Building a stronger Alberta

April 3, 2007

Increased labour mobility already one result of new Alberta-B.C. agreement

Edmonton... Several occupational groups now enjoy increased mobility between Alberta and British Columbia thanks to the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) that took effect April 1.

Alberta and B.C. have already successfully reconciled standards for acupuncturists, chiropractors, occupational therapists and water and waste water operators so these professionals can work in either province without taking extra steps to have their credentials recognized.

"I am pleased to report early progress in this area," said Guy Boutilier, Alberta Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations. "This is a perfect example of how the TILMA cuts needless red tape that added unnecessary costs and delays for workers, along with consumers, businesses and investors. We began discussing the TILMA with professional regulatory bodies last year and they have responded very favourably to the agreement's labour mobility commitments."

Under the TILMA's implementation phase, consultations will continue with regulators of trades workers and professionals for more than 100 occupations to ensure their credentials are recognized in both Alberta and B.C. and they are able to work unimpeded in either province by April 2009.

"We look forward to continuing to work with our counterparts in B.C. to facilitate labour mobility between the two provinces," says Mary-Anne Robinson, Executive Director of the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta. "We believe that registered nurses in Alberta and B.C. should be able to work in either province. This agreement builds on the national mutual recognition agreement already in place."

"Provisions that reduce the duplication in registration, permitting and reporting, and those that remove residency requirements will make it easier for small business owners to operate in both provinces," said Danielle Smith, Alberta Director of the Canadian Federation for Independent Business. "Eliminating requirements for skilled tradespeople to have to redo examinations and duplicate training will make it easier to attract workers, which is the number one concern of our members in Alberta."

The Alberta government is also consulting with a wide-variety of stakeholders to determine the extent to which they will be affected by the TILMA by April 2009. Consultations are taking place, or will begin soon, with municipalities and their associations, academic institutions, health authorities, school boards, crown corporations and the financial services sector.

More information on the agreement is available at www.tilma.ca.

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