

———— REVELSTOKE. ————  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
EST. 1895

### EAST KOOTENAY IMMIGRATION PILOT PROGRAM (RCIP)

**Program Overview:** The East Kootenay Immigration Pilot Program (RCIP) is an initiative designed to address the unique labor market demands of Canada & BC’s rural and small communities. By providing a pathway to permanent residency for newcomers, the RCIP supports local businesses in finding the skilled workers they need, while also helping individuals already in the community to continue building their lives here. This program builds on the lessons learned from the successful Rural Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) that has operated in the Central & West Kootenay region over the past four years.

**Impact on Our Community** Participating in the RCIP will bring substantial benefits to our community:

- **Workforce Enhancement:** The program will help fill critical job vacancies, particularly in sectors such as food and beverage, healthcare, and retail, which are vital to our local economy.
- **Community Integration:** By providing a pathway to permanent residency, the program will help retain skilled workers and their families, ensuring long-term community growth and stability.
- **Economic Growth:** With more jobs filled and a stable workforce, local businesses can expand and thrive, contributing to the overall economic health of the East Kootenay region.

**Financial Contributions and Commitment** To implement this important pilot project, we need to secure funding from local businesses and community stakeholders. The estimated annual costs for the East Kootenay region are as follows:

Staffing (1 - 1.5 FTE):	\$125,000
Marketing and Promotion (including website)	\$5,000
CRM to track candidates	\$5,000
Administration and coordination by the lead applicant	\$15,000
<b>Total Annual Cost</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

We are seeking commitments of around \$30,000 per year for 5 consecutive years, from each community to support these costs. Your contributions will be crucial in ensuring the success of the RCIP and the continued prosperity of our region. No commitment amount is too small.

**Next Steps:** We need firm commitments for funding by Wednesday, June 26.

**Community Expectations and Documentation** To ensure everyone is aware of the community expectations and what will be needed for the application, please review the following links:

- [Community Expectations](#)
- [Documents Needed to be Provided](#)

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### LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE WEST KOOTENAY RNIP PROGRAM

The RNIP program in the West Kootenay region has seen remarkable success over the past four years, providing valuable insights for our own RCIP:

- **650 jobs filled:** Demonstrating the program's effectiveness in addressing local labor shortages.
- **1,196 community recommendations for permanent residency:** Including 650 skilled workers and 546 spouses and dependents.
- **256 unique employers participated:** Indicating strong local business support.
- **90% of participants still live in the region:** Highlighting the program's success in retaining talent.
- **Only 9% of applicants were located overseas or outside West Kootenays when they applied:** This highlights the program's focus on retaining local talent rather than recruiting from abroad.

These statistics underscore the potential benefits of the RCIP for the East Kootenay region, informed by the successful strategies employed in the West Kootenay communities.

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**SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT AND FUNDING**

June XX, 2024

Dear Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce,

**Subject: Support and Funding for the East Kootenay Immigration Pilot Program**

On behalf of [Your Business Name], I am writing to express our strong support for the East Kootenay Immigration Pilot Program. This initiative, led by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), is a community-led immigration pilot designed to bring skilled workers to rural communities, providing them with a pathway to Canadian permanent residency.

The East Kootenay Immigration Pilot Program is responsive to the region's workforce needs, ensuring that local businesses can find the skilled workers they require. By spreading the benefits of economic immigration to communities outside of large metropolitan centers, this program supports the economic and social growth of rural areas like ours.

[Optional: Insert text here about your hiring and retention challenges, specifically surrounding immigrant staff. If you offer staff accommodation, please include that.]

To demonstrate our commitment, [Your Business Name] pledges a financial contribution of [\$XXX] to support the implementation and coordination of the East Kootenay Immigration Pilot Program. We understand that these funds will be allocated towards staffing, marketing, administration, and other essential activities necessary for the program's success.

I understand that by contributing financially to this program, it does not guarantee recommendations for my staff. I understand that this is not a fee for service, but a contribution from my business to build a successful regional immigration program within Revelstoke.

We are confident that this program will bring substantial benefits to our community by enhancing our workforce and ensuring the sustainability and growth of local businesses. We look forward to seeing the positive impacts of this initiative and are proud to support it.

Thank you for your dedication and efforts in making this program a reality.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Your Business Name]

[Contact Information]