

Business Plan

2026-27

Ministry of Immigration and Career Training

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Eric Schmalz
Minister of Immigration and Career Training*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training's Business Plan for 2026-27.

Guided by the Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy, the ministry is investing in targeted workforce development supports that translate into a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people. These investments ensure that Saskatchewan people always have the first chance to benefit from the opportunities being provided by our strong and growing economy.

This includes increasing funding of \$2 million for an additional 300 apprentice training seats for Saskatchewan students to pursue rewarding and in-demand careers in construction-related trades. To accompany the apprenticeship seat increase, the Apprenticeship Training Allowance (ATA) will see a corresponding increase of \$194,000 to support eligible apprentices who leave their home communities to attend technical training.

Investments in the Regina and Saskatoon Trades and Skills Centres are being increased by \$534,000 in 2026-27 as well. Trades and Skills Centres provide short-term training for individuals who are seeking entry-level positions in high demand occupations such as plumbing, commercial construction, scaffolding, painting, roofing, and electrical. The centres work with industry to develop and deliver relevant programming that is responsive to industry needs. This 17.9 per cent increase in funding to the centres will allow both Regina and Saskatoon to offer three additional courses each.

This year's budget includes a \$9.2 million increase over 2025-26 for workforce development supports for those affected by tariffs in various industries. This funding is fully offset by revenue from the federal government through the Labour Market Transfer Agreement. We are pleased to have this backstop in place to protect Saskatchewan workers and employers. If employers are contemplating layoffs due to tariff impacts, we will utilize this funding to support employees through work sharing agreements or re-skilling and re-training.

The following plan outlines the steps the ministry will take to fulfill its mission to train, recruit, and retain a skilled workforce and advance the goals of *Saskatchewan's Labour Market Strategy* in 2026-27.

2026-27 Budget Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>To support the increased demand for skilled trades:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase of \$2 million will add 300 apprenticeship training seats, bringing the total investment in apprenticeship training to \$27.2 million annually and increasing the total number of training seats to 5,300. • A corresponding increase of \$194,000 is being made in the Apprenticeship Training Allowance (ATA) to ensure apprentices are funded to participate in training away from their home community. This brings the total ATA investment to \$3.4 million annually. • An increase of \$534,000 to the Regina and Saskatoon Trades and Skills Centres, brings the ministry’s total investment to \$3.5 million. This increase will allow the Trades and Skills Centres to offer three additional training courses per-year.
<p>2</p>	<p>The 2026-27 Budget includes funding for workforce development and skills training programs that support unemployed and underemployed people, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$21.8 million for adult essential skills training, which provides people with the foundational skills they need to get a job. \$22.2 million for training programs delivered through post-secondary institutions that provide people with the skills and credentials they need to work in high-demand occupations in sectors such as healthcare, construction, mining and manufacturing. • \$25.9 million for pre-employment programs and services delivered through third-party partnerships. • \$10.4 million to support persons with disabilities to enter the workforce. <p>Targeted investments will support increased Indigenous participation in the labour market. Of the funding noted above, \$26.1 million is dedicated to Indigenous workforce development and training initiatives.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>The ministry continues to support the province's Patients First Health Care Plan with an investment of \$3.7 million for training and settlement supports for in-demand health occupations.</p> <p>This includes \$2.8 million to support training seats for licensed practical nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, medical sonographers, and continuing care assistants and \$910,000 for credential recognition programming to support workforce development and retention initiatives.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>\$9.2 million in workforce development funding will be used for tariff response initiatives to help protect Saskatchewan workers and businesses impacted by global tariffs. Funding will be directed toward training for unemployed workers to support a rapid return to employment, as well as skill development opportunities for employees on work-sharing agreements to help prevent job loss. The ministry will work with affected employers to design and deliver training solutions, including employer-sponsored programs that facilitate employee reskilling and upskilling.</p>

5

The 2026-27 budget includes \$13.6 million to continue supporting services for newcomers to promote retention and successful settlement. These services provide orientation to community resources, support needs assessments and settlement planning, provide access to language programs and referrals to employment services. ICTs programming includes:

- Gateways and Settlement Services (\$4.9 million);
- Language Programs (\$2.9 million);
- Credential Recognition Grants (\$910,000); and,
- Newcomer Employability Supports (\$4.9 million).

Government Vision and Goals

Saskatchewan's Vision

"...to be the best place in Canada—to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2026-27 Annual Reports.

Ministry of Immigration and Career Training Overview

Overview

The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training builds a strong and resilient labour market by addressing employer workforce needs, training people for jobs, and supporting newcomers to settle, work, and stay in Saskatchewan.

Mission

To train, recruit, and retain a skilled workforce that supports investment and economic growth in Saskatchewan.

Vision

Employers have a skilled and diverse workforce driving Saskatchewan's growth.

Goal 1: Prepare Saskatchewan People for Jobs

The ministry is committed to ensuring Saskatchewan residents have the opportunity to access training and benefit from local job opportunities, supported by investments in training and workforce development programming that address the needs of a growing economy and diverse communities. By maintaining a flexible training system that adapts to changing industry demands, Saskatchewan can build a skilled and diverse workforce equipped for current and future economic needs. These investments support Saskatchewan's Growth Plan goal of creating 100,000 new jobs by 2030. To meet this goal, the ministry is also focused on growing the Indigenous workforce through targeted investments in employment, education, and training, along with strengthened partnerships with Indigenous organizations and training providers. Strengthening Indigenous participation in the workforce supports economic reconciliation and helps drive Saskatchewan's long-term prosperity as outlined in the Growth Plan.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Grow Indigenous participation in the workforce.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Enhance partnerships with training providers, employment organizations, and priority sectors, focusing on Indigenous-led businesses.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Invest in a skilled workforce to support a growing economy.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Align training programs to jobs in demand that meet industry needs and future workforce needs.
- Accelerate training and transitions to employment.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Conversions to Employment Post-training

- Measures the total number of trainees who completed their program and moved into employment.

Number of Clients Completing Programs

- Measures the total number of clients who completed skills training or workforce development programming broken down by under-represented group.

Number of Indigenous Clients Completing Programs

- Measures the total number of Indigenous clients who completed skills training or workforce development programming.

Indigenous Labour Force Participation Rate

- Measures the Indigenous (off-reserve) labour force participation rate in Saskatchewan. The labour force participation rate refers to the proportion of the population over the age of 15 that is participating in the labour force (either employed or looking for work).

Indigenous Employment Rate

- Measures the proportion of off-reserve Indigenous people in Saskatchewan who are employed relative to the off-reserve Indigenous population over the age of 15.

Goal 2: Address Key Labour Market Gaps Through In-Migration and Credential Recognition

The ministry helps employers address persistent and critical labour shortages by attracting skilled workers elsewhere in Canada, or abroad, to Saskatchewan. A focus on employer-led recruitment missions, coupled with credential recognition services for newcomers to Saskatchewan, will ensure the province meets its labour market needs efficiently and effectively. The ministry provides pre-and post-arrival settlement services that help newcomers to participate in the labour market, establish themselves in their communities, and ultimately grow the economy. These initiatives contribute to the goals in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan, including developing Saskatchewan's labour force, engaging internationally to support the growth of the province and growing the provincial population to 1.4 million people by 2030.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Streamline credential recognition and support workforce integration.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Enhance credential recognition and labour mobility services for professionals educated outside of Saskatchewan.
- Strengthen program integrity measures in the immigration system.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support employers to fill critical vacancies.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Support priority sector employers with domestic and international recruitment where local alternatives have been exhausted.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Improve retention of newcomers.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Provide pre- and post-arrival settlement services to newcomers.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Net In-Migration to Saskatchewan

- Measures the annual net change in population in the province (total of those who came less those who left). Measuring this is important for the goal of growing the population, as it shows the balance of how many people are moving to and leaving Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan Immigrant Retention Rate

- Measures how many immigrants to Saskatchewan are settling in the province, staying long-term, and increasing the overall provincial population. The target is to achieve a retention rate of 85 per cent for Saskatchewan by 2030.

Saskatchewan Landed Immigrant Labour Force Participation Rate

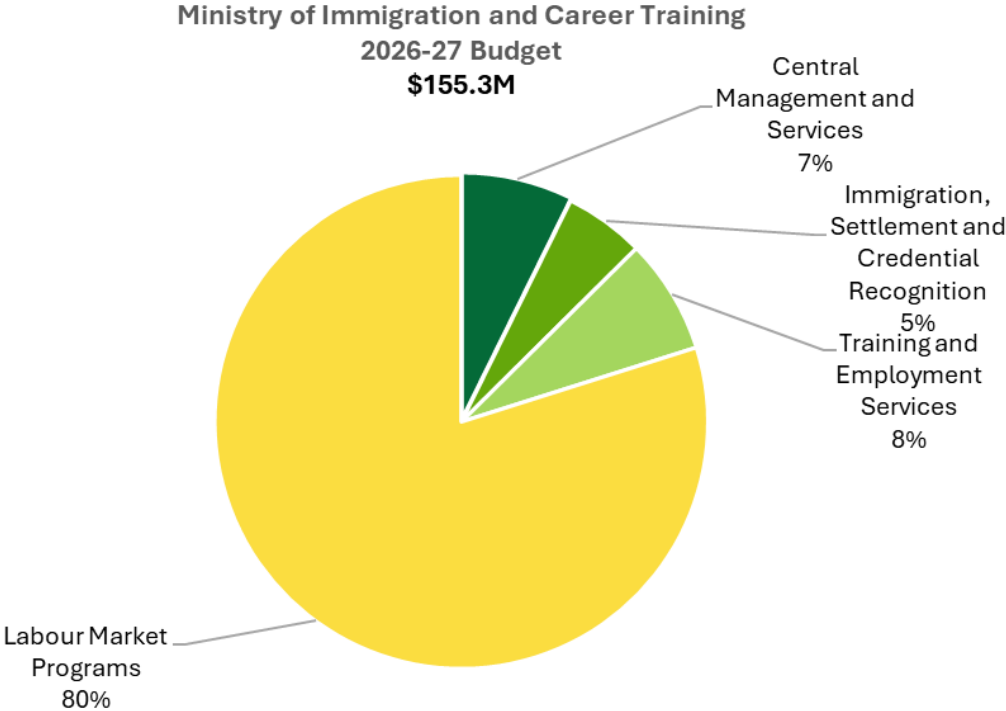
- Measures the participation rate of very recent landed immigrants (permanent residents who have lived in the province less than five years) in Saskatchewan's labour force. The labour force participation rate refers to the proportion of the population over the age of 15 that is participating in the labour force (either employed or looking for work).

2026-27 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>In response to shifting labour market demands, the ministry is leading efforts to modernize the skills training system, making it more flexible and accessible. These improvements will accelerate the development of relevant skills and competencies, enabling residents to fully participate in the workforce.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>The ministry continues to strengthen its compliance and enforcement capacity and deepen collaboration with partner jurisdictions across Canada to ensure cohesive, effective responses to cases that cross provincial boundaries to deter fraud and misuse of immigration programs.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>The ministry is implementing a new reporting framework for regulatory bodies that enables earlier identification of challenges in foreign credential recognition and labour mobility. The initiative will support more strategic, evidence-based policy development and offer better visibility into provincial licensing volumes across occupations.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>The ministry will be combining the two-step Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) application process into a single step to promote program compliance and expedite employers' ability to address labour shortages.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>The ministry will strengthen employer-job seeker connections in high-demand sectors through targeted engagement with Indigenous people, under-represented job seekers, and key labour market partners.</p>

Financial Summary

Ministry of Immigration and Career Training 2026-27	
Estimates (\$155.29 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$11,329
Immigration, Settlement and Credential Recognition	\$8,335
Training and Employment Services	\$11,766
Labour Market Programs	\$124,535
Total Appropriation	\$155,965
Capital Asset Acquisition	\$(2,200)
Non-appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$1,528
Total Expense	\$155,293



Links to more information

- [Ministry of Immigration and Career Training](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)