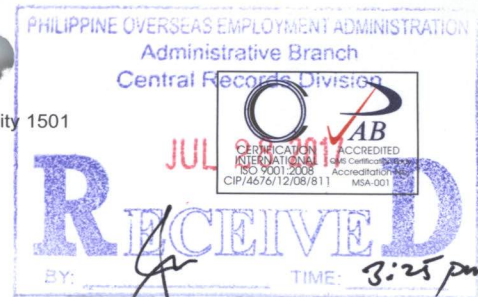




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## Alberta, Canada New Pilot Program Bans Foreign Workers in 29 High-Skilled Occupations

On 19 April 2017, the Canada's Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour made the announcement in Edmonton, Alberta that Albertans will be first in line for available jobs under a new federal-provincial pilot project that will help employers hire locally, and to develop standard industry practices and promotes a highly skilled workforce.

The new Employer Liaison Service in Alberta will be piloted over 24 months and will provide targeted and enhanced recruitment support to Alberta employers to hire Albertans rather than temporary foreign workers.


The initial focus of the service will be to support Alberta employers, looking for high-skilled workers in sectors with higher rates of unemployment. To support this effort, 29 high-wage occupations that have a sufficient local labour supply have been jointly identified and placed on a new "Refusal to Process" list under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP).

To find and hire unemployed Albertans, employers will get access to labour market information and better support to take advantage of existing federal and provincial services. Alberta's Ministry of Labour and Canada's Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour will continue to share information on labour market programming, including on the TFWP to better ensure integrity of the Program and better protect against exploitation of temporary foreign workers. Additional measures under the TFWP will include updating the existing 6% rule quarterly, which is a refusal to process for certain occupations in the Accommodations and Food Services and Retail Trade sectors where the unemployment rate in an Economic Region is 6% or greater.

The province and federal ministries will continue to collaborate to increase awareness and promotion of the Work-Sharing Program for those employers directly or indirectly affected by the economic downturn, given its recent positive impact in Alberta.

As both ministries continue to work together, additional ways to keep Albertans first in line for jobs will also be considered, including opportunities for people who are underrepresented in the workforce, such as Indigenous peoples, youth, newcomers and persons with disabilities.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

  
**BERNARD P. OLALIA**  
Undersecretary and  
Officer-In-Charge

Source: Employment and Social Development Canada, 20 April 2017

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