



INFORMATION BRIEF

Meeting: February 10, 2025

Claresholm's Acceptance to the Rural Community Immigration Pilot

DESCRIPTION:

On December 11, 2024 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) informed us that Claresholm has been selected to participate in the Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP). The program was [publicly announced on January 30th, 2025](#). A landing page for the RCIP program has been added to the Town of Claresholm website, found under Tools for Businesses or here: <https://claresholm-rcip.ca/>.

RCIP will focus on priority sectors determined by each community, administration will work with the Economic Development Subcommittee to identify these by March 31st. This new program will be more employer driven, requiring employers to be more involved in the application process, acting more as a middleman between the Town of Claresholm and the candidate, with further guidelines in place to ensure employers are committed to supporting the settlement and integration for their employees. Additionally, IRCC will be providing mandatory intercultural competency training and onboarding training for employers.

The Town of Claresholm maintains an excellent partnership with Willow Creek Immigrant Services and both organizations are committed to working together to support settlement through this new program. Additionally, the Welcoming Claresholm Committee is working on becoming a society to ensure its longevity and will continue to provide a essential welcoming opportunities for newcomers.

IRCC will provide more information on the next steps in the coming weeks. Administration has shared this information with the Economic Development Committee, who are in support of the pilot and made a motion to direct administration to sign the Memorandum of Understanding at their January 20th meeting.

BACKGROUND:

The RNIP program was successful in Claresholm and provided 100 newcomers with employment, and 40 business with labour solutions. This program sunset in August of 2024. Many local employers reached out asking about the possibility of a new similar program in Claresholm as many are still struggling to find local personnel to fulfill their labour needs or have hired temporary workers and are looking for routes to make their employees permanent. The Rural Community Immigration Pilot, the next phase of RNIP, was announced on March 6th, 2024, and the Expression of Interest period was opened on May 21st. The Economic Development Committee made a motion to submit an EOI application on June 17th and this was created and submitted in July.

The Economic Development Coordinator already has a list of 26 businesses who have reached out in the past few months and indicated their desire and need to utilize RCIP or another immigration pathway.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1.) Claresholm Economic Development Committee - Welcome Letter
- 2.) RCIP FCIP 101 - Welcome English - Dec 2024

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APPROVED BY: Abe Tinney – CAO

DATE: February, 6, 2025
