

Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses

(including expenses of participants and general expenses associated with travel)

Ministry	Immigration and Career Training
Title of Travel	Forum of Ministers Responsible for Immigration (FMRI) Annual Meeting
Location	Montreal, QC
Date(s)	May 9 - 11, 2024
Participants	Honourable Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Immigration and Career Training (ICT) Max Waldman, Chief of Staff to Minister Harrison Richelle Bourgoin, Deputy Minister, ICT
Purpose of Travel	To attend the annual Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Ministers Meeting
Total Travel Expenditures for Participants	
Air Travel (including airfare and airport service fees, baggage fees)	\$3,780.54
Ground Travel (including taxis, car rentals, trains and buses)	\$142.78
Accommodation (including room charges, and all related taxes and fees)	\$1,376.55
Meals (personal per diem meal claims)	\$344.57
Conference & Registration Fees	\$0.00
Miscellaneous (including incidentals, parking, temporary cell phone upgrades, fax and internet charges, passport and visa fees, medical and vaccination fees, and other sundry expenditures)	\$54.75
Subtotal	\$5,699.19
General Travel Expenditures	
Business Hosting Expenses (expenses for luncheon and/or dinner meetings hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan, including food, beverages, catering staff, service charges, equipment, and entertainment)	\$0.00
Miscellaneous (Including meeting rooms, translator and interpreter fees, police security, publications, shipping charges, gifts)	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$5,699.19

Overview of Travel and Objectives

Minister Harrison and officials traveled to Montreal for a meeting of the Forum of Ministers Responsible for Immigration (FMRI). The FMRI is composed of all federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) ministers responsible for immigration in Canada, and Saskatchewan is the current Provincial-Territorial (PT) Co-Chair of the FMRI until March 31, 2026. Both Saskatchewan and the federal Co-Chair, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), organized the meeting. Close collaboration among FPT ministers is required as immigration is an area of shared jurisdiction under the Constitution and both orders of government deliver immigration programs. Immigration is a key driver of Saskatchewan's population and job growth.

Travel Activity

Ministers met in-person to engage in strategic discussions about:

- The 2025-2027 Levels Plan, which determines the number of immigrants to be admitted into Canada annually. There were discussions on community integration capacity and opportunities for information/data sharing to assist with the federal government's policy to reduce the number of temporary residents to 5 per cent of the country's population over the next three years;
- Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) allocation levels and how PNPs might be used to transition temporary residents to permanent residents;
- Progress on implementation of the cap on international students and modifications to the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program;
- Federal and PT supports for asylum claimants and forward direction on planning for future arrivals;
- Changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program with FMRI ministers being joined by ministers from the Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM) to discuss the level of foreign workers in Canada and to provide feedback and direction on balancing integrity, volume and economic and labour market needs. PT ministers were also able to raise concerns with the federal labour market Minister about the \$625M cut to employment services under the labour market transfer agreements (LMTAs) which has put at risk services that workers, newcomers, job seekers and vulnerable Canadians rely on;
- The federal Humanitarian Crisis Response Framework and developments on the extension of supports for Ukrainians arriving in Canada under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) and pathways to permanent residence for Ukrainians residing in Canada; and,
- Progress and priorities for Francophone Immigration across Canada.

Minister Harrison was able to share Saskatchewan's perspective and advance several priorities with his colleagues. Input will inform the policies being developed in response to a newly formed FPT Working Group on Asylum Seekers, as well as joint FPT priorities that include emphasizing economic immigration, particularly through PNPs, ensuring responsive, locally informed settlement services and taking steps to improve foreign credential recognition to ensure newcomers can work in occupations aligned with their skills and experience.

Minister Harrison was able to engage in strategic discussions with his counterparts from other FPT governments and advance Saskatchewan priorities for immigration.

Saskatchewan used the FMRI meeting as an opportunity to continue to advocate for an increase in allocations from the federal government for the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program. In addition, Minister Harrison called for an increased role for PNPs in the transition from temporary to permanent residence for those with in-demand skills who are aligned with provincial priorities, such as displaced Ukrainians who want to settle permanently in Saskatchewan.

During the meeting, Minister Harrison was able to advocate for more autonomy over immigration in Saskatchewan. Provincial autonomy over settlement funding has been a priority for the province as this would provide newcomers with more streamlined access to settlement services that are better integrated with other provincially delivered services such as health care, education and career services. In addition to public services, Saskatchewan invests \$14M dollars in settlement support which includes language training, employment assistance, pathways and funding for foreign qualification recognition. Streamlined settlement programming would contribute to stronger outcomes for newcomers, including increased retention and employment rates.

The FMRI put out a joint news release following the meeting regarding meeting outcomes, which can be found at: <https://www.fmri.ca/newsroom>