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About Us

The Moncton Weekly Times was established Jan. 10, 1868, and became a daily newspaper on Aug. 11, 1877. The Moncton Daily Transcript was founded five years later, on May 24, 1882, having begun as a weekly two years before in Sackville, N.B. The Times and The Transcript continued publishing as separate newspapers until they merged on Jan. 3, 1983, to become The Times-Transcript. The name changed to the Times & Transcript on April 28, 1997.

Let's be fair, and practical

It seems odd to us that foreign workers employed on short-term work visas in fish plants can apply for permanent residency in New Brunswick, but they can't if they work in the fast food industry.

In fairness, the provincial government is still preparing a response to our questions as to why this is so, and it seems likely in our view that it is simply a bureaucratic oversight; an error of omission.

However, if this is an attempt to protect a particular sector of the economy from high turnover rates

We Say:
Right to residency
should not be tied to
occupation

it may well be an error in judgment, and one containing a good deal of irony at that.
We sympathize with rural communities if they are, for example,

hiring foreign workers for their fish plants only to have them pull up stakes after a few months to land jobs in the fast food restaurants of the cities. This is, after all, what is happening in the province as a whole in the normal immigration process. While we have had some success attracting new permanent residents here from other lands, we continue to struggle with retention because after a few years, some new arrivals move to larger population centres elsewhere in the country, where their own 'ethnic communities' are already well established.

However if that is the case in a provincial microcosm, with the fish plants, another way must be found to encourage retention. Hopefully most New Brunswickers now understand the importance of immigration in this underpopulated and aging province. At least some of our foreign workers have the potential to help by gaining landed status.

We can't very well penalize them simply for wanting to improve their situation with higher paid or steadier, longer-lasting jobs in the cities; it's not fair to the workers.

And it's not a practical way to retain workers in a specific economic sector either. If they are willing to move from, say, a Shippagan fish plant to a Moncton restaurant, they are also willing to move from New Brunswick to anywhere else in Canada where the penalty does not exist.

Whatever is done to encourage workers to stay on the job, a carrot had better be employed rather than a stick. And whatever method is used, a fair but finite term of 'staying put' should be part of the equation.