



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

# Rural & Francophone Community Immigration Pilots

---

Regional Economic  
Immigration Programs &  
Policy



**Congratulations on your selection for  
the Rural and/or Francophone  
Community Immigration Pilots!**



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

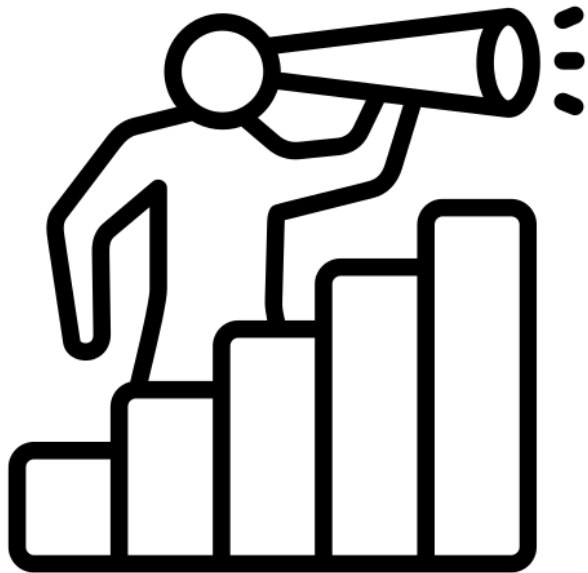
Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

# Background: The Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot

- The basis for the new pilots came from the previous community immigration pilot: the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot.
- IRCC launched the RNIP in 2019 to test an innovative community economic development approach to attracting and retaining immigrants.
- IRCC partnered directly with 11 communities in Northern Ontario and Western Canada, represented by local Economic Development Organizations (EDOs) that worked in collaboration with employers, municipalities, settlement service providers and other local stakeholders over the course of 5 years to implement the pilot.
- The early results indicated that the pilot was achieving its key intended results: supporting economic development in participating communities, facilitating the settlement and integration of newcomers, and supporting the retention of newcomers in communities.
- RNIP sunset on August 31, 2024.



# The Future of Rural Immigration



- RNIP was successful in meeting its objectives and has been a critically important tool in filling local labour market needs in key sectors and occupations.
- But there was room to improve the pilot to ensure it maintains its **program integrity** and continues to meet the **specific economic needs** of rural and Francophone communities in Canada.
- The parallel pilots, the **Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP)** and the **Francophone Community Immigration Pilot (FCIP)**, launched on December 10, 2024, to support immigration to rural and Francophone communities outside of Quebec and **provide dedicated pathways** to permanent residence for skilled workers and international graduates who can help address critical labour shortages and plan to live long-term in these communities.



# Future of Community-Based Pilots

## Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP)

### *Program Design*

- New **employer-driven model** merged with wrap-around community supports to foster a greater welcoming environment for newcomers and their families;
- Focus on **priority occupation sectors** determined by communities; and,
- Continued emphasis on **partnership** with communities to build capacity and expertise in immigration.

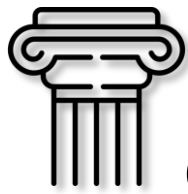
## Francophone Community Immigration Pilot (FCIP)

### *Program Design*

- The FCIP will have the same program design as the RCIP plus additional tools to **support Francophone communities**;
- Opportunity for community partners to work closely with Francophone organizations, such as the Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité (RDÉE) to **foster economic development** and Francophone settlement providers to **support settlement and integration** in Francophone communities; and,
- **Dedicated allocations** for French-speaking and bilingual candidates.



# Empowering the Experts



## Economic Development Organizations

- Employer and labour market assessment, including identifying priority occupations
- Collaborate with settlement service providers
- Designate Employers who fit economic and labour needs in the community and recommend candidates who meet eligibility criteria



## Employers

- Identify and hire suitable candidates that meet federal eligibility criteria
- Commit to helping their candidate settle and integrate within the community
- Complete mandatory Intercultural competency training and Onboarding Training



## Settlement Service Provider Organizations

- Provide newcomers and their families with access to settlement services
- Ensure additional Francophone services available in French-speaking communities



# Key Next Steps

---

- We will set up an initial one-on-one meeting with your community in the next 2-4 weeks to discuss your participation in the pilot(s), including connecting you with IRCC personnel and the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs).
- We will provide additional information related to your onboarding, training, and all other steps that will need to be completed before you can begin recommending candidates.
- We will provide all necessary resources that you may need as you begin your participation in the pilot(s).



# Thank you!

---

We look forward to working with you.

If you have any questions, please reach out to:  
[IRCC.Regionalpilots-pilotesregionaux.IRCC@cic.gc.ca](mailto:IRCC.Regionalpilots-pilotesregionaux.IRCC@cic.gc.ca)



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada