

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY

DECISION NOTE

Cliff #: 138515

Date: October 30, 2017

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

ISSUE: s.13,s.22 potential Chair of the Emerging Economy Task Force.

BACKGROUND:

The Supply and Confidence Agreement between the BC Green Caucus and the BC New Democrat Caucus included a commitment to establishing an Emerging Economy Task Force (EETF). The task force will examine the state of the economy and propose options to address short and long-term economic challenges and opportunities.

The EETF will undertake its core engagement, assessment and advisory work over a 12-month period and present their recommendations to government by fall 2018. The EETF recommendations will support and inform the development of the province's economic development strategy.

The EETF will bring together senior leaders that reflect the interests and expertise required to deliver on the breadth and depth of the EETF mandate. The task force chair will play a critical role in guiding the EETF as it delivers on its mandate. This individual will require strong subject-matter grounding and a breadth and depth of experience to guide the panel of experts.

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DISCUSSION:

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OPTIONS:

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Prepared by: Cyrus Singh, Manager, Economic Policy and Strategic Initiatives

Reviewed by			
Dir: TJ Parhar	ED: Angelo Cocco	ADM:	DM:

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DECISION NOTE

Cliff #: 138857

Date: November 28, 2017

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

ISSUE: BC's 2018 Provincial Nominee Allocation

BACKGROUND:

On November 1, 2017, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) tabled a three year immigration levels plan for 2018-2020, representing a significant shift from standard one year plans. The new multiyear plan includes higher levels targets: overall admissions of new permanent residents increase each year from 300,000 in 2017 to 340,000 in 2020. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) admission levels increase by 33% from 51,000 in 2017 to 55,000 in 2018, 61,000 in 2019 and 67,800 in 2020.

IRCC is now in the process of determining 2018 PNP nomination allocations for provinces and territories (PTs). There is also a possibility IRCC will provide nominal allocations for 2019 and 2020 to align with the three year plan. The levels plan reflects total Permanent Resident (PR) admissions – which include applicants' spouses and dependents – whereas nomination allocations reflect only principal applicants. For example, BC's current allocation of 6,000 principal applicants will result in approximately 10,800 individuals being nominated and requiring space in the levels plan.

In 2017, PTs are able to nominate a total of 33,400 individuals, which represents approximately 64,000 admission spaces. However, the 2017 levels plan only provides for 51,000 admissions.^{s.16}

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Long PR processing times have the following negative impacts:

- BC's ability to attract skilled workers that meet specific labour market needs is constrained; the program becomes a less attractive option than federal economic streams;
- Nominees face uncertainty; without permanent resident status their eligibility for other provincial programs while in BC on a work permit is limited; and
- The PNP program faces additional resource burdens, as staff spend additional time on requests for work permit extension support letters, as well as responding to MLA enquiries on behalf of frustrated nominees.

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DISCUSSION:

The 2018-2020 levels plan reflects continued feedback from PTs, including BC, s.16
s.16 . As part of the immigration levels consultation process, BC advocated for increases in PNP admission levels to correct the misalignment between nominations and admissions.

Although not a full solution, the tabling of a three year levels plan with increases in PN admissions each year is positive and a needed step towards dealing with the backlog. s.16
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BC's immigration submission for 2018 requested an increase in PNP nominations from 6,000 to s.16 . However, BC's submission was based on its projected labour gap being addressed solely through the PNP and the province continuing to receive a relatively constant number of skilled workers through federal economic streams. The new levels plan includes higher levels for the Federal Economic High Skilled streams, which could mean an additional 1,400 skilled workers for BC by 2020. This almost entirely addresses the labour gap even without increases to the PNP. In light of IRCC's commitment to multiyear immigration levels growth, along with backlog considerations, BC could consider accepting a status quo nomination allocation in 2018 on the condition that the program would still grow to s.16 by 2020. This would provide balance between reducing federal processing times and increasing BC's PNP allocation so that BC can still grow its ability address specific, targeted labour shortages in key BC industries.

The BC PNP is also built on a cost-recovery model and positioned for growth. s.13,s.16,s.17
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In staff-level multilateral discussions. s.16
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s.16 . Nomination allocation discussions are occurring bilaterally and s.16 . IRCC takes PT requests into consideration when determining nomination allocations, but they have full authority to make the final decision on allocations.

OPTIONS:

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ATTACHMENT: s.16**Approved** / **Not Approved**

Date:

December 13, 2017

Minister's Signature:

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 Prepared by: Marci Bearance, Senior Policy Analyst

Reviewed by

Dir: CH

ED: CN

ADM: RM

DM:

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MINISTRY OF JOBS, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY

DECISION NOTE

Cliff #:138924

Date: November 28, 2017

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

ISSUE: LNG Canada Letter of Intent regarding Temporary Foreign Workers

BACKGROUND:

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timely access to TFWs to address labour shortages was considered a key factor in the feasibility of LNG Canada's project.

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There are currently 18 LNG export proposals in BC at various stages of development; however, only two — LNG Canada in Kitimat and Woodfibre LNG near Squamish — have regulatory approval

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DISCUSSION:

Labour Market Information

The cancellation of the Pacific Northwest LNG project and the downturn of the Alberta oil and gas industry have impacted the anticipated demand and supply for any LNG project. The most recent provincial Labour Market Outlook (2017-2027) no longer contains a list of in-demand LNG jobs; stating "labour market indicators show that supply has moved into balance with demand projections." LNG Canada has publicly

stated that they are committed to hiring locally first; and they have likely revised their own workforce needs based on recent labour market trends. However, they may still feel that TFWs are an essential part of project feasibility and would want to have access to an international workforce to address specialized skills not available in Canada.

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s.13,s.16 the Global Talent Stream (GTS) of the TFW Program, a federal pilot project launched in June 2017. Although the GTS is focused primarily on the technology sector, it provides a model that could be considered for LNG and would address both processing timelines and domestic training issues.

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s.13, The GTS also requires employers to develop a company-wide Labour Market Benefits Plan outlining how they will support and create benefits for the local workforce. In exchange, the employer receives an exemption from the four-week advertising requirement, an expedited application process, and an exemption from doing a transition plan for each TFW. s.13,s.16

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s.16 Using the Annex would send a public signal of BC's support for the use of TFWs for LNG projects. To date BC has not used the Annex for any occupations, largely because the federal government has taken other action to improve processing times for key occupations and sectors. There may now be alternative options available to obtain expedited processing in a way that more clearly demonstrates the benefits to local workers and removes reference to the Annex.

Implementation and Partnerships

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The final consideration is the implication on the relationship with LNG Canada. The willingness of both the federal and provincial governments to establish such a document was perceived extremely positively by LNG Canada and seen as a signal of support for the project more broadly. A decision to continue that support or to rescind it will be interpreted similarly.

OPTIONS:

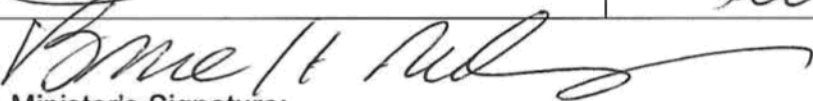
Option 1: s.13,s.16
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Option 2: s.13,s.16
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Option 3: s.13,s.16
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RECOMMENDATION: s.13,s.16

ATTACHMENT: Appendix 1: LNG Letter of Intent

Approved / Not Approved	Date: December 13, 2017
 Minister's Signature:	

ADM Contact: Rob Mingay, 604-250-3081
Prepared by: Carling Helander, Director, WIMI

Reviewed by			
Dir: CH	ED: CN	ADM: RM	DM: FM

Letter of Intent between BC, IRCC, and ESDC regarding the LNG Canada Project

The purpose of this letter is to confirm our respective Departments' commitment, once all efforts to recruit Canadians and permanent residents have been exhausted, to facilitate access to temporary foreign workers for the LNG Canada Project and its contractors (the Project).

The Project has been identified as an economic opportunity for British Columbia (B.C.) as part of the emerging Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sector in the Province. The Project will foster economic growth in the province by providing job opportunities for Canadians, investments in Canada, and bolster Canada's reputation as a global energy leader.

Both levels of government share an interest in working collaboratively with employers, labour, communities (including First Nations communities), the education and training sector and other domestic and international partners to develop the workforce needed for the Project. This includes providing supports to address barriers to labour market participation faced by youth, Indigenous people, new immigrants and persons with disabilities, and encouraging greater participation and investments by employers in skills training.

B.C. is committed to ensuring that British Columbians and Canadians are first in line for jobs for which they are qualified. B.C. is working closely with LNG proponents, labour organizations, and First Nation's representatives through the Premier's LNG Working Group to prepare the British Columbian workforce to meet the labour demand of the Project. Labour markets throughout Canada will also be monitored on a regular basis to identify any potential sources of labour for the Project resulting from changes in regional economies. B.C. is also re-engineering the education and training system through the B.C. Skills for Jobs Blueprint and changes to the Industry Training Authority to position British Columbian workers to benefit from the job opportunities provide by the Project.

Even with extensive efforts to maximize the available domestic workforce, demographic realities and the need for specialized workers means there are anticipated to be critical labour shortages on the Project. Accordingly, foreign workers, including those entering Canada under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) and the International Mobility Program (IMP), will be necessary to meet these shortages and ensure the Project can move forward and maximize opportunities provided to Canadians and support growth in the Canadian economy.

To this end, we share a mutual interest in ensuring that the Project can access required temporary foreign workers in a timely and efficient manner when Canadians and permanent residents are not available.

Joint areas for collaboration to achieve the purpose of this Letter of Intent will balance the dual goals of protecting the integrity of the TFWP and the IMP with ensuring that the Project can access temporary foreign workers in a timely and efficient manner.

The areas for collaboration are:

1) Gathering the best possible labour market data to validate the availability of domestic labour to meet the job needs of British Columbia's LNG sector.

The Government of B.C. and ESDC agree to continually reassess the domestic labour availability versus demand over the course of the project through the gathering, updating and sharing of labour market information and working together to examine how it can be used in the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) process.

2) Exploring innovative approaches to meeting TFWP requirements.

ESDC and the Government of B.C. are committed to finding innovative and efficient ways for the Project to meet program requirements, such as recognizing on-going advertising and utilizing a "Group of Employers" approach. Once labour needs are known, approaches will be finalized in consultation with the Project.


3) Reducing overall processing times.

ESDC and B.C. are committed to minimizing LMIA processing times for key occupations needed to advance the Project through 10-day expedited LMIA processing (as provided for under the Foreign Worker Annex to the 2015 Canada-B.C. Immigration Agreement). The Project will be consulted prior to finalizing the list of occupations.

IRCC is committed to working with the Government of B.C. to process all work permit and visa applications for entry of temporary foreign workers for the Project in an expedited manner, with a service standard of 20 days or less. Temporary foreign workers selected for the Project who submit incomplete work permit and visa applications or who require further assessment by IRCC due to integrity concerns may require longer than 20 days to process. The Government of B.C. will assist IRCC with the expedited processing of work permit and visa applications of temporary foreign workers by developing a mechanism through which IRCC can identify applicants selected for the Project.


4) Enhancing service quality for employers on the Project.

ESDC is committed to provide the Project with a single point of contact to act as a liaison to ensure the TFWP remains responsive to the evolving needs of the Project.



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MAY 10 2016



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