Northeast BC Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP)

What It Is

- A Federal pilot program designed to help employers in Northeast BC fill critical job shortages by attracting and retaining skilled foreign workers – approximately 60 for the Northeast region.
- A regional initiative led by Community Futures Peace Liard (CFPL) and Northern Lights College (NLC) in collaboration with municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, and immigrant settlement agencies.
- The possibility of attracting much-needed skills to Fort Nelson in areas like: hospitality, tourism and retail.
- A pathway to permanent residency for international workers who want to live and work in Northeast BC communities.
- A way to sustain the economy, strengthen the workforce, and support local businesses struggling to find skilled employees.

What It Is Not

- Not a job replacement program – It fills positions that local employers cannot fill after extensive local recruitment efforts.
- Not a government-imposed hiring mandate – Employers can participate voluntarily if they need help finding workers.
- Not an open-door immigration program – Only qualified and vetted applicants who meet strict criteria (including proof of savings to meet household expenses for several months) and are sponsored by employers can participate.

How It Works

- Employers apply to be part of the program and demonstrate an unmet labour need.
- A local committee assesses the employer's suitability.
- Approved employers can recruit international candidates who meet job and residency requirements.
- Selected employee candidates apply for permanent residency through a streamlined process.
- Local selection committees review employee candidate applications and make recommendations to Immigration Canada.
- Community and employer engagement ensures newcomers have support to settle, work, and contribute to the region.

Timeline

- Between now and March, Community Futures will recruit staff to manage the program and confirm the municipalities involved.
- April - begin receiving applications and screening employers.
- May - screen employers and do site visits.
- June - prepare and send draft 2026-27 budget and financing requirements to partners and funders. Approve first employers by June 15th

Who pays for this?

This is a Federal project that is being championed by Community Futures, and is funded by external agencies. At this time, participating communities are providing support through existing staff resources. There is no financial benefit to employers, and it is about streamlining processes to address skill shortages in rural communities.

More information can be found at:
northernrockies.ca/RCIP or scan the QR