Assessment of the Migrant Worker Support Network Pilot in British Columbia

About the program

The Network is a part of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and aims to enhance the protection of migrant workers by supporting and empowering them to learn about, understand, and to exercise their rights while in Canada.

The Network has two components:
- The **Funding Program** that distributes funding to non-profit organizations.
- **Network Meetings** that include the Network Plenary, Working Groups, the Migrant Workers' Forum, and the Government Network.

From March 2018 to March 2020 (the scope of the assessment), $3.4 million was budgeted to pilot a Network in British Columbia.

Main findings

Through a document review and conducting interviews, focus groups, and surveys with 78 diverse stakeholders (including migrant workers), this assessment found that the Network made tangible and recognized progress in:
- The acquisition of meaningful information by stakeholders.
  - For migrant workers, this includes the knowledge needed to exercise their rights.
  - For other stakeholders, this includes the information needed to improve the support they provide to migrant workers.
- Collaboration among stakeholders.
- Migrant workers receiving support to report wrongdoing.

Areas for continued improvement include:
- Detecting and deterring abuse of migrant workers by employers.
- Developing policy and funding recommendations that inform government action to improve worker protections.

Considerations

Reflecting an analysis of the Network's strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities, the following considerations have been made:
- Extend the Network in British Columbia, taking into account findings from the assessment.
- Ensure there are clear processes to routinely share information back to Network stakeholders.
- Conduct targeted outreach to migrant workers and employers in sectors other than agriculture.
- Enable strategizing during Network meetings to inform the Funding Program.
- Utilize the Government Network to improve inter-governmental collaboration and to explore whether and how the Network can influence government policies and funding.
- Develop a logic model and a data collection/reporting system.
- If the Network is expanded to other jurisdictions, conduct consultations to assess local interest and need.