



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alberta's Labor Shortage Puts Dent in Provincial Prosperity *Investing in Immigrants Will Help Secure Economy*

CALGARY, February 19, 2008 – As Alberta goes into provincial elections we should ask ourselves what our government is doing to secure our quality of life in a province whose growth has surpassed the capacity of the province and services to support it. It is well known that Alberta is at a critical point of growth, labor market needs and securing a comfortable quality of life. It is not so well known how immigrants and the sector that serves them can contribute to this. The **Immigrant Sector Council of Calgary (ISCC)** and its member agencies serve more than 50,000 newcomers each year. Agencies work with newcomers to ensure they find employment in their fields and find Calgary to be a welcoming new home for their families. Statistics have shown that skilled immigrants will leave within 3-5 years if they have not found suitable employment in their fields. This should not be overlooked since it is important to Alberta for the following reasons:

What Alberta Needs	What Immigrants Can Offer
100,000 workers in next 10 years	25,000 new immigrants a year come to AB
Skilled Labor	60-70% immigrants are highly educated, with diverse skill sets
Workforce with younger employees to replace aging population	Average age of most immigrants is 35 years
New tax payers needed to replace baby boomers	Immigrants are net contributors to public services – paying in more than they take out – thus lowering the costs of maintaining these services for everyone
Global competitiveness	Immigration enhances business innovation. Creative and culturally diverse cities are said to be a factor in driving a vibrant economy

The ISCC believes that immigration is necessary for a vibrant, thriving and diverse community. If we want to see a prosperous Alberta for everyone, which not only means employment but also a quality of living and embracing the diversity and talents that newcomers bring, then we need to act now in order to secure not only the future of newcomers but that of all Albertans.

Let's secure Alberta's future by investing in immigrants!

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