

FACT sheet

Alberta's report on the impacts of the federal Temporary Foreign Worker Program

Calgary-Mackay MLA Teresa Woo-Paw has released her new report, [*Impact of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program on the Labour Market in Alberta*](#), after consulting with Albertans across the province. The Alberta government issued a [response](#) accepting the four numbered recommendations in the report.

Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister for Alberta Employment and Immigration, asked his Parliamentary Assistant, Teresa Woo-Paw, to lead a review of the impact of temporary foreign workers on Alberta's workforce and communities. Ms. Woo-Paw held 14 consultations with employers, municipalities, social agencies and Albertans in small and large communities. Nine meetings were also held with temporary foreign workers.

Recommendations in the report

The following numbered recommendations in the report have been accepted by the Alberta government.

Recommendation 1: The Government of Alberta must continue to be a strong advocate for the province's labour market and population growth needs.

Government's response: The three areas of advocacy are

- urging the federal government to remove the annual caps on the number of provincial nominees;
- exploring options for expanded routes to permanent residence for low- and semi-skilled temporary foreign workers; and
- selecting the right number of new immigrants with the right skills to immediately start work in their area of training.

Recommendation 2: The Government of Alberta should ensure the rights of temporary foreign workers are recognized and upheld by employers and communities.

Government's response: The Alberta government is committed to ensuring the rights of all workers, including temporary foreign workers, are protected. Ongoing investments and improvements in both education and enforcement activities will continue to ensure employers and workers are aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Areas of programming include the Temporary Foreign Worker Advisory Office and a telephone service in over 100 different languages.

Recommendation 3: The Government of Alberta should support and encourage welcoming and inclusive community initiatives throughout the province. Alberta communities, particularly smaller centres, are experiencing higher levels of diversity as a result of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. Welcoming, inclusive and engaged community

initiatives would help communities to support temporary foreign workers and highlight their contributions to the province.

Government's response: The Alberta government will continue partnerships with the Alberta non-profit and voluntary sector and communities to support collaborative initiatives related to the active inclusion of all community members including temporary foreign workers. Temporary foreign workers strengthen Alberta through their active participation in the labour market and in expanding the diversity of our communities. We will continue to advocate for new federal regulations that will allow more temporary foreign workers to become citizens of Canada so they can actively participate in our communities over the long term.

Recommendation 4: The Government of Alberta should explore different ways of communicating services that are available for employers and workers. This will help employers be aware of their rights and responsibilities towards their foreign workers and provide temporary foreign workers with accurate and realistic information on the rights and responsibilities of working and living in Canada. An example could include a template for communities to use for welcoming and supporting newcomers by providing key information.

Government's response: The Alberta government will continue to explore opportunities for increasing access to information for temporary foreign workers overseas, including in Canadian immigration offices in top source countries.

The Alberta government agrees it is important for employers and workers to have accurate and timely information. Current publications include:

- [Temporary Foreign Workers: A Guide for Employees](#) (in 13 languages)
- [Temporary Foreign Workers: A Guide for Employers](#)
- [Employment Standards Guide](#)

The MLA report and government response are available at employment.alberta.ca/tfwreview.

More than 50,000 temporary foreign workers live and work in Alberta. The Temporary Foreign Worker Program is a federal program designed to help employers fill temporary jobs. The entry and exit of temporary foreign workers also falls under federal responsibility.

[Provincial legislation](#) governs the working conditions and health and safety requirements for temporary and permanent Alberta workers alike.

To recruit a temporary foreign worker, an employer must demonstrate that Alberta or Canadian workers were not available for the job. This requirement ensures that Albertans and Canadians are employed first.

For more information:

- Visit our website www.employment.alberta.ca
- Contact Communications at 780-427-5585
- Email: ei.communications@gov.ab.ca

**Government
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