



November 1-2, 2018 Meeting: National Immigration Centre

Learning from the Manitoba Experience

November 1-2, 2018

Canadian Human Rights Museum

85 Israel Asper Way

Winnipeg, MB R3C 0L5

conferenceboard.ca/nic

Objectives:

- Learn how key lessons from Manitoba's immigration experience can be applied across Canada.
- Consider how the PNP can further support regional and national objectives.
- Compare various settlement models to help guide improvements to immigrant services.
- Understand the keys to fostering welcoming communities in smaller jurisdictions.
- Explore how stakeholders can work in concert to promote the career success of immigrants.
- Get caught up on the Conference Board's latest immigration research findings.

Day One: November 1, 2018

8:00 a.m.

Breakfast

8:45 a.m.

Welcoming Remarks by The Conference Board of Canada

Kareem El-Assal, Senior Research Associate, Immigration

Jo-Leen Folz, Administrative and Meetings Coordinator, Economics

9:00 a.m.

Session 1: Growing Through Immigration

The Honourable Kelvin Goertzen, Manitoba's Minister of Education and Training, is kind enough to join us to engage in an *in camera* dialogue with meeting attendees. In addition to providing an overview of Manitoba's immigration priorities, he will share his thoughts on the keys to the province's immigration success and areas in which Manitoba can improve so it can continue to support economic growth through immigration.

The Honourable Kelvin Goertzen, Minister of Education & Training

9:45 a.m. Networking Break

10:15 a.m. Session 2: Learning from the Manitoba Experience

Manitoba's immigration success is a testament to the province's 'whole-of-government' and 'whole-of-society' approach to immigration. Speakers are invited to walk us through the various steps the province has taken since the 1990s to build its immigration capacity. How did it ensure that it had the right policies, infrastructure, services, and supports in place to welcome its growing wave of newcomers? What can other smaller jurisdictions across Canada that are also seeking to boost their economies through immigration learn from the Manitoba experience?

Moderator: Donald Leitch, President & CEO, Business Council of Manitoba

- *Ben Rempel, Assistant Deputy Minister, Immigration & Economic Opportunities Division, Manitoba Education & Training*
- *Lori Wilkinson, Professor of Sociology, University of Manitoba*
- *Art DeFehr, CEO, Palliser Furniture*

11:45 a.m. Networking Luncheon

1:00 p.m. Session 3: The PNP @ 20

2018 marks two significant immigration milestones for Manitoba—one of which is the province joining Saskatchewan and British Columbia in signing a Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) agreement with the federal government in 1998. The PNP has been the main driver of immigration to Manitoba and has been critical to helping address the province's labour market needs. Sharing provincial and national perspectives, speakers will discuss the PNP's strengths, challenges, and areas of improvement. Issues for consideration include federal-provincial complementarity of admission streams and collaboration between government and important stakeholders such as employers, regulatory bodies, settlement organizations, and educational institutions.

Moderator: Kareem El-Assal, The Conference Board of Canada

- *Lara Dyer, Director of Economic Immigration Policy & Programs, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada*
- *Rob Kelly, Assistant Deputy Minister, Atlantic Immigration Pilot Project, New Brunswick's Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training & Labour*
- *Reis Pagtakhan, Partner, MLT Aikins LLP*

2:30 p.m. Refreshment Break

2:45 p.m. Session 4: Two Settlement Models and One Goal

2018 also marks the 20th anniversary of Manitoba and British Columbia signing settlement devolution agreements with the federal government. The agreements enabled the two provinces to administer settlement programs that were funded by Ottawa. The agreements are no longer in force, however, the experiences gained over the past 20 years provide us with an opportunity to compare the strengths and weaknesses of the previous and current settlement program models. In addition to making this comparison, speakers are invited to share their thoughts

on how settlement programming can be improved provincially and nationally in support of our common goal to help newcomers succeed.

Moderator: Jean McRae, CEO, Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria

- *Robert Vineberg, Chair, Board of Governors, Immigration Research West*
- *Jorge Fernandez, Executive Director, Immigrant Centre Manitoba*
- *Carling Helander, A/Executive Director, Immigration Policy and Integration Branch, BC Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology*
- *John Biles, A/Director, Prairies and Northern Territories, Settlement Network, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada*

4:15 p.m.

Session 5: Conference Board Research Update and Discussion

Kareem El-Assal will get attendees up to speed on the Conference Board's latest immigration research developments and then invite attendees to ask any questions they may have about the research.

Kareem El-Assal, The Conference Board of Canada

4:45 p.m.

Day One Adjourns and Free Time

6:30-8:30 p.m.

National Immigration Centre Members' Dinner

Members of the National Immigration Centre are invited to join us for dinner in downtown Winnipeg.

*Hy's Steakhouse & Cocktail Bar
Richardson Building
1 Lombard Place, Main Floor
R3B 0X3
204-942-1000*

Day Two: November 2, 2018

8:00 a.m.

Breakfast

8:45 a.m.

Session 6: Building Welcoming Communities in Smaller Jurisdictions

One of Manitoba's most impressive feats has been to develop welcoming environments for immigrants across the province in a relatively short period of time. In this comparative discussion, speakers from Manitoba and other parts of Canada will discuss the keys to building welcoming communities in smaller jurisdictions (i.e. small cities and rural settings) including how to overcome common obstacles such as apprehension about the value of immigration.

Moderator: Rita Chahal, Executive Director, Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council

- *Amanda Kletke-Neufeld, Director, Integration Services, Immigration & Economic Opportunities Division, Manitoba Education & Training*
- *Alex LeBlanc, Executive Director, New Brunswick Multicultural Council*
- *Kelly Johnson, Recruiting & Immigration Manager, JBS Food Canada ULC*

10:15 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:30 a.m. Session 7: Promoting Career Success

Manitoba's ability to attach newcomers to the labour market has been a hallmark of its success, but, as is the case across Canada, newcomers continue to face labour market barriers in the province. Speakers are invited to discuss how the likes of employers, regulatory bodies, settlement organizations, and educational institutions can better support the career success of immigrants.

Moderator: Kareem El-Assal, The Conference Board of Canada

- *Ximena Munoz, Fairness Commissioner, Office of the Manitoba Fairness Commissioner*
- *Judith Hayes, Executive Director, Manitoba Start*
- *Joanne Roth, Program Manager, CARE Centre for Internationally Educated Nurses*

12:00 p.m. Closing Remarks and Meeting Adjournment

Our Upcoming Immigration Events:

1. *Entrepreneur & Investor Immigration Summit 2018: November 27-28 in Ottawa*
 - <https://www.conferenceboard.ca/conf/eii/agenda>
2. *National Immigration Centre Spring Meeting: March 2019 in Vancouver (Dates TBD)*
3. *Canadian Immigration Summit 2019: May 8-9 in Ottawa*
 - <https://www.conferenceboard.ca/conf/immigration/default.aspx>

Contact us to learn more:

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