



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing in response to the letter sent by the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, informing Alberta of its 2024 allocations under the Provincial Nominee Program. With no prior notification, Minister Miller advised that Alberta will not receive any increases in 2024 allocations to nominate future newcomers and temporary workers to become permanent residents and stay in Alberta.

I am very concerned with this decision given the adverse impacts it would have on our province's economy and ability to help Ukrainian evacuees find permanent jobs and futures in Alberta. Over the last year, Alberta has participated in good faith in federal-provincial-territorial consultations on provincial nomination allocations. In September 2023, the Honourable Muhammad Yaseen, Alberta's Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism, requested a much needed increase in Alberta's Provincial Nominee Program allocations, including 14,000 in 2024, 14,700 in 2025, and 15,435 in 2026. The revised allocation of 9,750 for 2024 not only falls below this request, but also falls below the 2024 notional allocation of 10,140 previously provided to Alberta by the federal government.

Alberta's labour market continues to show strength. In February 2024 employment rose to 2.5 million, up 17,400 month-over-month, which is 4.1 per cent increase year-over-year. Full-time jobs also jumped to 2,070,699. While Alberta accounts for just under 12 per cent of Canada's population, our province leads the nation in net employment growth, with 42.8 per cent of the country's employment gains. Alberta continues to be the economic engine of Canada and will experience ongoing labour market challenges, with labour shortages forecasted in critical sectors such as construction, technology, health care, and education. Immigration is critical to addressing these labour challenges, and Alberta's Provincial Nominee Program is best placed to address our unique immigration and economic goals. The decision on Alberta's 2024 allocations represents a reversal of previous commitments by the federal government, and negatively impacts Alberta's ability to grow and diversify its economy.

In light of Alberta's unique labour challenges, I am requesting that your government immediately increase Alberta's Provincial Nomination Program allocation to 20,000 annually in 2024, 2025 and 2026. This would support our efforts to address critical labour shortages and supports a collaborative federal-provincial-territorial relationship that respects Alberta's role in addressing its regional immigration needs. Since Alberta's program is heavily focused on temporary residents, this increase will support the transition of this group to permanent residency.

Additionally, Alberta is welcoming a substantive number of Ukrainian evacuees, with over 57,000 evacuees currently in Alberta. It is anticipated that upwards of 93 per cent of Ukrainian evacuees will stay in Alberta and seek permanent residency. This represents approximately 24,000 families that may apply to our Provincial Nominee Program. Overall, there is a lack of opportunity for these temporary residents to gain permanent residency and continue to live and work in Alberta. While the federal government has provided a temporary pathway for Ukrainian nationals with family members in Canada, more needs to be done as many Ukrainian evacuees are not eligible for existing federal permanent residency streams.

The federal government could address this issue either through new federal pathways for Ukrainian evacuees or through increased allocations to Alberta's Provincial Nominee Program. Under the Provincial Nominee Program, Alberta requests a further 10,000 allocations for Ukrainian evacuees, in addition to the 20,000 the province is already seeking for economic needs.

The recent unilateral notification by the federal government that our province will not receive any increases in our 2024 allocations underscores the importance of Alberta continuing to advocate for greater involvement in decisions regarding immigration policy and planning, including the selection and settlement of immigrants similar to that available to Quebec. Should the federal government continue to not be responsive to our requests, Alberta will assess areas where we can push for a larger role in immigration and settlement services to better serve our province's interests. This is clearly consistent with Section 95 of the Constitution, which states "In each Province the Legislature may make laws in relation to (...) Immigration into the Province".

Thank you for your prompt attention to these concerns and requests. I urge you to reverse this shortsighted decision and meaningfully consider Alberta's unique challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

Hon. Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta

cc: Hon. Muhammad Yaseen
Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism

Hon. Marc Miller
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship