

Hard-to-Fill Skills Pilot Update

As of January 11, 2024, the Hard-to-Fill Skills Pilot is closed for a program review, to be completed in Spring 2024. Occupations in the healthcare, agriculture, or value-add agriculture sectors are excluded from the closure. Job Approval Forms received prior to January 11, 2024, will be processed if candidates were identified at the time of submission or if existing employees working in Saskatchewan are added by January 22, 2024. The other [program categories and sub-categories](#) of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program remain open.

What occupations are affected?

- Intake caps have been placed on 22 of the 33 occupations as of January 11, 2024. The caps may be lifted after a review of the pilot.
- Occupations in the following sectors are not being capped: healthcare, agriculture, value-added agriculture. These include eleven occupations under the pilot:
 - Other technical occupations in therapy and assessment
 - Nurse aides, orderlies and patient associates
 - Pharmacy technical assistants and pharmacy assistants
 - Other assisting occupations in support of health services
 - Home support workers, caregivers and related occupations
 - Specialized livestock workers and farm machinery operators
 - Livestock labourers
 - Harvesting labourers
 - Process control and machine operators, food, beverage and associated processing
 - Industrial butchers and meat cutters, poultry preparers and related workers
 - Labourers in food, beverage and associated products processing
- For the eleven occupations that will remain eligible, Job Approval Forms submitted after January 11 with candidates identified will be processed as per usual.

What will happen to the positions I've submitted to the SINP and the workers I've recruited?

Worker Already Recruited/Identified

- Positions submitted by employers prior to January 11, 2024 will be processed by the SINP if there are candidates already recruited and identified in the Job Approval Form; or if current employees working in Saskatchewan are identified to the SINP by January 22, 2024.

- For the Job Approval Forms received before January 11 where candidates had not been identified, but there are workers working in those positions in the province, Job Approval Forms that meet additional requirements may be processed. These include:
 - Only workers that have already been working in Saskatchewan will be permitted. Their names must be added to the Job Approval Forms before January 22, 2024.
 - Employers must share name, date of birth, work permit and pay stubs as proof that these workers have been working for them. This information must be provided when adding their name to a Job Approval Form.
 - If existing employees are not added by January 22 and the required information submitted, any remaining positions will be closed. Employers may resubmit for these additional positions when the pilot reopens.
 - In order to add existing employees to the Job Approval Forms, employers must provide the name, date of birth, work permit and pay stubs as proof of these workers' previous employment to employerservices@gov.sk.ca. The Job Approval Letters for these candidates will expire within 30 days of issuance.
- As of January 11, 2024, candidate-specific Job Approval Letters will not be transferable to other candidates.
- Immigration applications from workers with approved Job Approval Letters will be accepted and processed.
- The Long Haul Truck Driver Project and Hospitality Sector Project remain open to new applications.

Worker Not Yet Recruited/Identified

- Positions submitted before January 11, 2024 will be closed if a worker has not yet been recruited.
- Employers may resubmit for these positions when the pilot reopens.
- The SINP's Long Haul Truck Driver Project and Hospitality Sector Project remain open to Job Approval Forms (JAF). If you recruit a worker who has an eligible work permit, they may also be eligible for a JAF under the SINP's Existing Work Permit stream after working for your business for a minimum of six months. Please visit our website to learn more:
<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/moving-to-saskatchewan/live-in-saskatchewan/by-immigrating/saskatchewan-immigrant-nominee-program/browse-sinp-programs/applicants-with-saskatchewan-experience/applicants-with-existing-work-permit>

My employee's work permit is expiring before Spring 2024 and I haven't submitted my Job Approval Form yet. What are my options?

- If you did not submit a Job Approval Form prior to January 11, 2024, you will need to wait for the reopening of the pilot.
- The SINP's Long Haul Truck Driver Project and Hospitality Sector Project remain open to Job Approval Forms (JAF). If you recruit a worker who has an eligible work permit, they may also be eligible for a JAF under the SINP's Existing Work Permit stream after working for your business for a minimum of six months. Please visit our website to learn more:

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