



Memorandum

TO: Krista Power, Director – Legislative Services & City Clerk **FILE:**

FROM: Councillor Kristen Oliver
Chair – Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee

DATE: 10/21/2025 (mm/dd/yyyy)

SUBJECT: Advocacy - Rural Community Immigration Pilot

MEETING & DATE: City Council – 11/04/2025 (mm/dd/yyyy)

At the October 15, 2025 Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee (IGAC) meeting, the committee discussed the newly launched Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP) and its importance for achieving growth objectives in Thunder Bay.

Northern communities like Thunder Bay face unique challenges in attracting and retaining skilled workers. The new RCIP will build on the success of its predecessor, the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP), by continuing to provide local pathways for permanent residency. The RCIP aligns immigration with local labour market needs, and offers flexible, community-led immigration initiatives to effectively address issues such as persistent labour shortages, declining population trends, and challenges to local business growth.

The RCIP offers a forward-looking, inclusive approach to immigration. With continued support, this program can help ensure that Thunder Bay remains vibrant, growing, and economically competitive.

The IGAC strongly believes that continuation and expansion of the RCIP is vital to the economic and demographic sustainability of Thunder Bay and other communities in Northern Ontario, and as such, the following motion is provided for City Council's consideration:

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Councillor Kristen Oliver, Chair – Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee, dated October 21, 2025, we recommend that City Council calls on the Federal Government to:

- Provide sufficient and sustained immigration allocations under the Rural Community Immigration Pilot to match local labour force needs in the City of Thunder Bay;
- Reconsider international student caps for rural and northern post-secondary institutions which serve as important pipelines for future skilled workers in rural and northern communities;
- Invest in long-term settlement and retention supports, recognizing the essential role of municipalities and community organizations in helping newcomers successfully integrate and remain in northern regions;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be provided to The Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, Minister of Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship; The Honourable Patty Hajdu, MP Thunder Bay - Superior North, and Marcus Powlowski, MP Thunder Bay-Rainy River;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.