



Migrant Worker Support Network (BC Pilot)

May 3 2018

Presentation to the Canadian Federation of
Agriculture



Purpose of this presentation

- Path Forward for the TFW Program: Worker Protections
- Road to MWSN pilot
- Proposed MWSN vision and core activities
- Key stakeholders in the MWSN and design
- Role of MWSOs
- Expected outcomes
- Challenges and opportunities
- Questions and next steps





Path Forward for the TFW Program: Worker Protections

- Worker protections is a priority for the Government of Canada.
- The 2016 HUMA Report made recommendations to enhance worker protections, including working with community organizations to support TFWs in increasing awareness of their rights.
- In response to recommendations made in the 2016 HUMA Report ESDC committed to several worker protection measures including:
 - enhancements to the Program’s communication approach with TFWs (i.e. supporting TFWs in accessing information on their rights and protections as a worker in Canada) and
 - supporting stakeholders in their efforts to protect the rights of TFWs.



Road to MWSN Pilot

- TFW Program held consultations with key stakeholders from Summer 2017-Winter 2018 that highlighted the need to better inform TFWs of their rights. Another key challenge identified is that of trust.
- In January 2018, the Government of Canada provided a grant of more than \$93,000 to the Migrant Workers' Dignity Association (MWDA) to help migrant workers become better informed about their rights as workers in Canada.
- Budget 2018 announced the Government of Canada's initiative to invest \$3.4 million over two years to establish, on a pilot basis, a network of support organizations for TFWs dealing with potential abuse by their employers.
- The pilot will take place in British Columbia (BC) where there are established relationships with key stakeholders and an open work permit mechanism for TFWs who face a real or substantial risk of abuse by their employers.



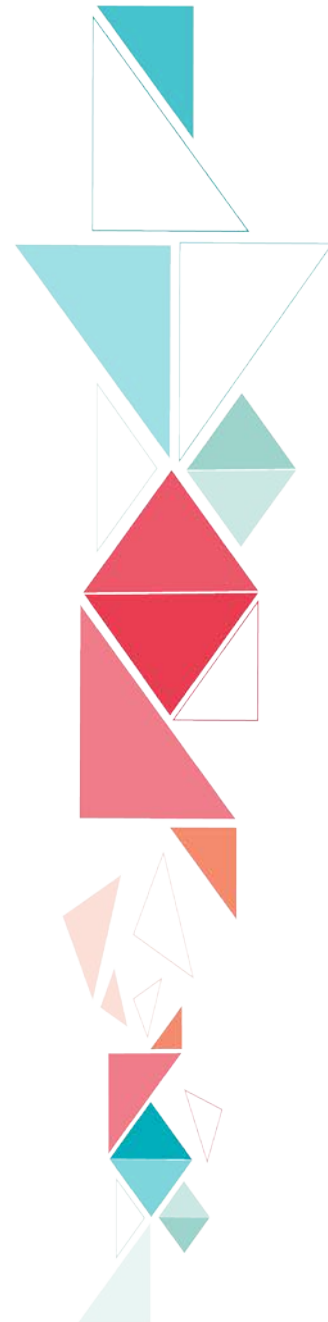
Proposed Vision and Core Activities

Vision: Better protect TFWs from Employer non-compliance by increasing emphasis on needs of the worker through:

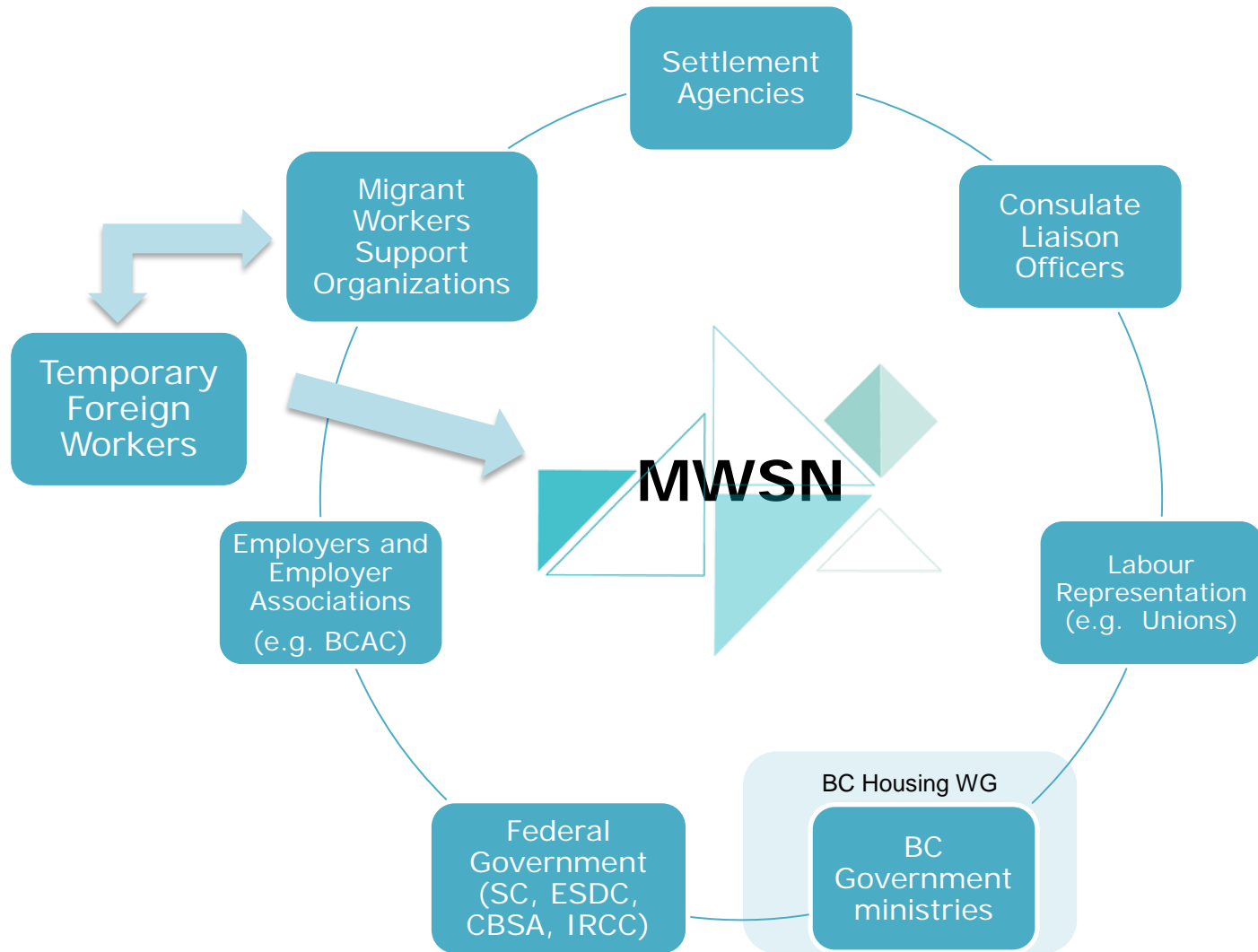
1. Ensuring that consistent and accurate information is provided to TFWs on their rights and protections as workers in Canada;
2. Providing as many options as possible to TFWs to be assisted.

Core Activities: Working collaboratively with stakeholders to:

1. Identify potential enhancements to worker protection measures and address emerging issues regarding workers' experiences;
2. Leverage existing resources and services to support vulnerable migrant workers in British Columbia;
3. Identify the gaps in resources and services for migrant worker protection with a view to addressing these gaps;
4. Build trust among stakeholders by engaging early on and throughout this pilot;
5. Provide MWSO(s) funding via contribution agreement(s).



Key stakeholders in the MWSN





Designing the MWSN

The MWSN design is driven by stakeholder input and research. The TFW Program is gathering intelligence and stakeholder input by doing the following:

- Consultations with various stakeholder throughout the month of May 2018 in small groups to collectively discuss a vision for the MWSN, the issues it should address, the roles their organizations should play in the Network;
- A plenary session with MWSN participants in BC in June 2018 to further discuss the Network's design and key activities;
- Outreach survey with various stakeholder groups;
- Researching model/best practices; and
- Identifying gaps to be addressed and opportunities for leveraging existing organizational expertise and resources in addressing TFWs' needs.





MWSN



MWSOs



TFWs

TFW may consent to the disclosure of their personal information held by gov't institutions to the MWSOs through a letter

Role of MWSOs

Since MWSOs are on the ground and have direct contact with TFWs but have limited capacity ESDC envisions that Contribution Agreement(s) will be in place by Fall of 2018 to provide funding to MWSOs in BC to continue their efforts to:

- Increase TFW awareness of their rights (e.g. workshops);
- Provide resources and services to enable TFWs to exercise their rights (e.g. legal clinics, translation services, assistance with filing complaints); and
- Liaise between TFWs and Network partners to build a culture of trust and enhance reach to TFWs.



Expected Outcomes

- 80% of TFWs in BC reached
- TFWs are aware of their rights and services/resources provided by MWSN
 - Access to basic contact information on arrival
 - Opportunities for more in-depth info at opportune times

TFWs are knowledgeable about services and resources available and understand their rights – through workshops/info sessions or know where to get information

TFWs exercise their rights – use of services and resources available

Information gleaned from BC pilot will inform decision on whether/how to expand the Network nationally



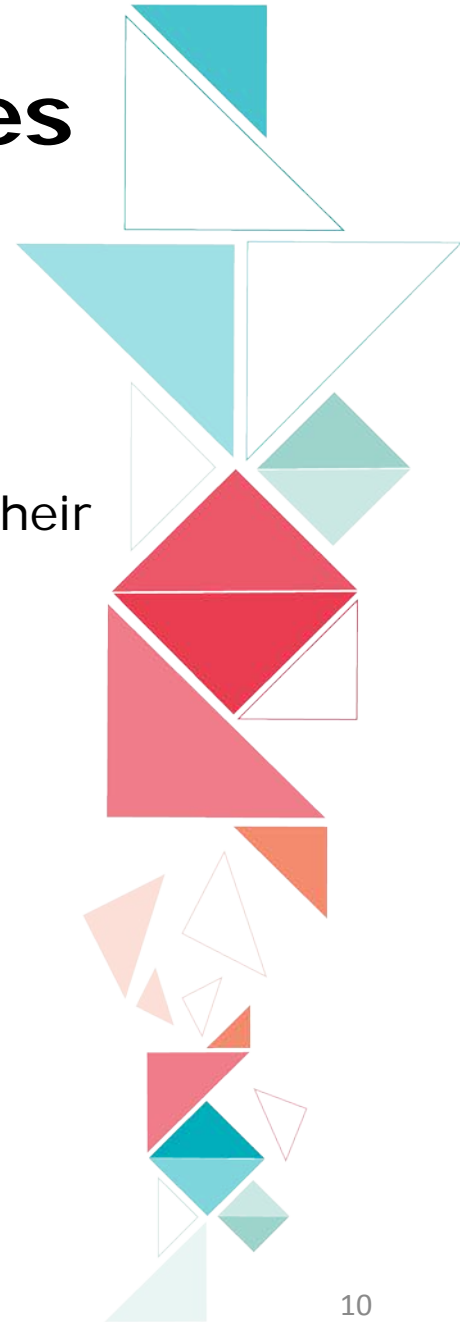
Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges:

- Pilot project
- Building trust amongst stakeholders
- Identifying roles and responsibilities
- Getting information to TFWs in a timely manner on their rights and about the existence and support provided MWSOs

Opportunities:

- Collaborate and engage
- Empower TFWs
- Reduce duplication of resources and services
- Bring disparate groups to discuss mutual interest in worker protections



Questions and Next Steps

- Feedback on the idea/concept of the Network
- Cooperation between and collaboration with stakeholder is key to MWSN's success

