**Developing a more demand-driven economic immigration program**

***-*** *Adapted from 2014-15 Report on Plans and Priorities, Citizenship and Immigration Canada*

CIC’s strategic directions, as well as its policies and operations, are influenced by numerous external factors such as emerging events, the Canadian and global economic, social and political contexts, and shifting migration trends.

The current global economic outlook is stable but weak, and many countries continue to struggle with persistently high levels of youth unemployment. Although population aging may generate significant demand for labour that would result in declining youth unemployment, youth unemployment will persist in developing nations without economic growth. Strong emerging economies, in addition to established immigrant-receiving countries, are beginning to compete with Canada by attracting and retaining talent. These countervailing trends make immigration flows to Canada difficult to predict.

Canada continues to face its own demographic and labour market challenges. Economic recovery has been slow at the national level with significant differences across provinces. There are signs of tightening labour markets in the western provinces now and potential labour shortages in the future. Within this context CIC must pursue policies that support economic recovery while protecting Canadian workers.

CIC will help employers find foreign workers with the appropriate skills and training more quickly. With the introduction of the EOI system in January 2015, Canada will improve application management for the economic stream, avoid future backlogs and accelerate processing times. EOI will help CIC transition from passive processing of applications in the order they are received to a system that selects in-demand people with the skills that more closely match the labour market demand, which in turn will help immigrants succeed in Canada faster than ever before. CIC will continue working with provinces and territories, as well as with employers, to ensure the new system is streamlined and addresses labour market needs. In addition, steps will be taken to ensure immigrants have the opportunity to fully participate in Canada’s labour market by continuing to provide language training and advancing the [Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/jobs/credential_recognition/foreign/framework.shtml).

As outlined in the [October 2013 Speech from the Throne](http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/photo-gallery/speech-throne-seizing-canadas-moment), and the [Economic Action Plan 2014](http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/home-accueil-eng.html?utm_source=GoC-Site&utm_medium=Priority&utm_term=English&utm_campaign=Budget_2014), CIC will reform the federal [Immigrant Investor Program](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/business/investors/index.asp) to better support economic growth. To protect Canadian workers, CIC will also work with ESDC on ongoing changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program to ensure that employers consider qualified Canadian citizens and permanent residents first and that the TFW Program continues to support employers in meeting their short-term or acute labour market needs as originally intended.