



**Declaration Between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United Mexican States with Respect to the Creation of a Canada-Mexico Working Group on Labour Mobility**

*The Government of Canada and the Government of the United Mexican States,*

Recognizing that Canada and the United Mexican States (“Mexico”) share a long history of labour mobility cooperation, in particular under the auspices of the Canada-Mexico Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program;

Building on the best practices developed under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program, and Canada’s pilot project for occupations requiring a lower level of formal training;

Recognizing that on October 24, 2004, the Government of Canada and the Government of the United Mexican States (the “Participants”) launched the Canada-Mexico Partnership, an initiative to strengthen bilateral economic and policy cooperation between the two countries, and to serve as a mechanism for identifying policy areas in which the Participants can facilitate cooperation and enhance opportunities for economic development;

Recognizing that the Canada-Mexico Partnership has led to the establishment of various working groups, where both countries have discussed how to enhance their strategic relationship in certain sectors and how to further cooperate in the areas of bilateral trade, investment, business-to-business links, good governance practices, education and human capital;

Wishing to work jointly in exploring ways to facilitate labour mobility between Canada and Mexico;

Interested in promoting the protection of Mexican temporary workers in Canada and Canadian temporary workers in Mexico, in accordance with each country’s labour laws and occupational health and safety standards; and

Wishing to promote for these workers, and in accordance with each country’s laws, respect for human rights, sound working conditions, access to justice, and other principles shared by Mexico and Canada, including gender equality.

***Declare their intent:***

1. To establish a Labour Mobility Working Group (the “Working Group”), the objectives of which would be to:

(a) Serve as a discussion forum to explore labour mobility between the Participants in mutually beneficial areas;

(b) Facilitate the exchange of information between Mexico and Canada, to improve the Participants’ understanding of each others’ respective laws, policies, programs and procedures relating to temporary foreign workers, and their employment and skills certification requirements, to help identify areas for collaboration;

(c) Facilitate the exchange of information on each country’s respective legislation, regulations and policies, to improve the Participants’ understanding regarding the protection of labour rights of temporary foreign workers, monitoring procedures in

relation to employers of these workers, and any other area deemed appropriate and of mutual benefit;

(d) Provide an avenue for the Participants to explore opportunities and new ways of facilitating the movement of temporary workers between Mexico and Canada, and of promoting the protection of the labour rights of these workers; and

2. To have Working Group discussions examine, among other issues:

(a) How existing Canadian initiatives to facilitate the entry of temporary foreign workers, in particular Canada's pilot project for occupations requiring a lower level of formal training, could be applied to workers from Mexico;

(b) Collaboration with provincial/territorial and state governments, to better promote compliance with labour standards and occupational health and safety laws;

(c) The development of pamphlets and other information products and services in Spanish (including the provision of counselling services, a toll-free telephone number, and through the use of the Internet) on the labour rights and responsibilities of Mexican temporary workers employed in Canada, and on the procedures to follow and the agencies these individuals can turn to for assistance in the event of the violation of their rights; and

(d) The feasibility of developing pilot projects in areas of mutual interest that third parties, such as Canadian sector councils may wish to carry out.

3. The Working Group will be comprised of an equal number of representatives from the Canadian and Mexican Governments representing the principal government departments responsible for matters related to labour mobility and co-chaired by a Canadian official and a Mexican official.

4. The Working Group may work with other Canada-Mexico Partnership Working Groups, such as the Energy, Housing and Human Capital Working Group's, as may be necessary to achieve its objectives.

5. Working Group meetings will occur under the auspices of the Canada-Mexico Partnership, with any additional meetings scheduled as needed and as identified by the co-chairs.

6. The Working Group will:

(a) Adopt the Work Plan;

(b) Develop subsequent Work Plans on an annual basis; and

(c) Provide updates at meetings of the Canada-Mexico Partnership, detailing the work carried out by the Working Group pursuant to the annual work plans developed.

7. The Participants will each assume any costs they incur in relation to their participation in the Working Group.

***Understanding that:***

This Declaration will come into effect upon its signature by both the Government of Canada and the Government of the United Mexican States; and

This Declaration is not intended to create legally binding obligations, under either domestic or international law.

Signed in duplicate in \_\_\_\_\_, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007, in the English, French and Spanish languages.

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For the Government of Canada

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For the Government of the United  
Mexican States