BC Settlement Transition & Director Financial Management and Accountability
Labour Market & Immigration Division | Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training
(250) 387-1646 | s17 | bindi.sawchuk@gov.bc.ca

From: Lewis, Kaaren JTST:EX
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 10:40 AM
To: Ferguson, Suzanne A JTST:EX; Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Subject: Quick question from SERGEI - FW: FYI - FW: Fed consultation re Canada Job Grant etc.

What are your thoughts? I am supportive but won't respond til I hear from one or both of you...
Kaaren

From: Bouslov, Sergei MSD:EX
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 10:09 AM
To: Lewis, Kaaren JTST:EX
Subject: RE: FYI - FW: Fed consultation re Canada Job Grant etc.

Hi Kaaren – a quick question about the May 30th session – is there any opportunity to have one more MSD rep invited to the session? Denise Sandison is our IGR lead and she is the key ministry contact on LMAPWD. With so much going on in the fed/prov domain and so many moving pieces, I think it would be valuable to have Denise attend the meeting in person. Do you have any concerns with that?

Sergei

From: Lewis, Kaaren JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 9:51 AM
To: Currie, Tami MSD:EX; Bouslov, Sergei MSD:EX
Subject: FYI - FW: Fed consultation re Canada Job Grant etc.

Sergei and Tami
FYI – You will be interested in the CJG and LMAPD portions.

Sergei – we should get together this week so I can bring you up to speed on our LMA renewal discussions. I understand you have accepted the invite to the May 30th session which is great news.
Kaaren

From: Bertrand, Francois JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 8:54 AM
To: Lewis, Kaaren JTST:EX; Ferguson, Suzanne A JTST:EX; Ahn, Sohee JTST:EX
Cc: Godin, Keith JTST:EX; Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Subject: FW: Fed consultation re Canada Job Grant etc.

Good morning:

Managed to secure a high level summary of last week's federal consultation with BC stakeholders concerning the CJG/LMAPD/TFWP - a copy is attached.

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My federal contact has kindly offered to answer any questions we may have about the session or summary – please advise if you have any questions, and I will follow up later this week. Have already asked for a list of attendees, as this information is not included in the summary...

Thanks,
Francois

François Bertrand
Director, Immigration Policy
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
800 - 360 West Georgia Street,
Vancouver, BC, V6B 6B2
Tel: (604) 660-3463
Cell s17

From: Will, Jo-Anne MCF:EX
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2013 1:54 PM
To: Sieben, Mark MSD:EX; Harrington, Molly MSD:EX; Bond, Allison MSD:EX; Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Cc: Sandison, Denise MSD:EX; Virtue, Stefan JTST:EX; Bouslov, Sergei MSD:EX; Bruce, Robert MSD:EX; Craven, Paul IGRS:EX
Subject: Fed consultation re Canada Job Grant etc.

Hi all. I just received a call from a federal colleague giving me a heads up that Parliamentary Secretary Kellie Leitch will be in Vancouver on May 16th and 17th to consult with BC businesses about the Canada Job Grant (will likely include LMAPD) and the Temporary Foreign Worker program. There will be two sessions – one for each topic. He did not know which businesses have been invited.

Jo-Anne Will
Director
Intergovernmental Relations
Ministry of Children and Family Development
Ministry of Social Development
Phone: (250) 953-3446
Fax:
E-Mail: JoAnne.Will@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Jason Kenney	Minister of (Government of Canada)	Contact information: jason.kenney@parl.gc.ca 613-xxx-xxxx
<p>SUBJECT AREA: Federal Review of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program</p> <p>SPEAKING POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Columbia supports the federal review of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. • As the Temporary Foreign Worker Program allows employers to fill critical vacancies across regions and industries, any changes stemming from the review must not result in additional barriers for bona fide employers to access foreign workers within reasonable timeframes. 		
<p>SUBJECT AREA: Labour Market Agreement Renewal</p> <p>SPEAKING POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We received the offer to renegotiate the Labour Market Agreement last Friday. • BC has two key interests in a renewed LMA. The province must retain a strategic role in determining LMA investments and have sufficient flexibility to ensure economic and workforce goals are met. • I know the federal government wants a Canada Job Grant, and BC is aligned with the idea of greater employer involvement; in fact BC delivers really successful LMA programs which require employer participation. We have a huge number of job openings coming on board, particularly in the North of our province with LNG projects, and we will continue to use this approach to meet labour demand needs. • <p>s13, s16</p>		

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BACKGROUND:

- Staff met with federal government yesterday to clarify facts of the federal offer to renew.
 - Key points of discussion included elements of the vision and objectives, funding amount and allocation formula, clarification on all elements of the CJG and non-CJG portions.

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Sawchuk, Bindi MIT:EX

From: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2013 2:30 PM
To: Craven, Paul IGRS:EX; Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Subject: RE: Federal meeting on LMA

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Shannon Baskerville
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Tel: 250-387-5640
Cell: s17
shannon.baskerville@gov.bc.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Craven, Paul IGRS:EX
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2013 1:18 PM
To: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX; Sawchuk, Bindi JTST:EX
Subject: Federal meeting on LMA

I have a call with my SK and Alberta counterparts to compare notes. Can you give me a synopsis of the discussion with the federal Minister.

Thanks.

PS. s13, s16