

Newcomers

Manitoba is a diverse province where one in five residents is an immigrant, while more than one in three is either an immigrant or the child of immigrants.¹ Every year, the province welcomes on average 15,000 immigrants, ten per cent of whom are from refugee backgrounds.² The province has a strong Provincial Nominee Program (PNP), a legacy of welcoming refugees, and is an attractive option for many immigrants from all over the world.

According to the 2016 census, Manitoba was the third fastest growing province with a population growth rate of 5.8 per cent, exceeding Canada's population growth rate of 5.0 per cent. Two-thirds of that population increase was due to international migration, while the remaining one-third was due to births.³ Growth in immigration has had several significant impacts on Manitoba communities, including a substantial increase in the tax base, an increase in student enrollment numbers, and a flourishing diversity that has strengthened the province. The APB recognizes the importance of having the necessary resources and supports in place to support the successful transition of newcomers into their new communities in Manitoba. (See the APB chapters on Health Care, Housing, Arts

and Culture, Justice, Municipal Relations and Child and Family Services for more).

Settlement

The Government of Manitoba's investment of \$3.1 million in the 2019–2020 fiscal year helps organizations better meet the needs of newcomers, particularly those who are ineligible for federally-funded settlement services, including refugee claimants, international students, and temporary workers.⁴ But more is needed to meet the increasing demand for settlement services and fill in the gaps left by restrictions of federally funded services. More funding would allow service providers to create new programs for newcomers, including targeted programs for youth, parents, and newcomers with disabilities.

Many young people have benefited from the Government of Manitoba's Urban/Home Town Green Team, "First Jobs for Youth" initiatives which give them opportunities to learn skills and gain valuable experience in the Canadian labour market. Newcomer youth have also benefited from the Government of Manitoba's Lighthouses initiative through after-school programming at various newcomer serving organizations. These

programs help keep newcomer youth engaged in pro-social activities where they can develop positive relationships with their peers and with the adults providing the programming. The APB will continue funding these programs while funding additional programs through the above-mentioned settlement funding. This funding will provide further newcomer youth employment programs and provide them with safe and supportive after-school and summer programming activities.

New Expenditure: \$4.1 M

Language

Having access to language training is vital for newcomers to be able to settle and contribute to their new community. Currently, the Federal Government is the primary funder of language training instruction in Manitoba. As a result, only newcomers whose PNP applications or refugee claims have been approved or those who hold permanent residency are eligible for classes. Furthermore, in recent years the Federal Government significantly reduced the amount of stage two (Canadian Language Benchmark 5–8) classes it funded in the province. With minimal access to stage two classes, newcomers have added barriers to re-entering their profession, improving their employment opportunities, accessing post-secondary education, and connecting with their community.⁵ There is a particularly strong need for targeted bridging programs with develop work-related language and employment skills. In early 2019, the Government of Manitoba put out a request for proposals to for Manitoba Adult Language Training Instruction funding for employment-related language training instruction. We commend the Government of Manitoba for seeing the need for the expansion of language training instruction, however, to date, there has not been a comprehensive roll out of this funding. The APB will release funding for language training

instruction and ensure that enough funding is provided for classes that meet the range of student needs for both stage two (CLB 5–8) classes for all newcomers and stage one (CLB 1–4) for those newcomers who are ineligible for federally funded classes.

New Expenditure: \$6M

Employment

One of a newcomer's first priorities is finding employment. However, finding secure, meaningful and adequate employment can be very difficult. Newcomers face many barriers such as language differences, lack of Canadian work experience, lack of connections and networks, lack of mentorship and training, discrimination, and difficulties getting credentials recognized within their profession. As a result, many newcomers face unemployment, are under-employed or settle for survival jobs, making it more difficult for them to settle. This situation also reduces the tax revenue that could come from the newcomer working in their profession. Tailored programs are needed to ensure equitable employment opportunities are provided for newcomers. The Province's Refugee Employment Development Initiative (REDI) Program provides valuable language and employment skills training for refugees. The APB extends the program. It also addresses gaps in federal services, particularly for internationally trained professionals and newcomers who do not hold permanent residency.

Funding will allow service providers to provide employment information and supports for newcomers who are ineligible for federally-funded services such as paid work placements and include tailored supports for temporary foreign workers. The APB also funds bridge training programs for professionals that target occupation specific training and support for accreditation in newcomers' professions, along with services to access employment in similar high-skilled

non-regulated professions, and initiatives to reduce the systematic barriers that prevent internationally trained professionals from entering their profession in Manitoba.

New Expenditure: \$3M

Total New Operating Expenditure:

Settlement: \$4.1M

Language training: \$6M

Employment supports: \$3M

Total: \$13.1M

¹ Statistics Canada. (2017). *Census Profile. 2016 Census: Manitoba [Province] and Canada [Country]*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Retrieved October 30, 2019 from <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

² Zell, S. (2018). "Federal Election 2019: Immigration Factsheet – Manitoba." The University of Winnipeg Institute of Urban Studies. Available at <https://www.ipwinnipeg.org/votecanada2019>

³ Statistics Canada. No date. *Population Size and Growth in Canada: Key Results from the 2016 Census*. Retrieved June 25, 2019 from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/170208/dq170208a-eng.htm>; Statistics Canada. No date. *The 10 highest population growth rates among census agglomerations in Canada, 2006 to 2011 and 2011 to 2016*. Table 4. Retrieved June 25, 2019 from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/170208/to04a-eng.htm>; CBC News. (2017, February 9). *Manitoba's Population Grows Faster Than Canadian Average*. Retrieved June 25, 2019 from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/census-manitoba-winnipeg-growth-1.3971916>

⁴ Manitoba Government. (2019). "Province Announces \$3 Million in New Funding to Strengthen Newcomer Support Services." *New Release – Manitoba*. April 12. Retrieved October 30, 2019 from <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=45205>

⁵ Starkey, B. (2019). "MANSO Policy Resolution 2019: 2019-1 Availability of Stage 2 (Canadian Language Benchmark 5-8) Language Classes." Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations. Retrieved November 4, 2019 from <https://mansomanitoba.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Final-MANSO-Policy-Resolution-Package-July-2019.pdf>