



## Labour and Temporary Foreign Workers

### Goal

The continuation and improvement of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) Agriculture Stream and the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP). Canada's produce industry relies on access to labour to pick and process fruits and vegetables. Access to enough labour is limited domestically. Growers and packers depend on these programs to ensure their product gets to market.

### Action Needed

- Changes to the TFWP recognizing the unique needs of agriculture, in particular the produce industry supply chain. This includes improving processing of applications to ensure timely arrival of workers and allowing them to transfer quickly and easily between employers within a season.
- Strengthen the SAWP to ensure the viability of the industry, availability of fresh seasonal Canadian produce, and mitigate unnecessary food waste.

### Impact

- A strengthened fruit and vegetable industry in Canada with a significantly reduced labour gap.
- The ability to meet production targets, and even increase the availability of Canadian produce, and avoid good fruits and vegetables being left to rot in fields and on trees as has happened in recent seasons.

### Background

- Growers first seek to fill vacancies with Canadians, but are increasingly reliant upon foreign worker programs to guarantee a workforce.
- Horticulture must access resources from foreign jurisdictions to ensure a sufficient and consistent supply of labour to meet its planting, growing and harvesting needs.
- Canada's farmers are fostering a highly sophisticated and modern agricultural sector that Canadians can be proud of and that will continue to provide an abundance of jobs and quality food for Canadians.
- Producers are running sophisticated operations and using modern business tools to run their businesses.
- The industry understands the need for government to monitor foreign labour and to ensure that the incoming workers are not taking jobs that Canadians want.
- It has been clearly demonstrated over the years that there are certain jobs that Canadians will not accept.
- Access to labour is also a food waste issue, as a lack of labour has meant good, healthy fruits and vegetables have been left to spoil in fields and on trees.
- Government services should be provided in a business setting where government is part of the value chain assisting producers with access to labour.
- The Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA) held hearings and provided a report with a number of recommendations on the TFWP. We look forward to the federal government's response in January 2017.

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