



May 14, 2026
Our Ref. 150587

Good afternoon:

Thank you for your letter sent to the Honourable David Eby, Premier. As provincial immigration and labour market development are within the responsibility of the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, your correspondence has been referred to me for response.

I appreciate the time you have taken to advocate on behalf of rural and remote employers, temporary foreign workers and their families. Government values the knowledge, skills and experience that people from all over the world bring to British Columbia and their important role in the provincial workforce and economy. I empathize with the businesses, employees and residents in your community and the stress that the imminent expiry of employees' work permits has caused. I also acknowledge the unique difficulties that small and medium-sized businesses in rural communities face.

Our Government recognizes that some employers are facing immediate labour needs in rural and remote communities. In response to the [federal government's announcement on March 13, 2026](#), BC has [opted in to the targeted variance](#) that allows rural employers to retain their existing proportion of low-wage temporary foreign workers beyond the current 10 percent cap for an additional year, provided all other program requirements are met. This measure is intended to provide short-term stability for rural employers and workers while longer-term solutions are pursued.

The Province continues to face elevated youth unemployment, and my Ministry's priority remains connecting people living in BC, particularly young people, with available job opportunities, alongside investments in skills development and training. As such, our Government continues to invest in workforce solutions that support both employers and workers over the long term, including employment and training programs delivered through [WorkBC](#), the [BC Employer Training Grant](#) and the [future skills grant](#).

My Ministry is committed to understanding the perspective of rural communities and will continue to work with the federal government to develop long-term solutions focused on reducing youth unemployment and strengthening skills development for people living in BC.

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Thank you again for writing and for your advocacy on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Sunner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "S".

Honourable Jessie Sunner
Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills