

## *Backgrounder*

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### **MANITOBA'S COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

- In 2006, the number of immigrants to Manitoba increased by 23 per cent due, in part, to new initiatives of the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program. Manitoba's was the first Provincial Nominee Program in Canada to dedicate a program stream to international students.
- Manitoba's internationally-recognized curriculum is offered in seven schools in five countries throughout the world.
- In 2007, Manitoba expanded the successful off-campus work program for international students to several private, post-secondary institutions. The program allows international students to gain valuable work experience and for companies and businesses to employ skilled international talent.
- The government works with the Manitoba Teachers of German to co-ordinate an exchange program connected to agreements signed between Manitoba and the German states of Hamburg and Lower Saxony.
- Manitoba is working with Citizenship and Immigration Canada to launch a web-based processing system to streamline off-campus work permit administration.
- Manitoba and the federal government collaborate on international education initiatives to promote Canada as an education destination of choice.
- International students and scholars add to the economic growth of the province. Domestic students gain intercultural skills from their interactions with international students and from opportunities to study abroad.
- International students contribute more than \$55 million to Manitoba's economy every year.

### **INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROVIDES ECONOMIC BENEFITS INCLUDING:**

- A significant, positive economic impact. In 2001, the federal Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade estimated that international students in Canada contributed approximately \$8 billion to the economy.
- A positive effect on the gross domestic product, innovation, international trade and direct foreign investment.
- Well-paying jobs in an environmentally-friendly industry.
- Diversification of the economy.