

**Name of organizer:** Sandra Elgersma  
 Organisation: Library Of Parliament  
 E-mail address:

Title of workshop: Whither the federal role in economic immigrant selection?

Format of Workshop: Workshop  
 Theme: Economic and labour market integration

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Name of first presenter: Naomi Alboim  
 E-mail address:  
 Organization: School of Policy Studies, Queen's University  
 Title/Theme of presentation: Adjusting the Balance: Fixing Canada's Economic Immigration Policies

Name of second presenter: James Townsend  
 E-mail address:  
 Organization: University of Winnipeg  
 Title/Theme of presentation: Provincial Nominee Programs: An Evaluation of the Earnings and Retention Rates of Nominees

Name of third presenter: Douglass Watt  
 E-mail address:  
 Organization: Conference Board of Canada  
 Title/Theme of presentation: Employer perspectives on the selection, recognition, and integration of skilled immigrants: the ongoing need for effective policies and practices

Name of fourth presenter: Heidi Smith  
 E-mail address:  
 Organization: Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
 Title/Theme of presentation:

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### Abstract

Since the introduction of the points system, responsibility for economic immigrant selection has primarily rested with the federal (and later, Quebec) governments. However, recent policy changes have given a variety of actors a greater role in economic immigrant selection. These changes prompt larger policy questions, which will be explored from a variety of viewpoints.

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### Summary

Selection plays a key role in ensuring that the economic objectives of Canada's immigration program are met. Since the introduction of the points system, responsibility for economic immigrant selection has primarily rested with the federal (and later, Quebec) governments. However, policy changes such as lifting the cap on provincial nominees, increasing admissions of temporary foreign workers, the introduction of the Canadian Experience Class, and the introduction of Ministerial Instructions for federal skilled workers have given a variety of actors a greater role in economic immigrant selection. In particular, employers, educational institutions, and provincial and territorial governments (in addition to Quebec) are playing a direct role in immigrant selection. These changes prompt larger policy questions, such as: which selection system leads to the best economic and social outcomes for immigrants and communities, how risk and responsibility for long-term integration is allocated under the different selection programs, and whether there is a "public good" role for the federal government in economic immigrant selection. This workshop will explore these questions from a variety of viewpoints.