



# INFORMATION BRIEF

Meeting: August 12, 2024

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## Rural Community Immigration Pilot Application

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### DESCRIPTION:

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, administration submitted an Expression of Interest application for the Rural Community Immigration Pilot. The previous deadline of July 2<sup>nd</sup> was extended for all interested communities. The application included letters of support from the MD of Willow Creek and Stavely, which confirms that if the Town of Claresholm is selected to participate in this program, the proposed 25km boundary (the boundary for the initial RNIP program) will be in place. Also included was a letter of support from the Economic Development Committee, as well as various settlement organizations and other organizations involved in newcomer retention, including Willow Creek Immigrant Services, FCSS, Willow Creek Community Adult Learning, the Welcoming Claresholm Committee, Claresholm Public Library, and Claresholm Housing Authority.

Upon submission confirmation was received, which indicated that communities who are selected to participate will be notified, however there has been no information provided on when participating communities can expect to be notified or when an announcement listing the participating communities will be made. IRCC has indicated that they intend to launch RCIP in the fall.

Council has approved the Town to apply for the provincial immigration program. The province is aware of the Town's interest and has advised that they would not approve Claresholm for their immigration program if we were participating in the federal program. If the Town is unsuccessful with the federal immigration program, we can pivot to the provincial program.

### ATTACHMENTS:

- 1.) none

### APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:

- 1.) none

PREPARED BY: Ali Hemmaway – Economic Development Assistant

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APPROVED BY: Abe Tinney – CAO

DATE: August 7, 2024

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