

March 17, 2026

*Sent via email*

Premier of Alberta  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration  
425 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

**Subject: Helping Alberta's employers retain their exiting temporary foreign workers**

Dear Premier Smith and Minister Schow:

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the interests of over 103,000 small- and medium-sized businesses across Canada, including over 11,000 members in Alberta. **We are writing to urge your government to ensure that Alberta's rural employers and their foreign workers can access the [special measure announced by the federal government](#) on March 13, 2026.**

Many Alberta small businesses are facing the hard reality that they may not be able to keep their foreign workers because of previous federal changes. Approximately 18% are struggling with the possibility of closing their doors and 24% may have to reduce their hours of operations.<sup>1</sup> Over half (52%) of small business owners using the program said temporary foreign workers helped them maintain operations, ultimately protecting jobs for Canadians.<sup>2</sup> This is particularly true for small- and medium-sized businesses in rural and remote regions.

On March 13, the federal government announced a temporary, targeted measure that would provide much-needed relief for rural employers. The measure temporarily raises the allowable share of low-wage temporary foreign workers from 10% to 15% of an employer's workforce in eligible rural regions. This initiative continues to reinforce employers' obligations to prioritize local recruitment through the LMIA

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<sup>1</sup> CFIB, Special TFWP Survey, November 2024-January 2025, n=1,645

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*

(Labour Market Impact Assessment) process, while recognizing that many rural businesses simply cannot find the workers they need locally.

This temporary measure is contingent on provinces requesting that the measures be available in their jurisdiction. **We urge you to request that it be available to eligible rural employers in Alberta.**

Any measure that prevents businesses from losing experienced, trained workers is a positive one. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please contact Keyli Loeppky at [Keyli.loepky@cfib.ca](mailto:Keyli.loepky@cfib.ca) or (587) 580-9140.

Sincerely,



Keyli Loeppky  
Director, Alberta & Interprovincial Affairs

cc: RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation  
Tany Yao, Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Northern Development  
Lizette Tejada, Shadow Minister for Immigration and Multiculturalism  
Heather Sweet, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation