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NEWS RELEASE

Study calls for new intergovernmental framework for provincial nominee immigration programs

Montreal – All provinces except Quebec, which has its own agreement with Ottawa, select a considerable – and rising – share of immigrants through provincial nominee programs (PNPs). However, a [new study](#) by the IRPP concludes that PNP practices do not always take account of the potential interaction with other immigration programs and calls for governments to negotiate a shared vision and framework for PNPs.

The author, F. Leslie Seidle, who is research director of the IRPP's Diversity, Immigration and Integration research program, examines the evolution of PNPs in four provinces – Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta and Nova Scotia.

Seidle finds PNPs have been successful in several respects: provincial governments have the flexibility to shape their nominee programs to address specific economic and labour market needs; applications have been processed considerably faster than those for the Federal Skilled Worker Program; nominees have quite positive economic outcomes, even in the initial years after they are admitted; and the PNP has led a greater proportion of new arrivals to settle outside the three largest provinces.

However, he notes that major program integrity issues have emerged in a number of provinces, particularly with business investor programs. Moreover, “some program innovations may not take sufficient account of the implications for the immigration system as a whole.” This is demonstrated by the growing use of PNPs as a channel to permanent residence for temporary foreign workers, which is not one of the program's stated objectives (temporary foreign workers are not screened as fully as applicants for the Federal Skilled Worker Program).

In light of these developments, Seidle proposes that the federal government and provincial and territorial governments “jointly develop a vision and framework for PNPs, including shared objectives, in order to chart future directions for these important programs.” He adds: “An ongoing working group could be created to ensure a regular exchange of information and data – including on nominees' outcomes. This would encourage greater coordination and the kind of learning across jurisdictions that can be one of the strengths of intergovernmental processes.”

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[Canada's Provincial Nominee Immigration Programs: Securing Greater Policy Alignment](#), by F. Leslie Seidle, can be downloaded from the Institute's website at irpp.org.

For more details or to schedule an interview, please contact the IRPP.

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