



MANSO MANITOBA ASSOCIATION
OF NEWCOMER SERVING
ORGANIZATIONS

“Provinces and territories continue to work with the federal government on the objectives of Canada’s Vision Action Plan for Immigration...We will continue to partner with the federal government to create an immigration system that is responsive to the diverse economic and labour market needs of all of Canada’s regions,”

Minister Ian Wishart, Department of Education and Training and provincial/territorial co-chair of the forum of ministers responsible for immigration. October 12, 2016

The **Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations (MANSO)** is a coalition of 60 member organizations that support newcomers to the Province of Manitoba in their settlement. Our members include organizations that offer language programs, employment programs, settlement counseling and community connections, as well as specialized services like housing, family programs, counseling and services for newcomers with disabilities.

We work closely with the Immigration and Economic Opportunities Division of the Provincial Government, who fund one of our Refugee Response Coordinators, and we invite all departments to use MANSO as a resource so that we can share information about the needs, the challenges and the successes of Manitoba’s immigration sector.

Since the repatriation of settlement services in 2012, Manitoba service providers have struggled to meet the needs of clients who are ineligible for federally funded settlement services. Although the sector has been creative in meeting needs by accessing other funding sources, developing partnerships and using volunteers, critical gaps remain. **We urge the Government of Manitoba to fulfill its commitment to making immigrant attraction and retention a priority, by expanding and diversifying its investment in facilitating settlement programming, with the understanding that this investment will have long-term returns for a stronger and more prosperous province.**

In 2014, Manitoba received the highest number of refugees and the second highest number of Provincial Nominees and Family Class immigrants on record. Winnipeg was the top destination in our province, receiving 85.1 per cent (13,811) of immigrants. Manitoba’s newest immigrants come from over 150 countries. Our share of immigration to Canada increased from less than two per cent in the 1990s to 6.2 per cent in 2014 and continues to achieve high rates of retention (86.7 per cent) for the immigrants we attract.



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In Manitoba, temporary residents who have worked for more than six months, or have graduated from a post-secondary program in the province, have the opportunity to apply to the MPNP and become permanent residents. As of December 1, 2014, 7,883 international students and 8,555 temporary foreign workers were present in Manitoba.
https://www.gov.mb.ca/labour/immigration/pdf/mb_imm_facts_rep_2014.pdf

Case Study – Settlement Services for Temporary Foreign Workers

A father, who had been employed in manufacturing in Southern Manitoba for two years as a temporary foreign worker, recently was laid off (along with approximately forty other workers). The family was already in the process of making an application to the provincial nominee program, but is at risk of losing their status in Canada prior to a decision on the application. The children of the family have been in school for two years in Canada, and they are fearful that they will have to leave the country suddenly. Settlement service providers are unable to assist them due to lack of funding.

Case Study – Language Training Access for Citizens

An Afghani couple who are both doctors have been working as security guards since arriving in Canada so that they can support their family. Now that they finally have the time and energy to pursue their credential recognition as International Medical Graduates, they can no longer access language classes as they are Canadian citizens. The gentleman was in tears when he was informed of this as he still needs to improve his writing level in order to successfully complete his credential recognition process. There are simply no funded options for him to do so.

Manitoba and Quebec are the only two Provinces where newcomers who are not eligible for Federal services have no systematic access to Provincially-funded Settlement or Language Services. <http://ccrweb.ca/en/migrant-workers-services-march-2016>

Yet in the last 6 months, 43% of all services provided to new clients by Immigrant Centre, Manitoba's largest settlement agency, were accessed by newcomers with Work, Student or Visitor visas or who were already Canadian Citizens, all of whom are ineligible for IRCC funded settlement supports.

We request that in preparing the 2017 budget the Government of Manitoba follow best practices from other Provincial Governments to provide strategic top-up funding to Service Provider Organizations across our region. In this way, a modest investment will support sustainable, long-term economic growth for our Province through positive economic and social outcomes for every newcomer who chooses to make Manitoba their home.