

RURAL AND NORTHERN IMMIGRATION PILOT PROGRAM

The Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot Program is a community-based program. It's designed to provide smaller communities the benefits of economic immigration by creating a path to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers who want to live and work in one of the participating communities.

There are four steps to apply for permanent residence under this program.

1. Make sure you meet both:
 - a. the eligibility criteria of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC);
 - b. the requirements specific to the community.
2. Find an eligible job with an employer in one of the participating communities.
3. After receiving a job offer, submit your application for recommendation to the community.
4. If a community recommends you, apply for permanent residence.

Each community will also have its own:

- additional eligibility requirements;
- job search processes;
- community recommendation application process.

Participating communities

North Bay (Ontario)
Sudbury (Ontario)
Timmins (Ontario)
Sault Ste. Marie (Ontario)
Thunder Bay (Ontario)
Brandon (Manitoba)
Altona/Rhineland (Manitoba)
Moose Jaw (Saskatchewan)
Claresholm (Alberta)
Vernon (C.-B.)
West Kootenay (Trail, Castlegar, Rossland, Nelson) (C.-B.)

The Pilot Program is community-driven, which means that communities will:

- assess potential candidates who
 - best fit the economic needs of this community;
 - have a genuine employment opportunity that meets their community requirements
 - intend to stay in the community;
- recommend candidates for permanent residence to IRCC for a final decision;

- connect newcomers with settlement services as well as mentoring opportunities with established members of the community.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot Program, you must meet all of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) eligibility requirements. You must:

- have qualifying work experience or have graduated from a publicly funded post-secondary institution in the recommended community;
- meet or exceed language requirements;
- meet or exceed educational requirements;
- prove you have enough money to support your transition into the community;
- intend to live in the community;
- meet the specific requirements of the community.

If you meet all of the requirements, you can start looking for an eligible job in the community.

Summary of the program:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently accepting applications from rural communities wishing to sponsor immigrants. • The eligibility requirements for applicants for permanent residence have not been published.
Requirements for the community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be located in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Yukon. • Have a population of less than 50,000 residents AND be located 75+ km from another city of at least 100,000; OR population of less than 200,000 residents AND be considered remote from other large cities (according to Statistics Canada index). • Letter of support from a municipal leader AND Letter of support from a local / regional organization serving immigrants. • Have an economic development plan developed over the past 3 years. • Submit a community interest form. • Have a local economic development organization willing and able to manage the pilot program. • Provide integration services to future PRs by providing access to organizations serving immigrants, jobs, community members, education, housing, transportation and health services.

Requirements of the Local Economic Development Organization	Community + EDO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-profit. • Responsible for economic development, large and small. • Has or is part of an economic development plan • Has human / financial resources to take part in the pilot project. • Submit the application to IRCC and manage the pilot project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application must be submitted to the IRCC Economic Immigration Policy and Programs office in Ottawa or by email no later than March 1, 2019. • Recruit, assess and recommend candidates for permanent residence and report on the results of the pilot project.