

Report of the North Central Labour Market Committee Meeting of November 30, 2010

1. North Central region labour market trends:

- Workforce participation rate of 63.9% vs. 70.2% for Saskatchewan
- Unemployment rate of 10.3% vs. 4.8% for Saskatchewan
- Total workforce has grown from 18,400 in 2005 to 23,200 in 2009
- 500 jobs posted each quarter in North Central region with 850 reported vacancies
- Overall regional annual labour supply needs estimated at over 1,000 new workers per year

2. North Central Labour Market Working Group Update – Actions Underway Since October:

Goal 1: Increase the Workforce Participation Rate:

- Develop entry level employment opportunities inventory
- Gather information on job market from SaskJobs site
- Promote business succession program
- Determine PAGC involvement in Recruitment & Retention programs with INAC funding

Goal 2: Increase Inter-Provincial In-Migration:

- Develop Ambassador program materials
- Use materials and tools to recruit region's expats

Goal 3: Increase international immigration:

- Identify any assistance required by HUB Gateway

Goal 4: Execute an effective labour market process:

- Develop baseline data on regional labour market
- Labour Market Working Group oversees overall process – includes 15 regional groups
- Move “increase training capacity in the region” from long term to short term goals

3. Immigration:

YWCA Regional Newcomer Centre:

- 15 languages available in which to offer services to immigrants
- The Centre opened in May 2010 and has worked with 142 new immigrant clients in that time

4. Development of the Labour Force from Within:

Prince Albert Grand Council Urban Services reported:

- 62 students are currently involved in five employment training programs
- PAGC programs extend through all of the North Central region
- A job coach program has been established
- PAGC closely tracks client outcomes

5. Discussion Topics Raised by LMC Participants at November 15 Meeting:

- There is a need for employer training for those employers who hire Aboriginal employees.
- The issue of training capacity in the region was raised:
 - There is a pressing need for more training capacity in the region.
 - What is the need for employment by sector? By types of jobs? Who has this information?
 - If someone is trained in this region, they will tend to stay in the region.
 - This is a critical issue that needs to be moved to the immediate priority list by the Working Group.
- Wage supplements when hiring Aboriginal employees may be available to employers.
- Average salaries that can assist employers ensure they are “at market” are available at www.saskjobfutures.ca or www.workinginacanada.gc.ca
- Note: Above issues are being followed up by the Labour Market Working Group.

The next meeting of the North Central Labour Market Committee will be Tuesday, February 15, 2011.