

Update on TFW program
January 30, 2015

Alberta has reached an agreement with the Government of Canada on Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) currently awaiting assessment by the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (AINP).

As a result, some TFWs have a stronger chance at permanently calling Alberta home, and employers can continue to utilize this workforce that can otherwise be very difficult to replace.

The agreement is effective February 1, and enables our government to provide one-time relief to selected TFWs in the AINP inventory who:

- applied prior to July 1, 2014,
- meet AINP eligibility criteria, and
- are nominated in 2016.

This agreement is the result of ongoing negotiations with my federal counterparts since last fall. While the agreement does not cover everyone who has applied to the AINP, it does help mitigate the challenges employers and some TFWs face following the federal overhaul of the TFW program.

Eligible applicants will be receiving participation letters from the AINP. Individuals who are not eligible include those whose work permits have already expired, or will expire outside of the February – December 2015 time period.

For your reference, I have enclosed key messages and a factsheet with information that will assist you in briefing and responding to your constituents on this topic.

I appreciate your help in directing all questions about the AINP to the program's website at <http://www.albertacanada.com/opportunity/immigrating/ainp.aspx>, where up-to-date information on processing times is available to check on application status.

Applicants can also call the Immigrate to Alberta Information Service (1-877-427-6419) for general inquiries.