



**The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

C O U N C I L R E P O R T

April 7, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Travis Anderson, Director Tourism and Community Development
DEPARTMENT: Community Development and Enterprise Services
RE: FedNor Contribution Agreement 514426 – Rural Community Immigration Pilot

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the execution of FedNor’s funding contribution agreement No.514426 to support administration of the Rural Community Immigration Pilot.

Background

In January 2025, the City of Sault Ste. Marie was selected as one of 18 host communities across Canada for the Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP) program. By offering a pathway to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers, RCIP will continue to address labor shortages while promoting sustainable growth in the community.

The RCIP program builds on the success of the Rural Northern Immigration Pilot program (RNIP), with a continued focus on spreading the benefits of economic immigration to smaller, rural communities. Through the RNIP program, the City of Sault Ste. Marie assisted 248 local businesses in addressing their labor shortages by connecting them with skilled foreign workers and attracted 1,031 skilled foreign workers and 853 dependents to the community.

Going forward, the community will receive 1,500 recommendations under the RCIP program, which will allow the City to support more local businesses and attract new skilled workers and their families to Sault Ste. Marie.

Analysis

To support the administration of the RCIP Program, staff applied to FedNor’s Northern Ontario Development Program – Community Economic Development Stream, and were notified on March 5, 2025, that the application was successful.

Under the terms of the conditional agreement, FedNor will pay up to ninety percent of the costs to administer the program, up to a maximum of \$922,500. The City is responsible for the remaining ten percent, or \$102,500. A report appears elsewhere on the agenda requesting a contribution from Community Development Fund (CDF) to cover the City’s portion of matching funds required by this program.

Funds accessed through the FedNor Northern Ontario Development Program will assist staff in administering and marketing the RCIP program. The successful implementation of the RNIP program will help to achieve the goal of attracting a skilled workforce to the community and increasing population. The agreement was required to be signed by March 31, 2025. The CAO has signed the agreement under Delegated Authority By-law 2021-64 (time sensitive funding).

Financial Implications

FedNor will provide funding for ninety percent of the eligible cost, up to a maximum of \$922,500. The remaining ten percent, or \$102,500, has been requested from the CDF.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

This item supports the Corporate Strategic Plans Focus Area:

- Community Development and Partnership focus of Maximizing Economic Development and Investment with the commitment to maintain financial viability.
- Community Development - Develop partnerships with key stakeholders and reconciliation.

There are no climate change impacts associated with this report.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Director of Tourism and Community Development dated April 7, 2025 concerning FedNor Contribution Agreement 514426 – Rural Community Immigration Pilot be received as information.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis Anderson, Director
Tourism & Community
Development
705.989.7915
t.anderson@cityssm.on.ca