

**Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
February 23rd, 2022**

The Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission acknowledges this meeting was held on the Traditional Territory of the Syilx/Okanagan Peoples.

✓ = Attended X= Absent * Not required A= Alternate Attended

Advisory Council Executive:

✓	Calissi, James, Chair
✓	Larson, Janice, Vice-Chair
✓	Checkley, Mike, Past Chair

✓	Hughes-Geekie, Sharon
X	Nagy, Angela
✓	Quinn, Paula

Advisory Council:

✓	Alexander, Andrea
X	Barker, Phil
X	Benson, Gavin
X	Blitz, Maurice
✓	Bruns, Myles
✓	Buchanan, Brad
X	Carroll, Mandi
✓	Cannan, Ron
✓	Collins, Dave
X	Csek, Nikki
✓	Dawn, Jeremy
X	Donn, Ryan
	Douglas, Laurel

X	Evans, Bob
✓	Friesen, Jason
X	Gipps, Paul
A	Harper, Shauna
✓	Ireland, Blair
X	Labrecque, Cory
X	Lake, Brea
✓	Lewis, Chris
✓	Malcolm, Ryan
X	Mitchell, Kray
✓	North, Steve
✓	Pearson, Pam
X	Preston, Adriana

X	Pringle, Julie
✓	Quinn, Paula
X	Ritchie, Geoff
✓	Rogers, Dan
✓	Stack, Luke
X	Stewart, Tony
X	Sulentich, Ruth
X	Threlfall, Rich
✓	Thurnheer, Laura
✓	Udzenija, Nicole
✓	Wentworth, Noel
✓	White, Jill
X	Widmer, Larry

Staff and Consultants:

X	Ballan-Brown, Sandra
✓	Braun, Tory
✓	Lesack, Sascha

✓	Mallory, Krista
✓	Stark Leader, Myrna
✓	Trevino, Valentina

✓	Weston, Eva
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1. Call to Order

Chair James Calissi called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of January 26, 2023, unanimously approved.

3. COEDC Workforce Attraction Update

Krista Mallory, COEDC Manager, provided an overview of the current workforce and labour environment in the region, see attached presentation for details.

- The COEDC in partnership with Venture Kamloops and Salmon Arm Development society will be attending the immigration expo in the Netherlands on April 1st to 2nd. This is Europe's largest immigration expo and expects 11,000 visitors where we can promote the Region's jobs.
- Received over 50% of funding for this project through ETSI-BC. Thank you to ETSI-BC.
- The COEDC is also working with the PCPNP program to help prepare our employers to receive international applicants.
- **Action Item:** Requesting that Advisory Committee share the Accessing Global Talent webinar hosted by the COEDC, Venture Kamloops and Salmon Economic Arm Development Society, within their networks.

4. BC Provincial Nominee Program Overview and 2023 Direction

Deb Zehr, Executive Director and Aireen Luney, Manager of Program Development and Promotion both with the Immigration Programs, Government of British Columbia provided a program overview of the [BC Provincial Nominee Program](#) (BC PNP) and the 2023 direction of the program, see attached presentation for details.

- The BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) is an economic immigration program administered by the Government of British Columbia's Immigration Programs Branch. Through the BC PNP, B.C. nominates applicants who help address the province's unique labour market needs and contribute to economic development.
- The program enables the province to select and nominate foreign workers, international students and entrepreneurs to help meet B.C.'s labour market needs, support government priorities, and help grow B.C.'s economy. If an individual is nominated, they and their family can apply to IRCC to become a permanent resident of Canada.
- Municipal Affairs has the authority to design and deliver the BC Provincial Nominee Program. Through an agreement with the Federal Government the Province designs the criteria, does outreach, and assesses applicants for permanent resident.

- In 2022 7,000 principal applicants were nominated. This is increasing with 8,000 to be nominated in 2023, 9,000 in 2024 and 10,000 in 2025.

5. Discussion

- The new Federal Legislation on the prohibition on the purchase of residential property by non-Canadians is on the radar of the BC PNP. More information has been requested in terms of the intent and possibilities to look at the impact and adverse effect on the BC PNP.
- BC PNP's priority sectors are continuing to be re-evaluated. Tech was identified as a priority in 2017 and has continued to be so. The more recent priorities came about after a thorough review of the program and wanting to ensure that the tool is connected to the current day priorities.
- The BC PNP priority areas are determined by the province. The federal government reviews the program design but does not review the key priority areas. Other occupations besides the care economy are still able to apply and based on the point system would be nominated.
- There is an entrepreneur stream under the BC PNP which continues to operate and allows entrepreneurs to purchase or set-up a business in any part of the province given they meet certain criteria. One of the challenges with the entrepreneur program has been the bottleneck of temporary visas during and prior to the pandemic. Due to this there has been somewhat of a slowdown in the program due to administration involved in getting people to BC.
- Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot introduced in March 2019 and has been extend to March 31, 2024. This is for communities with a population of 70,000 and under and there are approximately 54 communities represented in the program.
- BC PNP service standard is an application processed within 3 months.

6. New Business

- No new business.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 am.
