International policy design:

Should you adopt a Canadiancentric or global approach?

Linda Ward O'Farrell

Ward O'Farrell Consultants Inc.





International policy design:

Should you adopt a Canadian-centric or global approach?

Shaping The Future of Workforce Mobility
CERC 2005 CONFERENCE



Canadian-centric or global approach?

- Define
- Contrast
- Discuss
- Select approach
- Determine effectiveness
- Benchmark
- Conclusions
- Questions



Define

- Canadian-centric
 - home grown in Canada
 - Canada as home country
 - assignments from Canada to Int'l locations
 - return to Canada



Define

- Global approach
 - global HR strategy
 - international HR deployment policy
 - global workforce
 - international assignees
 - no pre-determined home country



Contrast

- Scope
- Types of assignments
- Core assignment principles
- Pre-assignment preparation
- Compensation
- Transfer Assistance
- Conclusion of assignment



Scope

- Mobility is critical to business strategy
- Key is to optimize international deployment
- Broader global presence is part of corporate culture
- Exposure to international assignment is desirable



Types of assignments

- Objective driven vs. length driven
 - Exploration / project implementation
 - Market expansion
 - Project completion
 - Developmental / broaden skills
 - Host country skills shortage
 - Strategic mergers / acquisitions
 - Transfer knowledge / organizational culture



Core Assignment Principles

- Defensible equity among int'l assignees
- Same principles for all assignees
- Different delivery of compensation, benefits, taxes, etc.
- Delivery in most tax effective method
- Administratively simple
- Cost-effective



Discussion

	Canadian-Centric	Global Approach
Scope:		
 Business Strategy 		
Corporate Culture		
Assignment Type:		
Objective vs. Length		
Core Principles:		
• Equity		
Compensation, Taxes		
 Administration, Cost 		



Pre-assignment preparation

- Employee & family assessment
- Counselling
- Reconnaissance / orientation / home search
- Culture training
- Language training
- Medical exams & preparation



Compensation Objectives

- Strategy consistent & equitable globally
- Criteria consistent with overall strategy
 - competitive structures & policy
 - facilitate transfer in most cost-effective manner
 - due consideration to equity & ease of administration
 - transparent & fair



Compensation Approaches

- Balance sheet
- Assignee market rate
- Host country
- Home country notional
- Localisation



Transfer Assistance

- Travel to host location
- Housing
- Temporary accommodation
- HHG shipment
- Tax treatment
- Allowances



Conclusion of assignment

- Repatriation
- Re-entry shock
- Career Management



Discussion

	Canadian-Centric	Global Approach
Pre-assignment		
preparation		
Compensation: Objectives & Approaches		
Transfer Assistance: • Travel, Housing, HHG, Temporary Accom., Tax, Allowances		
Assignment Conclusion: • Repatriation • Career Management		

Select approach

- Identify mobility goals
- Identify deployment requirements
- Establish assignment strategies
- Define assignment needs
- Link approach to assignment needs



Determine effectiveness

- Mobility goals
- Deployment requirements
- Employee retention
- Assignment needs
- Assignment refusals & rationale
- Specific policy components & services



Benchmark

- Critical factor in HR policies
- Degree of risk of losing employees
- Comparator Group
 - industry
 - skills-type
 - other "global"
- Measurable: Qualitative & Quantitative



Benchmark



Leadership for Workforce Mobility

Conclusions

- Evolution of policies
- Similarities
- Differences
- Critical factors
- Design opportunities



Closing Thought

Does your policy support your mobility goals?

Is your policy global?

Shaping The Future of Workforce Mobility

Thank you

Shaping The Future of Workforce Mobility
CERC 2005 CONFERENCE

