

## MIGRATION PATHWAYS

# Canada Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot

### Overview

The Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot is a five-year program aimed at testing community-driven approaches to address the labor market needs of small rural communities.

### Why was it started?

Rural and northern communities in Canada face out-migration of youth, aging populations, and labor shortages. But most new immigrants settle in urban centers, missing out on the opportunities and quality of life in smaller communities. To attract migrants to rural areas, this project builds on the successful Canadian Atlantic Immigration Pilot, an innovative regional economic immigration program launched in 2017.

### How does it work?

Prospective migrants must have relevant work or academic experience, speak English or French, and be financially self-sufficient to apply for a match with a host community. If these requirements are met, the applicant must search and apply for an eligible job with an employer in one of the participating communities. Once a job offer is secured, the person must submit an application for recommendation and once recommended, can apply for permanent residence. Each community may also have its own eligibility requirements, job search process, and community recommendation application process. Eleven rural communities in Northern Canada were participating in the program in 2021.



Country of Destination  
**CANADA**

Country of Origin  
**NOT SPECIFIED**

Skill  
**NOT SPECIFIED**

Skill Level  
**LOW**

Timeline  
**DECEMBER 2019–24**

Beneficiaries  
**ABOUT 150**

*Countries all around the world utilize migration pathways to train and bring over workers with needed skills. The CGD Migration Pathways database documents these pathways to promote innovation in this space. To explore the database, visit [GSP.cgdev.org](https://GSP.cgdev.org).*

## What impact has it had?

As the program began only in 2019, it is too early to assess its impact. The program is modeled after the Canadian Atlantic Immigration Pilot, which was so successful in retaining high-skilled immigrants that it was made a permanent program.

## Further readings

For more information, see the [Canadian Government Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot website](#).

Esses, V., and C. Carter. 2019. *Beyond the big city: How small communities across Canada can attract and retain newcomers*. Public Policy Forum, Ontario.  
<http://p2pcanada.ca/library/beyond-the-big-city-how-small-communities-across-canada-can-attract-and-retain-newcomers/>

O'Doherty, H. 2020. *Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot: Now accepting applications*. Moving2Canada.  
<https://moving2canada.com/rural-northern-immigration-pilot/>



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