



FBC-ABC Members:

Government of Canada extends Workforce Solutions Road Map and introduces new wage requirements under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program

In April 2022, the Government introduced the Temporary Foreign Worker Program Workforce Solutions Road Map after significant advocacy from FBC-ABC and its members. On October 26, the Government [announced](#) it is extending measures under the Road Map until August 30, 2024. This includes: continuing to allow employers in food manufacturing to hire up to 30% of their workforce through the TFW Program; maintaining the maximum duration of employer for positions under the provincial or territorial median hourly wage at up to two years; and adjusting the Labour Market Impact Assessment validity period from the current 18-month maximum to a maximum of 12-months. Along with these measures, employers will now be required as of January 1, 2024 to annually review temporary foreign workers' wages to ensure they reflect increases to prevailing wage rates.

St. Lawrence Seaway strike update

Operations at the St. Lawrence Seaway continue to be halted due to a strike by unionized employees represented by Unifor. Mediated talks will begin October 27. The Minister of Labour's office has identified [Lhori Webster](#), Director of Policy as the contact for labour disputes. FBC-ABC joins other business groups in urging the respective parties to come to an agreement to avoid further supply chain disruptions and calls on the government to intervene where possible. You can read FBC-ABC's statement on this [here](#).

House of Commons Committee updates

The House Agriculture and Agri-Food Committee has passed a [motion](#) to invite, and if declined, summon the CEOs of each of the grocery retailers to appear before Committee to speak to measures being taken to lower food prices. Although the Committee plans to extend invites to other stakeholders, including domestic and international food manufacturers, they do not intend to summon them currently. At the same time, the Committee has requested that each of the retailers report on their strategies and actions taken to date by November 2, 2023, so that the Committee can review in camera and report its findings to the House.

The House Human Resources, Skills and Social Development Committee recently [launched](#) a study on the Implications of Artificial Intelligence Technologies for the Canada Labor Force. No deadline for submissions has been identified.

Please reach out to [Kristina Farrell](#) if you have questions or concerns about either of these updates, or if you receive an invite to appear and would like assistance.

Save the Date – FBC-ABC’s Annual Policy Breakfast and Canada’s Agriculture Day The Future of Food Conference

FBC-ABC’s annual policy breakfast, taking place the morning of February 13, will focus on Achieving Agri-food Workforce Stability by 2030: The Role of Automation and Technology. A Save the Date will follow. Please find a copy of our sponsorship package [here](#) (English). Following our breakfast, join us for [The Future of Food](#), a conference hosted by Farm Credit Canada focused on innovation in Agriculture and Food. Both events will take place at Ottawa’s Shaw Centre.

Pilot program launches to streamline work permit processing for Canadian employers recruiting in the Philippines

Last week, the Government [announced](#) the launch of CAN Work Philippines – a pilot program at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)’s visa office in Manila. This pilot will streamline work permit processing for eligible Canadian employers and allow employers to schedule group appointments for medical examinations and biometrics for potential employees, so that skilled workers in the Philippines can come to Canada. The pilot is open to Canadian employers recruiting from the Philippines and

hiring 50 or more workers, or for critical operations in sectors such as agri-food.

Legislation update

[Bill C-252](#), An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (prohibition of food and beverage marketing directed at children) passed Third Reading in the House of Commons this week and has now been referred to the Senate. [Bill C-280](#), An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (deemed trust – perishable fruits and vegetables) also passed Third Reading the House of Commons this week and has now been referred to the Senate. [Bill C-282](#), An Act to amend the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Act (supply management) remains at Second Reading in the Senate.

Statement by Minister O'Regan regarding the port dispute review under section 106 of the Canada Labour Code

Last week, the Honourable Seamus O'Regan Jr., Minister of Labour [issued](#) a statement regarding the port dispute review under section 106 of the Canada Labour Code, confirming that Anthony Giles and Kevin Banks have been contracted to begin the first part of the review process. Between now and December 31, 2023 they will be tasked with identifying the key questions that need to be answered and proposing the terms of reference for the review.

Minister Champagne triples consumer advocacy funding to support research and consumer awareness

On October 24, the Honourable Francois-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry [announced](#) an investment in the Contributions Program for Non-Profit Consumer and Voluntary Organizations as part of the Government's plan to tackle food inflation in Canada. An increase in funding from \$1.69M to \$5M annually will allow the Government to expand the scope of existing consumer projects to increase research in the retail sector. At the same time, the Government is launching calls to support new research projects on practices harmful to consumers, such as "shrinkflation" and dequaliflation.