

ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POSITION PAPER

MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION, SKILLS AND IMMIGRATION |

WAYNE EWASKO | MARCH 1, 2021



ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Wayne Ewasko and representatives of Manitoba Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration.

The AMM encourages the Province to consider municipal concerns as well as the effects of funding decisions on local communities throughout the budget process.

This document outlines the AMM's position and recommendations on a number of important municipal issues relevant to the Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration portfolio.

PRIORITY ITEMS:

**PROVINCIAL
IMMIGRATION
STRATEGY**

PARTNERS IN GROWTH

The AMM looks forward to working with the Province of Manitoba to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.

Priority Item #1

Provincial Immigration Strategy

The AMM recommends the government:

✓ ***Consult with the AMM on the development of an Immigration Strategy.***

- Since the outbreak of COVID-19, provincial and federal travel restrictions have affected immigration to Manitoba and Canada overall.
- As immigration remains a key pillar of economic development, it is vital that the Province reaffirm its commitment and take steps to further attract, settle, and retain new Manitobans as local communities look to recover from the pandemic.
- While many communities in Manitoba are pursuing immigration as part of their growth strategy, the municipal-provincial partnership will be key to strengthen and grow local communities moving forward.
- Prior to the pandemic, Statistics Canada anticipated a spike in immigration in Manitoba over the coming years. As government restrictions begin to ease over the coming months, it is critical that Manitoba has a strong immigration strategy to help with economic recovery.
- While the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program (MPNP) has proven useful to responding to local economic and community needs, gaps in providing settlement services, language training and credential recognition remain.
- This is especially problematic in rural areas, as many communities endure labour shortages of doctors and other healthcare practitioners.
- It is critical that the Province help expedite the recognition of foreign credentials so individuals trained abroad can effectively utilize their knowledge and skills to better enter Manitoba's workforce and grow the economy.
- Therefore, the AMM would appreciate an update on this file as we continue to encourage the Province to consult with our organization during the development of an improved Manitoba Immigration Strategy.
- Additionally, the AMM looks forward to learning more about the provincial plan to develop a Skills, Talent and Knowledge Strategy to help inform skills needed to bolster immigration.



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