



MAYOR REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: June 19, 2024

TO: COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Simon Yu, Mayor

SUBJECT: New rural and Francophone immigration pilots

ATTACHMENT(S): Media Release - New rural and Francophone immigration pilots

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. THAT Council RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the report dated June 19, 2024, from Mayor Yu titled, "New rural and Francophone immigration pilots".
2. THAT Council AUTHORIZES Staff to explore the Rural Community Immigration Pilot and the Francophone Community Immigration Pilot programs and to submit an application to one or both pilots pending closer review of suitability and resources to undertake the program.

PURPOSE:

This report is intended to provide Council with information on new federal pilot programs launched in May 2024 titled the Rural Community Immigration Pilot and the Francophone Community Immigration Pilot.

BACKGROUND:

The Federal Government reports that, "Rural and Francophone minority communities are key to both Canada's long-term growth and our linguistic vitality. However, these communities face unique economic and demographic challenges. That is why the Government of Canada is launching two new pilots this fall to attract the skilled workers they need to grow their economies and communities".

The Government of Canada via Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has launched the community application process for the Rural Community Immigration Pilot and the Francophone Community Immigration Pilot. Interested economic development organizations across Canada are invited to apply for one or both pilots. These organizations will submit an application on behalf of their communities and must demonstrate their eligibility and show how immigration will strengthen their local economies.

IRCC will select up to 15 communities to participate in the pilots based on their economic needs, the availability of services and programs to assist newcomers, and the capacity of their economic development organizations to partner with IRCC. IRCC will announce the selected participants in the coming months and will begin their onboarding and training this fall.

All interested organizations must apply using IRCC's questionnaire by July 2, 2024.

As the deadline to apply is in the near future I am recommending Council authorize staff to explore these pilots and, pending what is learned during a more detailed review of the application and program commitments, to apply.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Growing our community and labour pool through thoughtful immigration supports many strategic priorities, including building a strong, resilient and diverse economy in Prince George.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no known financial considerations stemming from the recommendations of this report. As more information becomes available on the required commitments and staffing implications further reports highlight the cost of participation will follow as may be appropriate.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

This report provides information on recently announced federal pilot programs and requests Council give staff permission to apply for the programs, based on their assessment following a closer review of program commitments.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Simon Yu, Mayor

Meeting Date: 2024 /06/24