



# INFORMATION BRIEF

Meeting: August 12, 2024

---

## AAIP Rural Entrepreneur Stream Progress

---

### **BACKGROUND:**

Council approved the Town's participation in the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program, Rural Entrepreneur Stream. This program allows the Town of Claresholm to offer a Community Letter of Support to entrepreneurs who want to start a new business or purchase/invest in an existing business and gain permanent residency.

Once an entrepreneur has read through the requirements and believes they are eligible for the program, they are invited to submit their business proposal, resume, language test, and education credential assessment to the Town of Claresholm. The Claresholm Rural Entrepreneur Team reviews the business proposal and if the candidate meets all the requirements and the Team feels the business will be an asset to Claresholm, an Exploratory Visit will be set up. Once this meeting has occurred the entrepreneur will submit a Business Proposal Summary, which the Team will review and decide on whether the candidate and their business proposal is a benefit to the community. If the entrepreneur is approved, their Business Proposal Summary will be endorsed, and they will receive a Community Letter of Support. The entrepreneur can then submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program Portal.

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Information on processes, templates, and experience with the program was gathered from other participating communities including Trochu, Wainwright, Didsbury, and Brooks. A page was added to the Town of Claresholm website with information on the program. A general response email template was created and roughly 21 enquiries have been received and responded to, though typically communication does not go further after a response email is sent to the interested entrepreneur. Two exploratory visits have been conducted, and one business proposal has been endorsed, with the entrepreneur receiving a community support letter as well.

The EDA has met several candidates interested in knowing more about the program in person, as well as 4 immigration consultants, who want to promote the program and Claresholm to their clients. One of these consultants was able to provide information on the timeline for approved entrepreneurs, indicating that in their experience the process usually takes around one year, this is from the point an entrepreneur received a community support letter and their business proposal is endorsed to when the entrepreneur receives a work permit, at which time they are able to move to the community and begin launching their business.

### ATTACHMENTS:

- 1.) none

### APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:

- 1.) none

PREPARED BY: Ali Hemmaway – Economic Development Assistant

APPROVED BY: Abe Tinney – CAO

DATE: August 2, 2024

---