

LABOUR MOBILITY CONSULTATION

Approximately 20% of the occupations in Canada are regulated. With labour shortages across the country, mobility of workers has become more important than ever.

The Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration (LSI) wants to hear from workers and employers in regulated professions, occupations, and trades in Nova Scotia about labour mobility challenges or opportunities in Nova Scotia. This will help us better understand the labour mobility landscape, and to determine if there are labour mobility barriers that need to be addressed.

For the purpose of this consultation, “Labour Mobility” refers to the ability of certified workers to practice their regulated occupation, throughout Canada, wherever job opportunities exist. Ensuring that the qualifications of certified workers are recognized when they move to another province or territory benefits both workers and employers alike. Certified workers have a wider range of employment opportunities and employers can access a broader selection of candidates.

Why Consult?

While the CFTA requires a certificate issued by one province or territory be recognized by all others (unless there is an exemption due to public health, safety and security), differences in regulated occupations across jurisdictions can create challenges in permitting experienced workers from unregulated areas to practice in regulated jurisdictions. There may also be administrative or other barriers that impact the process of labour mobility.

The outcome sought from consultation is to generate options for recommendation, including tools for ensuring the smooth transition of certified professional workers from other Canadian jurisdictions to Nova Scotia. All recommendations will be in alignment with the Labour Mobility Chapter in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), the Canadian Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (CFTAIA), the Fair Registration Practices Act (FRPA), and the Patient Access to Care Act (PACA).

How are we collecting feedback?

Consultations will be targeted towards workers and employers in regulated professions, occupations, and trades in Nova Scotia.

We will be conducting an online survey which opens on April 29 and closes on May 20. We will also hold focus group sessions throughout the month of May. More details to come.

Our questions are: What is the biggest challenge you face when recruiting and/or moving from another province or territory in Canada? How can government help?

How can you provide feedback?

We are inviting you to attend an optional information session about this consultation on **April 26**. We will be happy to answer your questions and hear your perspectives. A meeting invitation will follow shortly.