

Diversification and Job Creation Strategy

Backgrounder KMQA

Key Facts:

- Only months into their mandate, Rachel Notley's NDP Energy Minister told unemployed Albertans to go to BC for work.
- Under the NDP, Alberta experienced 13 consecutive quarters of negative interprovincial migration, starting in Q3 of 2015.
- Statistics Canada has been reporting interprovincial migration numbers since 1961. There is only one other time that Alberta had 13 consecutive quarters of negative interprovincial migration and that was in the early 1980s, under Pierre Trudeau's National Energy Program.
- Under the UCP, tens of thousands of Canadians are choosing to move to Alberta and we have had six consecutive months of positive interprovincial migration.

Questions and Answers:

1. What is the eligibility for the Graduate Retention Tax Credit?

- Graduates are eligible for the tax credit if they:
 - Graduated from a recognized post-secondary institution in Alberta with a certificate, diploma, or degree and paid tuition
 - Are residing in and filing taxes in Alberta
 - Are registered and practicing/working as a high-demand health professional, apprentice or certified journeyman and child care workers in an eligible occupation on a full-time basis.
- As a start, eligible occupations will include doctors, registered nurse, nurse practitioners, midwives, paramedics, child care professionals, and those in skilled trades.

2. What is the pay structure of the Graduate Retention Tax Credit?

Program	Tuition Credit Maximum
1-Year certificate, diploma, or Journeyman	\$3,000
2- or 3-Year certificate or diploma	\$5,000
Doctor, Registered Nurse degree (incl. RN psych, NP, Midwives)	\$10,000

- The tax credit will be received over the course of seven years, with graduates receiving 10 per cent of the total in each of the first four years and 20 per cent in the next three (as in the Saskatchewan model upon which this is based).

3. How will you get the students (and graduates) here if post-secondary institutions don't have room?

- United Conservatives know the importance of ensuring we have a strong workforce to address labour shortages. That's why, in Budget 2023, our UCP government committed \$193 million to create nearly 8,000 new seats in high-demand post-secondary programs across the province. This work builds off of the UCP government's work in 2022 to create 10,000 new seats in Alberta's post-secondary institutions.

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4. What is the cost of the Graduate Retention Tax Credit?

- Assuming the pilot runs for two years (at which time its effectiveness will be reviewed), the total cost over eight years would be around \$180 million, depending on the number of recipients.
 - Total cost over the first four years would be around \$50 million.
 - We have not factored in the economic productivity and tax revenues from retained workers which would offset these costs.

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Cost (millions)	\$2.3	\$11.3	\$18	\$18	\$18	\$27	\$36	\$36

5. Are there any penalties if a recipient of the Graduation Tax Credit leaves the province before the full seven years?

- No, they would simply forfeit eligibility for the remaining years

6. Who is eligible for the Alberta is Calling Signing Bonus?

- To be eligible for the \$1,200 payment in this pilot program an employee must:
- Have moved to Alberta in 2023 or 2024
- Be registered and working full time as a high demand professional health care practitioner (Doctor, RN, NP, Midwife, Paramedic), child care worker, or an apprentice or certified journeyman in one of the 49 recognized trades.
- Have filed their first tax return in Alberta for the tax year 2023 or 2024.
New Albertans will be eligible to apply when they have received their (first) tax assessment for 2023 or 2024 (as with a similar program in [Nova Scotia](#)). The bonus will be considered taxable income.

7. Where do I need to relocate from in order to be eligible for the Alberta is Calling signing bonus?

- It does not matter where someone relocates from. What matters is that they have come to Alberta and are registered and working full time as an eligible health care professional or child care worker, or an apprentice or certified journeyman in one of the 49 recognized trades.

8. I moved to Alberta in 2022 because of the Alberta is Calling campaign. Am I eligible for the Alberta is Calling signing bonus?

- No. The signing bonus would be a pilot program that is meant to attract new workers to Alberta.
- Tens of thousands of people have already moved to Alberta to take advantage of the opportunities we have here and we are grateful for every one of them. They are helping

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fill vacancies we have in a number of sectors and are helping to contribute to Alberta's economic momentum.

9. How long will the Alberta is Calling signing bonus be available?

Eligible workers coming to Alberta in 2023 and 2024 will be eligible for this pilot program, after which time, the program will be re-evaluated. It may be continued, expanded, or ended depending on its effectiveness and our labour needs.

10. How would I apply for my Alberta is Calling signing bonus?

- If you have relocated to Alberta and are registered and working full time in one of the eligible occupations, you are eligible for the Alberta is Calling signing bonus.
- The application process would be similar to the process in Nova Scotia after getting your tax assessment and would be fully created and finalized if the UCP are re-elected to government.

11. What is the cost of the Alberta is Calling signing bonus?

- The final cost is dependent on the number of recipients but is expected to be roughly \$17 million each year.
 - Number based on 14,000 total recipients of the taxable \$1,200 signing bonus.
- Every additional skilled worker brought in directly because of this policy actually offsets the cost by adding to the economic pie – we get \$0 in taxes and see no economic activity from people who don't come.

12. What is the current time frame for accreditation approvals? The UCP government has been working on this file for four years, why is the timeframe still not within an acceptable range?

- We have been working on improving credential recognition for several years and I'm proud to say we've made great progress, like putting in place the *Labour Mobility Act*. In 2020, regulatory organizations reported it took between 1 and 149 days for out of province applicants. The *Labour Mobility Act* requires applicants to respond in 20 business days.
- A diversified economy means different types of professionals coming to Alberta and, as we have seen, they're coming at higher rates than before. We want to ensure we have a streamlined process that can handle the increased demand placed on the system.

13. With Alberta's tech and innovation sector booming, is it necessary to provide an extra \$100 million to AEC?

- Our economic policies are working, and we are confident our new plans and policies will help Alberta and Alberta families continue to move forward.
- In 2020, our UCP government invested an additional \$175 million over three years into the AEC and that helped our tech sector grow even further. For four years in a row, we have broken and set new records for venture capital investment, which is creating new

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jobs. By providing additional funding to the AEC, we expect Alberta's tech sector to continue breaking and setting new records.

- In addition, allocating \$25 million specifically for Indigenous Equity Venture Capital Funds is one more way that we are working to be partners in prosperity with Indigenous innovators and entrepreneurs.

14. Isn't APIP an NDP program?

- Alberta's UCP government made necessary changes to the NDP program in order to increase certainty and flexibility for investors.
- The UCP's APIP program has been very successful and has attracted billions of dollars of applications. Our program has helped Air Products and Brookfield choose Alberta as a place to invest, which means more jobs for Albertans.

15. In their Competitiveness, Investment and Jobs Strategy, the NDP also committed to expanding APIP and the AIOC, and to putting in place a tax-credit for agri-processing. How are these commitments from the UCP different?

On AIOC

- The NDP had four years to help Indigenous Peoples become partners in prosperity and they failed to do anything.
- The UCP not only started the AIOC, we have already expanded it. Now, we are looking to work with Indigenous communities to expand it further.

On agri-processing tax credit

- Once again, the NDP have no original ideas of their own. In Budget 2023, the UCP government introduced a Agri-Processing Investment Tax Credit to further increase food manufacturing in Alberta.
- United Conservatives are committed to keeping Alberta's economic momentum moving forward. That's why we're looking at expanding that tax credit to forestry and other areas.

Generic

- The fact is, we have a track record of delivering these programs very effectively. We are always happy to see cross-party support for good ideas. We're also looking to expand the manufacturing tax credit beyond agriculture to sectors like forestry and other manufacturing.
- The NDP raised taxes on our job creators, stifled investment through burdensome regulations and caused businesses and Alberta workers to flee the province at an unprecedented rate. A 2nd NDP term would include the same failed policies.

16. Were any indigenous communities consulted over which sectors to expand AIOC eligibility to? If so, were these the only sectors they flagged or were others requested and not included in the policy?

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- There is broad support for doubling the AIOC loan amounts from \$1 billion to \$2 billion – each community can decide if pursuing broader opportunities makes sense for them.

17. Where are concierge services being moved from to give them to REDAs, and what is the reason for the change? What benefit is expected to come from this that doesn't already exist?

- Our economy has momentum again. It's diversifying. Albertans are finding work. Canadians are moving to Alberta in rates not seen in years.
- There are currently no concierge services for investments under \$50 million.
- We want to be able to offer these supports to companies of all sizes who are considering investing in Alberta. Placing this work with REDAs ensure that all companies will have the support of the province as they navigate setting up shop in Alberta.
- Our economic policies are working, and we are confident our new plans and policies will help Alberta and Alberta families continue to move forward. We cannot risk going back to the risky economic policies of the NDP that saw investment and businesses flee the province.

18. What is the Feeder Assistance Loan Guarantee and how does increasing it help to create jobs and diversify the economy?

- The Feeder Assistance Loan Guarantee helps local, producer-run co-ops in obtaining competitive financing as they face global cost volatility.
- By increasing the amount available, we will help smaller producers remain competitive and enable them to diversify and upgrade their operations.