

## COMMON COMMITTEE REPORT

M&C No.	M&C 2020-17
Report Date	January 08, 2020
Meeting Date	January 13, 2020
Service Area	Growth and Community Development Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of Common Council

**SUBJECT:** Municipal Nominee Program

**OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION**

This matter is to be discussed in open session of Common Council.

**AUTHORIZATION**

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
<b>David Dobbelsteyn</b>	<b>Jacqueline Hamilton / Phil Ouellette</b>	<b>John Collin</b>

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Common Council direct the Mayor to sign the attached letter to the Federal Government in support of the proposed Municipal Nominee Program and as an expression of interest in Saint John becoming a participating community in this new pilot program.

**REPORT**

Canada has a world class and progressive immigration system. Every Economic Immigrant who wants to come to Canada through the *Express Entry* program is given a Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score based on the applicants' education, experience, language ability, age and a host of other factors.

It is a competitive process and only the 'best and the brightest' are given an invitation to apply (ITA) to be permanent residents. For the latest round, applicants needed a score of 472. This is where "*Nominee*' programs can fast track an applicant.

With a *Provincial Nominee Program* – which the province of New Brunswick currently has already (NBNP), the province can 'nominate' a candidate who fits a particular skillset, quality, or requirement. In practice, the Province typically uses the NBNP program to nominate francophone applicants, and/or applicants with a job offer from a qualifying NB employer. If the Province nominates a candidate, they automatically gets hundreds of points added to their CRS score,

and they are all but assured an ITA from the Federal Government, provided there are no other barriers.

The majority of immigrants to Canada move to the largest cities (Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver). The Federal Government has chosen to implement a new *Municipal Nominee Program* in their current mandate as it is believed that this pilot will allow smaller communities to compete for talent.

Immigrants to Saint John currently use a variety of immigration streams as well as the Atlantic Immigration Pilot. However, there is no current mechanism for our community to endorse a capable applicant for who is also willing to live and work in Saint John. It is anticipated that the Federal Government will allow communities to now play a role through this new pilot as indicated by the Prime Ministers recent mandate letter to the Minister of Immigration Refugees, and Citizenship Canada, where the Minister is directed to:

“Introduce a Municipal Nominee Program that will allow local communities, chambers of commerce and local labour councils to directly sponsor permanent immigrants. At least 5,000 new spaces will be dedicated for this program.”

While details of the pilot are still yet to be released, it is assumed that this new pilot will likely be structured in a similar way to the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot that allows participating communities to nominate applicants who are willing to live and work in those communities (e.g. Thunder Bay, Sault Ste Marie, Sudbury, etc)

If Saint John is selected as a participating community, this will allow our broader community to be much more involved attracting and selecting immigrants to move to our community, as well as assisting our local employers in filling their workforce needs.

Staff recommends that the Mayor sign the attached letter to the Minister of Immigration Refugees, and Citizenship Canada in support of this new pilot, and as an expression of interest in becoming an early participating community when the pilot is officially launched.

### ***STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT***

#### **Growth and Prosperity:**

- Promote Saint John as a community to live, work and play to grow the residential tax base

### ***ATTACHMENTS***

Letter to Minister of Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada