

Status Update Template

September 26, 2019 Provincial Auditor Report Chapter 30, 2019 Report Volume 1 Nominating Qualified Immigrant Applicants *Originally Chapter 19, 2016 Report Volume 1 Nominating Qualified Immigration Applicants*

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (Implemented, Partially Implemented, Not Implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding:</p> <p>That the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training (ICT) provide guidance for staff to assess the feasibility of relocation and settlement plans and business establishment plans for the Entrepreneur Immigration Categories of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program. (2013 Report – Volume 1, P142, Recommendation 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement December 9, 2013)</p>	298	Implemented	<p>Following changes to the Entrepreneur program in March 2015, settlement and relocation plans are no longer requested or submitted. With the removal of this requirement there has been no need to provide further guidance for the assessment of these plans.</p> <p>ICT will not be changing program policy to involve the assessment of the financial feasibility of business establishment plans (BEPs). As mentioned during the initial audit in 2013, the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) does not assess the feasibility of a proposed business in terms of looking at the potential level of profitability or potential level of success, however the SINP staff assess if the business is eligible as per SINP criteria; if applicants demonstrate that they have relevant previous entrepreneurship and/or senior management experience required to operate their proposed business; and, if applicants have conducted appropriate and adequate research and due diligence when developing their business plan.</p>	No further actions to be implemented	N/A

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<p>Status: Implemented for business establishment plans – no longer relevant for relocation and settlement plans.</p>			<p>Applicants are expected to prepare for and assume all risks associated with their planned investment, including risks associated with failing to fulfill the terms of their business performance agreement with SINP, which would result in them not receiving a nomination for permanent residency.</p> <p>Instructions and guidance for staff on how to assess the BEP against program criteria and requirements, as well as information provided in the Exploratory Visit Report (if applicable) and other supporting application documents (e.g. Education and Credential documents, Resume, previous work/entrepreneurship supporting documents), is provided to staff in the Procedural Manual.</p> <p>Staff manuals are updated on a regular basis as policies and procedures change. These changes are made to address emerging issues in order to uphold the integrity of the program. As well, policy and procedure changes may be made to respond to findings from evaluations and other program reviews.</p>		
<p>Outstanding: That ICT provide training for staff to assess the feasibility of relocation and settlement plans and business establishment plans for the Entrepreneur Immigration</p>	298	Implemented	<p>Following the March 2015 program changes, settlement and relocation plans are no longer requested or submitted. With the removal of this requirement there has been no need to provide further formal training for the assessment of these plans.</p> <p>ICT will not be changing program policy to involve the assessment of the financial feasibility of business establishment plans (BEPs). The responsibility of the</p>	No further actions to be implemented	N/A

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<p>Categories of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (2013 Report – Volume 1, p142, Recommendation 2; Public Accounts Committee agreement December 9, 2013)</p> <p>Status: Implemented for business establishment plans – no longer relevant for relocation and settlement plans. As noted in March 2015, ICT changed its program criteria for the entrepreneur Immigration category. Under the revised criteria, applicants are no longer required to submit a relocation and settlement plan</p>			<p>staff is to assess the research and due diligence completed by the applicant in preparing their BEP. Staff do not make assessments on financial feasibility or profitability of business establishment, thus do not require further training at this time.</p> <p>The guidance and training related to assessing business establishment plans has not changed since the 2013 Audit Report. However, the process for how Entrepreneur Applicants receive a nomination for permanent residency in Saskatchewan has changed. They cannot obtain a SINP nomination until they have operated their business and fulfilled the terms of their business performance agreement. Previous to March 2015, applicants would apply for nomination prior to operating their business.</p>		

Status Update

September 26, 2019 Provincial Auditor Report Chapter 4, 2016 Report Volume 2 Economy

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<p>New:</p> <p>The Ministry of the Economy follows its established procedures for removing user access to its computer systems and data.</p>	28	Implemented	<p>The Ministry of the Economy (ECON) reorganized in February of 2018 establishing three new ministries: Immigration and Career Training (ICT), Trade and Export Development, and Energy and Resources to better serve and promote Saskatchewan.</p> <p>ECON and now ICT through a shared IT service agreement with TED and ER has worked to educate staff on the importance of following developed processes to ensure user access is removed in a timely manner. This education included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ICT Deputy Minister provided messaging to staff regarding the importance of timely user access removal and the required steps and procedures to follow. The ICT's Service Level Coordinator provided all supervisors with educational e-mails providing procedures for computer accounts for departing employees and is providing continued reminders and education. 	Completed	Completed

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chief Information Officer for the Information Technology Division (ITD) within the Ministry of Central Services has communicated security tips and information about managing access to systems and networks. <p>ECON, and now ICT, enhanced its practices whereby ITD, in conjunction with the Public Service Commission, sends monthly reports of any names that are active on networks that should be removed as a result of position changes. ICT Information Technology (IT) officials follow up with supervisors to make necessary access adjustments.</p> <p>ITD also sends a monthly stale account report identifying stale/inactive accounts that should be adjusted. This report identifies if action is still required after other follow-ups have taken place or there is another reason for inactivity. ICT IT officials again follow up with supervisors to make necessary access adjustments.</p> <p>There have been no user access concerns mentioned in the last two audits, both annual audits have been clean in this regard.</p>		

Status Update

September 26, 2019 Provincial Auditor Report Chapter 31, 2019 Report Volume 1 Working Towards Establishing Outcome Based Contracts

Originally Chapter 3, 2017 Report Volume 1 Economy Outcome Based Contracts

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<p>Outstanding: That the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training (ICT) reconsider the use of financial incentives in its outcomes-based contracting. (2017 Report – Volume 1, p 37, Recommendation 2; Public Accounts Committee has not considered this recommendation as of April 25, 2019)</p> <p>Status: Not Implemented</p>	303	Implemented	Financial incentives are already in place for good performance such as contract renewals and opportunity for projects to transition to multiyear funding.	<p>ICT will give further consideration to incentives. However, the use of incentives/disincentives assumes there is a market of qualified suppliers who are competing to deliver the same services. ICT's experience with solicitation and the supplier community indicates that there is limited competition in the marketplace, in particular for northern and rural communities.</p> <p>ICT's approach to contract management extends the reach of ICT's third party stakeholders, like non-profit community based organizations, to help achieve ICT goals. Community-based organizations complement existing Government of Saskatchewan services, particularly in communities where Government of Saskatchewan resources are not immediately available. Non-profit</p>	

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				<p>organizations, however, are unable to assume the financial risk if an employment service fails due to multiple/complex client barriers or economic downturn. Implementation of financial incentives is not currently seen as a viable option and will negatively impact the sustainability of existing community-based services. ICT will not consider implementation of financial incentives at this time as the Employment Regulations do not currently allow for incentives. ICT will conduct a regulation review which would include an assessment on the feasibility of implementing financial incentives.</p>	

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<p>Outstanding: That ICT align contracted terms of payment with the suppliers' achievement of outcomes for its outcomes-based contracting. (2017 Report – Volume 1, p 38 Recommendation 3; Public Accounts Committee has not considered this recommendation as of April 25, 2019)</p> <p>Status: Not Implemented</p>	304	Implemented	<p>A transition to performance-based payments will destabilize the supplier community and jeopardize sustainability and availability of services for some communities and populations (i.e. where there are limited qualified and alternate suppliers, such as in northern and rural communities).</p> <p>However, ICT has enhanced processes related to evaluating supplier and contract performance. These enhancements are intended to help build the capacity of suppliers. The supplier handbook, staff training tools and resources have been updated.</p> <p>ICT does not see alignment of payment with the achievement of outcomes as a viable option due to the negative impact on the sustainability of community-based services. ICT will continue to base contract payments on the supplier's delivery of work in general, as opposed to results achieved for the following reasons: -The economic factors influencing job seekers' ability to find work are beyond the control of a non-profit supplier;</p>		

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			<p>-Non-profit organizations are financially restricted from moving towards a performance-based contract; and,</p> <p>-Non-profit organizations are not in a position to influence the economy and unable to assume the financial risks that come with performance-based contracts.</p>		

Status Update Template

September 26, 2019 Provincial Auditor Report Chapter 29, 2019 Report Volume 1 Co-ordinating English-Language Programs *Originally Chapter 16, 2017 Report Volume 1 Economy Co-ordinating English Language Programs*

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (Implemented, Partially Implemented, Not Implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding: That the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training (ICT), formerly the Ministry of the Economy, develop a formal methodology, including regional analysis, for assessing the demand for English-language program needs. (2015 Report – Volume 1, p. 70, Recommendation 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement September 15, 2016)</p> <p>Status: - Partially implemented</p>	294	Partially implemented	<p>ICT piloted a new methodology for accessing program demand through a procurement for ESL Programs in the fall of 2017. ICT is also assessing the federal methodologies to better determine regional demand trends and potential client service gaps, as well as conducting a general review of language delivery programs.</p> <p>Quarterly reporting and review of language program results to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program uptake; • Recorded outcomes; and, • Statistics on service provided to provincial vs federal clients. 	<p>This assessment will help to better determine the need for language training across all sectors including regional colleges and would potentially be finalized and implemented.</p>	The 2020-21 fiscal year
<p>Outstanding: We recommended that ICT sign agreements for the delivery of English-language programs with regional colleges that deliver these programs. (2015 Report – Volume 1, p. 73, Recommendation 4; Public Accounts</p>	295	Partially Implemented	<p>The current ICT funding model for regional colleges is based on a grant allocation, submission and signoff of a business plan proposal to ICT, and an acknowledgement section, and will be used for 2019-20. ICT expectations are based on current outcomes based contract management principles that are</p>		

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<p>Committee agreement September 15, 2016)</p> <p>Status: - Intent of Recommendation Implemented</p>			<p>applied on ESL language program contracts with other suppliers. ICT will review the feasibility of the regional colleges delivering ESL programs via service agreements instead of grants.</p>		
<p>Outstanding: ICT formally assess whether regional colleges that deliver English-language programs meet its expectations as set out in its regional policy manual.</p> <p>Status: - Partially implemented</p>	295	Partially implemented	<p>A grant has been approved for the same 6 colleges that have been funded in past years, however the funding formula was changed and approved by the minister for 2019-20. The funding is now based on an average cost per seat instead of the former ratio model that was done in conjunction with federal funding. The overall amount of provincial funding remains equivalent to 2018 levels, but the amounts received by each college will vary from the previous year. The process begins with budget letters released on budget day which identify funding for English-language programming and include an appendix that prescribes direction for programming. Following the receipt of the letters, colleges submit a Business Plan for Ministerial approval. For English as a second language programs, the plan includes location of classes, number of training seats offered, and the performance targets expected to be met. Through the course of the funding year, the colleges submit detailed quarterly performance reports and annual expenditure statements. ICT also works in concert with its federal counterparts at IRCC to monitor activities with the regional colleges. Funding is cost shared, based on the number of federal clients served</p>	<p>ICT will continue to review the reporting processes for regional college activities. ICT notes that there are challenges with getting current and timely data as the scholastic year (July to June) overlaps multiple fiscal years (April to March). ICT has begun discussions with the colleges to potentially review multi-year data instead of annual data to better assess whether the colleges have met ICT expectations. ICT will also conduct a review of current regional college policies to ensure program expectations are properly reflected.</p>	The 2019-20 fiscal year.

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			versus Saskatchewan clients served, with ratios being reviewed and adjusted as required (e.g. in the event of a significant change in the ratio of clients served).		