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Foreign Credential Recognition (FCR) Loans will issue a fund of more than \$3 million to Immigrant Access Fund Society of Alberta (IAF Alberta) for supporting the international professionals who fill up the major vacancies in Alberta.

This initiative would allow Alberta to provide more than 300 loans over the period of next two years. The skilled immigrants coming from all over the world would be able to educate themselves and gain work experience with the help of this initiative.

There have been many trained and skilled professionals who could not reach Canada as they could not bear the expenditure of licensing exams, training and other costs. With the launch of FCR Loans the financial burden on the incumbents can be reduced. The initiative will also help them to locate a job and be economically independent.

Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, Diana Finley says, "Our Government's top priorities are job creation and economic growth."

He also feels that internationally trained individuals fill up the skill shortages in prominent occupations; hence they need such a support. This is important for the long term prosperity of Canada.

Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Jason Kenney says, "We want skilled professionals who come to Canada to work and contribute to their full extent as soon as possible."

He emphasizes on inviting bright, hardworking and skilled people to the Province.

Kerry Longpre, President of IAF says, "It is critical for the economic and social success of our communities to maximize the expertise of new Canadians and celebrate their contributions."

Similar project have been announced in Saskatchewan, Ontario and British Columbia too.

The project was first launched in February of 2012. Till March 31, 2014 this project would be providing a fund of \$18 million. A massive support would be provided to Non-Government and non-profit making organizations to uplift the skilled people.

The striking feature of the Immigrant Access Fund is that, it provides a loan up to an amount of \$10,000 to an internationally trained professional. The loan can be repaid within four years' time. The loan amount can be utilised to pay the training or course fee, buy books and course materials and to meet any other cost related to the training.

As of now, more than 650 loans have been sanctioned to skilled immigrants. The key occupations include nurse and engineers. Internationally trained professionals can get their qualifications assessed in any of the eight occupations decided by Service standards, within one year. There is a planning to include six more occupations which also involve physicians and dentists.

Another organisation called Foreign Credentials Referral Office (FCRO) provides information pertaining to the services for internationally trained workers and helps them to find a job of their choice and expertise as soon as possible. The support is provided both in Canada and even overseas too.

FCRO works in collaboration with federal, provincial and territorial partners to support the internationally skilled people in a better way and improve the economic growth of the nation even better.

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