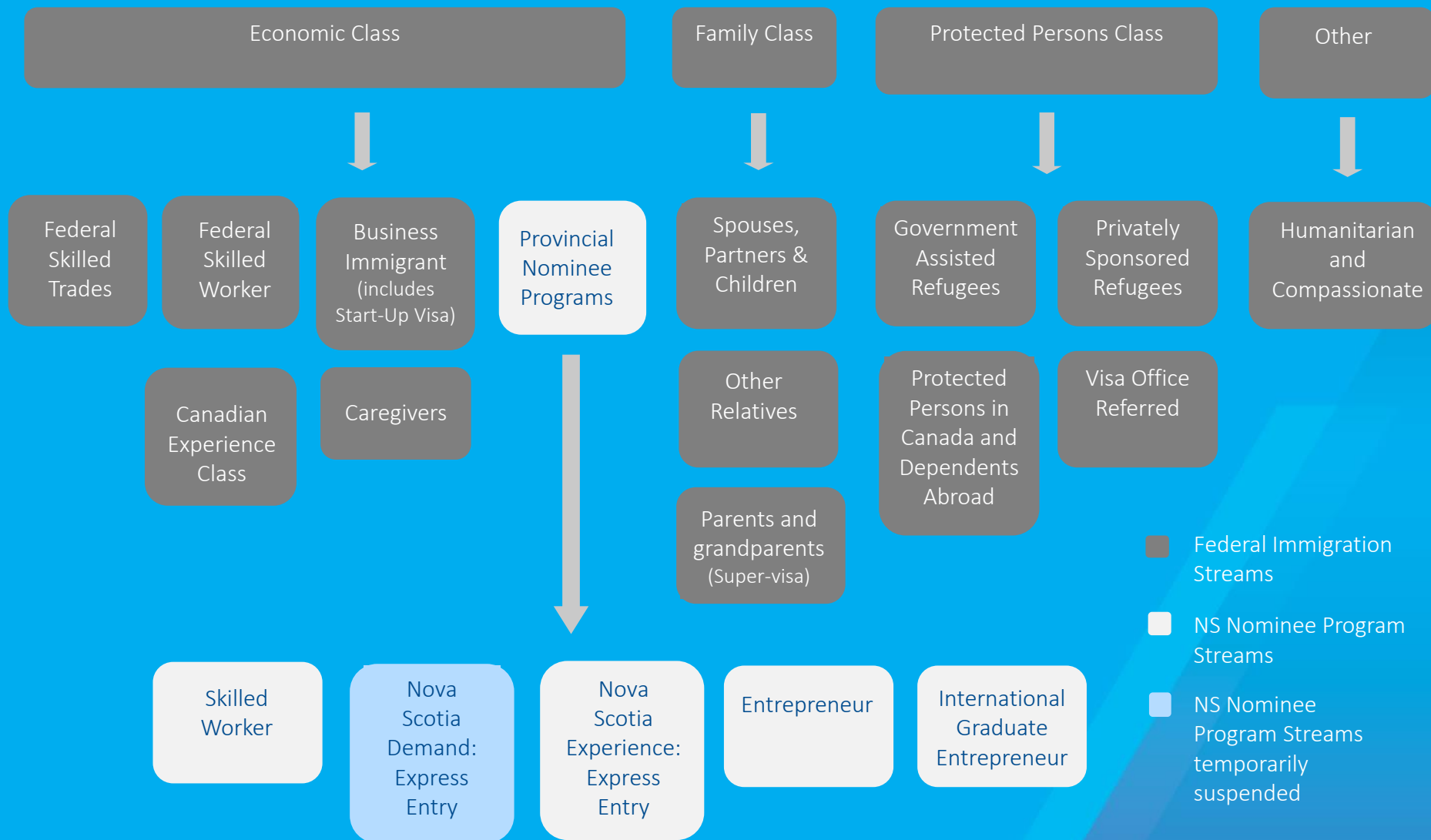




Immigration & Creating Welcoming Communities

March 2016

Pathways to Immigration



Provincial Context

Current government elected October 2013

- Immigration key platform commitment
- Government priority

“Ivany Report”

- Painted a bleak picture of NS demographics
- Economic growth + increased entrepreneurship
- Call to action: 7,000 immigrants per year

Economic context critical

- Immigration only one piece of demographic/economic solution
- Cannot just be government
- Role of employers (job offers) key

Office of Immigration Approach

- Action-oriented
- Primary goal to maximize all immigration pathways
- Align immigration with economic context – employment
- Focus efforts on retention
- Balance of flexibility with program integrity
- Accessible staff; ability to contact the office

Delivering Key Results

Office alignment

Stakeholder Engagement

- ✓ Broad Consultations
- ✓ Employer/Business engagement
- ✓ Community Conversations
- ✓ Immigration Summit

Advocacy

- ✓ Increased nominee allocation from 700 to 1350

Responsive stream design

- ✓ NS Demand: Express Entry (first in Canada) & NS Experience: Express Entry
- ✓ Two new business streams

Retention

- ✓ Integrated approach to settlement services

Looking Forward

Snapshot of some key goals for 2016

- NSNP highest allocation ever
- Business streams
- Cross-government, targeted recruitment: international and secondary
- Electronic processing/e-portal
- Supporting Federal Refugee Initiative

Benefits of Immigration

- Increases Diversity of our workforce & our communities
 - Immigrants help build our province and make Nova Scotia a vibrant, dynamic society. (restaurants, cultural centres)
- Increases Global thinking
 - Immigrants bring broader perspectives to international business markets, international business connections, and product diversity
- Increases innovation
 - Immigrants are an asset to NS – they find/create jobs, have families, buy houses, contribute to tax revenue for our province, build our communities and form new ones.
- Enables entrepreneurs to come to NS
 - Economic growth of our economy is critical to our future. New business streams will help us welcome more immigrant entrepreneurs, who can start businesses, or manage existing businesses

How to Build a Welcoming Community

Get organized!team approach, identify a champion, hold regular meetings

Strategies to build support:

- Understand demographic realities
- Know your communities (strengths/weaknesses) – are you ready?
- Set practical objectives
- Involve the community/media

Key things to consider:

- Employment
- Housing
- Language Training
- Childcare

Key Elements Required for Welcoming Communities

- Respect for Diversity
- Educational facilities
- Health and Wellness
- Accessible public services and facilities
- Leisure
- Safety
- Transportation
- Faith & spirituality

Other tools & ideas

- Cultural competency assessments
- Help identify labour market needs
- Gauge local readiness, promote benefits to employers & citizens
- Promote welcoming communities
- Leverage partnerships & networks
- Stay involved and in contact w/NSOI

***Reference: “Attracting and Retaining Immigrants – A Toolkit of Ideas for Smaller Centres - Prepared by the National Working Group on Small Centre Strategies”*

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