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# Rural Immigration Streams

Alberta Advantage Immigration Program



Economic Developers of Alberta Xperience 2022 Conference

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# Alberta Advantage Immigration Program

- Economic immigration program operated by Alberta, under the jurisdiction of federal government
- New streams launched as part of provincial immigration strategy:
  - **Rural Renewal Stream**
  - **Rural Entrepreneur Stream**
  - Graduate Entrepreneur Stream
  - Foreign Graduate Entrepreneur Stream
  - Accelerated Tech Pathway

# Objectives Of Rural Streams

- Empower rural communities to play a direct role in attraction/selection:
  - Newcomers to live, work and settle in their communities
  - Entrepreneurs who want to establish and operate businesses in rural Alberta
- Address skill and labour shortages
- Support business succession, new business creation and local job growth
- Increase stability of communities and stimulate the local economy
- Increase rural communities' capacity for immigrant attraction and retention

# Rural Renewal Stream

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# Rural Renewal Stream Process Flow Chart

## Step 1

Community self-identifies that it has the interest and capacity to apply and participate

## Step 2

Community – through its economic development organization – applies to be part of RRS

## Step 3

Government of Alberta determines which communities are accepted to participate in RRS

## Step 4

Community and its partners attract and recruit foreign national(s)

## Step 5

Employer makes job offer to foreign national. Community and its partners review applicant, and endorse foreign national.

## Step 6

Endorsed foreign national submits application to AAIP

## Step 7

Government of Alberta issues AAIP nomination for permanent residence

## Step 8

Foreign national applies to IRCC for permanent residence

# Community Designation – Requirements

- Population of less than 100,000 (applies to both streams)
  - Communities within Calgary and Edmonton CMAs excluded
  - Communities can partner together that are within the same economic region: total pop. must be less than 100K.
- An economic development organization to oversee the project in collaboration with the community
- An economic development plan must be included in the application

# Community Designation – Requirements

- Employer(s) with full time, non-seasonal job offers; multiple employers with multiple positions allowed
- A letter from the town council must be included in the application for designation
- An immigrant serving provider needs to be in collaboration with the community (does not need to be local); outlined in letter to be included with application
- Inclusion of other partners such as cultural organizations, community groups, volunteers encouraged but not required

# Newcomer Criteria

- A confirmed permanent, full-time, non-seasonal job offer
- 12 months full-time, relevant work experience (in last 18 months)
- Meet qualifications required for their occupation e.g. certification/licensing
- Canadian high school graduation or equivalent
- Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 4 or 5 depending on National Occupation Code (NOC)
- An Endorsement of Candidate letter from the community
- Settlement funds
- Obtain legal requirements for entry into Canada such as visa
  - TFWs already in Alberta eligible under stream.



# Rural Entrepreneur Stream

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# Rural Entrepreneur Stream Process Flow Chart

## Step 1

Community completes community enrollment form. Contact information posted to AAIP website

## Step 2

Entrepreneur goes on an exploratory visit to rural community and obtains letter of support

## Step 3

Entrepreneur submits Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Government of Alberta

## Step 4

Government of Alberta selects and invites entrepreneur to submit Business Application

## Step 5

Entrepreneur submits Business Application with business plan to the Government of Alberta

## Step 6

Entrepreneur enters into Business Performance Agreement (BPA) with the Government of Alberta

## Step 7

Entrepreneur establishes and operates business in Alberta on a temporary work permit

## Step 8

Government of Alberta issues nomination to entrepreneur who meets the BPA objectives after operating business for one year

## Step 9

Entrepreneur continues to run business and applies to IRCC for permanent residency

# Entrepreneur – Minimum Requirements

- Work Experience – 3 years as Owner or 4 years as Manager
- Education – High school equivalent to Canadian standard
- Language – CLB level 4
- Net Worth – \$300,000
- Business Investment – \$200,000
- Business Establishment – 51% ownership for new businesses; 100% for business succession
- Job Creation – One full-time job (for new businesses only)
- Community support letter
- Ineligible businesses: passive operations, project/seasonal based

# Established Businesses

- Entrepreneurs who already have an established business in a rural Alberta community are eligible to apply under the Rural Entrepreneur Stream
  - business must have operated for at least one year
  - must meet all minimum criteria
- Applications will be fast tracked.

# Conclusion

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# Benefits of Rural Streams

- Provides a permanent residency pathway to prospective newcomers/entrepreneurs who may have limited other options
  - Arrival time to Alberta can be shortened via work permit support letter from program; avoids LMIA
- Candidate applications from rural streams will be prioritized
- Provides communities the opportunity to improve capacity and reputation for attracting and welcoming newcomers via partnership model unique to their needs

# Participation Considerations

- Does the community support immigration? Is it a welcoming community?
- Can the community accommodate newcomers with the necessary services and infrastructure or nearby alternatives?
- Is the community/partnership willing and prepared to engage in direct attraction/selection activities?
- Are there business opportunities in the community for prospective entrepreneurs?

# Next Steps

- Community designation intake under Rural Renewal is now open
- Acceptance of community enrollment forms under Rural Entrepreneur ongoing
- EDOs, connect with your local community contacts to explore interest in streams and potential partnerships
- Workforce Consultants available to provide information and discuss participation
- Contact information:
  - Rural Renewal: [ruralrenewal@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ruralrenewal@gov.ab.ca)
  - Rural Entrepreneur: [entrepreneur.supportservice@gov.ab.ca](mailto:entrepreneur.supportservice@gov.ab.ca)



# Questions?

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