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Campbell River joins B.C.'s regional pilot program for immigrant entrepreneurs

Campbell River could soon welcome newcomers to start new businesses in our community.

“The City has joined dozens of smaller communities in the province in an effort to recruit foreign entrepreneurs to establish new business startups,” notes economic development officer Rose Klukas. *“We’re hoping that participating in this program will help attract people to Campbell River who will start new businesses, particularly in sectors that reflect significant local and global economic development opportunities.”*

The intake process is now accepting applications for Campbell River site visits and business start-ups in:

- Professional, scientific and technical services
- Wood product manufacturing
- Food and beverage services

“Campbell River is a keen participant because this provincially-sponsored program presents an opportunity to address challenges often faced by smaller communities,” Klukas says. *“This partnership has the potential to bring new businesses, jobs and opportunities and generate a more diverse local economy, which in turn helps retain existing businesses.”*

The program helps meet local economic development needs and encourages investment outside large urban centres by focusing on communities with populations less than 75,000 located 30 kilometres beyond metropolitan urban areas. Entrepreneur applicants must present a business proposal that creates at least one new job and meet criteria in categories such as management experience, net worth, education. Only new business startups that match Campbell River’s priority sectors can apply.

As part of the provincial partnership, the City will connect with entrepreneurs that meet local economic development needs. Entrepreneurs are required to visit Campbell River and present their business concept prior to receiving a referral to the Province. The City’s economic development department will work with local organizations such as the school district and Immigrant Welcome Centre to provide support and information for people interested in immigrating to Campbell River.

For more information on the City’s priority sectors and the BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot program visit www.campbellriver.ca/invest or contact pnp@campbellriver.ca.

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Contact: Rose Klukas, Economic Development Officer 250-286-5738