

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

Economic Development Advisory Committee

AGENDA - February 4, 2019 - 11:30 A.M.

MEETING - Committee Room, Civic Centre

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1. <u>Call to Order</u>	
2. <u>Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof</u>	
3. <u>Approval of Previous Advisory Committee Minutes</u>	
3.1 January 7, 2019.	2 - 3
4. <u>New Business</u>	
4.1 Composition of Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) Committee - (con't from January 7, 2019 meeting).	4
4.2 Northern and Rural Immigration Program.	5 - 10
1) Globe and Mail Article dated January 24, 2019;	
2) Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot - Federal Government Initiative	
3) Position Paper from J. Cumming	
5. <u>Information Correspondence</u>	
5.1 The Associated Press News Article - Will Robots Take You Job? Quarter of US Workers at Risk.	11
6. <u>Adjourn / Next Meeting Date - March 4th, 2019</u>	

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES
Economic Development Advisory Committee

MINUTES

January 7, 2019

The meeting of Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Committee Room, Civic Centre on January 7, 2019 from 11:43 a.m. to 2:13 p.m.

PRESENT: J. Cumming, Chair, J. Gillon, K. McCaig, D. Kircher, Chief W. Windigo, K. Firth (11:43 p.m. to 1:19 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. to 2:13 p.m.), D. Eldridge, M. Caron, Mayor J. Caul

ALSO PRESENT: D. Brown, CAO, T. Drysdale, Consultant, G. Gillon (RRFDC), L. Mose, MNDM, R. Thoms, 93.1 The Border, and K. Lawson, Board Secretary

REGRETS: R. Avis

1. Call to Order

1.1 Nomination of Committee Chair.

The meeting was opened by K. Lawson, Board Secretary. J. Cumming was nominated as Chair.

McTaggart-Kircher: THAT the nomination of J. Cumming as Committee Chair be hereby approved.

CARRIED

1.2 Nomination of Committee Vice Chair.

- J. Cumming, Committee Chair called for nominations for Vice Chair. M. Caron was nominated.

McTaggart-Gillon: THAT the nomination of M. Caron as Committee Vice-Chair be approved.

CARRIED

1.3 Introduction of Committee Members.

- Chair invited everyone at the table to introduce themselves.

2. Non-agenda Committee items which because of urgency cannot be deferred to a subsequent meeting, identified to be considered later in the meeting.

- 2.1 The Committee Secretary cautioned members about the use of Non-agenda items which are not considered emergent. She indicated that by bringing items in this manner, there is no transparency to the public. She will send an email out to members prior to putting future agendas together and at that time members can bring their agenda items forward for consideration.

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof

- 3.1 K. Firth declared an interest in agenda item 5.3 as he is employed by one of the hotels being discussed. He left the room while the matter was discussed.

4. Approval of Previous Advisory Committee Minutes

- 4.1 November 5, 2018.

McTaggart-McCaig: THAT the minutes from the November 5th, 2018 meeting be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

5. New Business

- 5.1 Committee Orientation.
 - Tannis provided the committee with 2 Power Point presentations to bring new members up to date.
 - 1) Five Year Review - Economic Development;
 - 2) Council Orientation - November 2018.
- 5.2 Mill Sale Negotiation Update.
 - B. Brown and T. Drysdale provided members with an update on the potential purchaser who is negotiating with Resolute Forest Products. Members were reminded that it is very early in the process.
- 5.3 Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) Committee Recommendation.
 - a discussion was had as to the makeup of the Committee. Tannis was asked to bring the mandate for the Committee forward to the next meeting, and this item will be further discussed at the next regular meeting.
- 5.4 Labour Market Shortages - previous request from D. Fortes.
 - this item will be tabled.

6. Non-agenda Items

7. Adjourn / Next Meeting Date - February 4th, 2019



Report to EDAC Municipal Accommodation Tax Committee

Date: Jan. 30 2019

From: Tannis Drysdale, Economic Development Consultant

Beginning Jan 1 2019, the Town of Fort Frances introduced created a a Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) on January 1, 2018 which implements a four percent (4%) tax on all accommodation that is less than 30 days in the Town of Fort Frances.

- Council designated the Rainy River Future Development Corporation as the Town's partner as the Designated Marketing Organization. These funds will be used to support tourism promotion for Fort Frances.

To this end the Town and the RRFDC will enter into an agreement, which will be similar to other agreements with the RRFDC.

EDAC is being asked to provide input into the preferred make up of the committee. This committee will guide the spending of the DMF funds. The RRFDC has established separate accounts for the DMF funds and those accounts will be audited with the RRFDC annual audit.

Suggested committee makeup:

1. **One** appointed member of Fort Frances Council
2. Up to **One** each designate of each tourism/accommodation providing business with more than 10 rooms in Fort Frances
3. Up to **Four** total representatives of Fort Frances based community festival, event or sport organizations.
4. **One** designated representative from the Fort Frances Museum
5. **One** designated representative of the Fort Frances BIA.
6. **One** designated representative of the Fort Frances Chamber.

The RRFDC will apply for funds in early 2019 from the Ontario Heritage Fund and/or Tourism Ontario to access the assistance of a marketing agency who will develop a five-year promotion plan for the committee. This plan will include a product review, a target market review and a suggested detailed promotional budget with goals.

The RRFDC will apply for funds to leverage funds to maximize effectiveness.

The Agreement will be silent as to how the RRFDC will appoint volunteers to the board.

The Agreement will require an annual financial and written report to Council. The Agreement will require the RRFDC to comply with all requirements outlined in the current MAT legislation and any changes or updates to that legislation.



Ottawa launches pilot project to boost immigration in rural, northern Canada

TERESA WRIGHT

OTTAWA

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PUBLISHED JANUARY 24, 2019



Minister of Immigration Ahmed Hussen makes an announcement in Toronto on Jan. 14, 2019.

EDANK CUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



"This is a common, common ask – municipal leaders are saying, 'Please, we need more people, more workers, more families,'" Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen said in an interview Thursday.

"Immigration is not the only tool, but it is one of the tools that can be used to address labour market shortages and skilled shortages."

This new program is designed after an Atlantic immigration pilot, which has seen success in growing the population and filling labour market needs in the Atlantic provinces. The Atlantic model sees immigrants arriving in the region with a job offer and an individualized settlement plan for them and their families. Hussen pointed to a recent population increase in Nova Scotia this year as proof the program there has been working.

But retention of immigrants in areas outside of major urban centres has been an issue, notably in Atlantic Canada. Only 16 per cent of immigrants who filed tax returns in Prince Edward Island in 2011 were still living there five years later, according to 2016 census data.

The new rural pilot has a special focus on retention. Hussen said communities that are selected to participate will not only have to demonstrate a need for skilled workers, they will also have to prove they have the settlement infrastructure in place. That includes language and employment supports so the newcomers can "hit the ground running."

Only rural and northern communities with a population of 50,000 people or less or who have been designated by Statistics Canada as a remote city can submit a proposal to be part of this pilot. It is open to communities in all provinces except Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

This program is expected to welcome just under 3,000 people, or about 100 newcomers and their family members, per community. The winning communities will be announced in the



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Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot: About the process

1. About the process

[2. Communities that can apply.](#)

[3. Roles and responsibilities](#)

[4. How communities apply.](#)

[5. After communities apply.](#)

i *This pilot is currently only open to communities*

The information on these pages is for **communities** interested in participating in the pilot. Information for **permanent residence applicants** will be available later in 2019.

About the pilot

The Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot was developed to help spread the benefits of economic immigration to smaller communities throughout Canada. The Government of Canada will work with local communities to:

- use immigration to help meet local labour market needs and support regional economic development
- test a new pathway to permanent residence in rural Canada for skilled foreign nationals at various skill levels
- create welcoming environments that encourage and help new immigrants to stay in their new communities

We're looking for communities that are interested in participating in this pilot.

If your community is interested, your community must work with a local economic development organization to complete your application. The economic development organization must be the one to submit the application.

The application must have the support of:

- your municipal leader(s) **and**
- a local or regional immigrant-serving organization

What is an economic development organization

An economic development organization would have:

- economic development as a central part of its mandate
- an economic development or strategic plan, or would fall under a broader economic development plan
- available resources to participate in the pilot

This organization could be:

- a community futures organization
- a chamber of commerce
- another independent or not-for-profit economic development organization
- a hybrid organization of a municipality with an independent board of directors made up of community stakeholders

If your community is selected

The community-based economic development organization that submits the application is expected to manage the pilot for your community. This involves working with community stakeholders, including employers, to attract and integrate newcomers.

The Government of Canada will help selected communities establish ways to attract and integrate newcomers to their community.

Next: Communities that can apply →

Date modified:

2019-01-24

How important is the population growth of the Rainy River District? Is valuable enough to sell homebuilding lots for \$1.00 a lot as has McAdam New Brunswick? Is it worth \$10,000 as has Tulsa Oklahoma and the state of Vermont to attract persons who can work from home away from corporate offices in larger centers? We have traditionally shipped most of our brightest away for education with few returning because we lacked the jobs or the industries, but many of those jobs have changed.

McAdam has attracted interest from all provinces in Canada.

Harmon Minnesota offers cash rebates for new home construction. The rebates are between \$5-12,000 and have created new taxable building values of over \$1,000,000.

With student debt rising, small communities in Kansas are offering to assist graduates to pay down their debt by agreeing to move and work in rural communities. Perhaps it may be possible to persuade the provincial government to reward graduates in engineering, science, technology, arts and math with assistance to live in northern rural Ontario.

We are not like Russia or China that can dictate where people will live to maintain rural communities. We need to discover what we need to do to bring 30 new jobs to the district each year for the next 10 years.

We don't have lots to give away and we certainly don't have thousands to give to people to work remotely. The internet makes it possible for people with unique products to sell them from anywhere to anywhere in the world. It is a great opportunity for craft-based industries to locate anywhere and where better than the Rainy River district.

What assets do we have to attract millennials to the district? Do we know and understand their wants and expectations?

I would like to suggest that the Town of Fort Frances and district hold a millennial forum of young people who have returned to the district or remained in the district to discover:

- A. Why they chose to come and raise families here
- B. Why they remained in the district.
- C. What issues they have found to living here.
- D. What would make relocating here easier.
- E. How to attract people of different culture.
- F. What assets do we have (Inexpensive electricity? Aging population? Great internet? Inexpensive housing? Closeness to urban centres (Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Duluth)?

This forum must include people from who perform different jobs and include peoples of indigenous culture. It can't be just Fort Frances centric but must include the district. We have a 15-year window of opportunity to grow the population of the area and expand the job and life opportunities.

How do we begin?

I would suggest that we develop a list of 20-30-40 somethings who have recently returned to the district. We begin identifying them and ask them to identify others who they know who have returned. When we have a group, we begin with a face to face discussions to seek answers to the questions above and have the participants ask other questions to gain a fuller understanding of the reasons people have chosen to return to the district or choose to immigrate to the district.

We also begin by asking those people if they know others who might be interested in returning to the district but have been discouraged from doing so. What causes that discouragement? How can the district overcome those barriers? What other services, facilities would make the decision to relocate to the district easier?

Canada will need to attract thousands of immigrants annually. What can we learn from other communities who have successfully integrated immigrants from Pakistan, India, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, Jordan, Indonesia, the Philippine's, China, into their communities? Those immigrants will be valuable to the economy of Fort Frances and the district for years to come.

Will robots take your job? Quarter of US workers at risk

By Matt O'Brien

The Associated Press

Robots aren't replacing everyone, but a quarter of U.S. jobs will be severely disrupted as artificial intelligence accelerates the automation of existing work, according to a new Brookings Institution report.

Thursday's report from the Washington think-tank says roughly 36 million Americans hold jobs with "high exposure" to automation, meaning at least 70 per cent of their tasks could soon be performed by machines using current technology. Among those most likely to be affected are cooks, waiters and others in food services; short-haul truck drivers; and clerical office workers.

"That population is going to need to upskill, reskill or change jobs fast," said Mark Muro, a senior fellow at Brookings and lead author of the report.

Muro said the timeline for the changes could be "a few years or it could be two decades." But it's likely that automation will happen more swiftly during the next economic downturn. Businesses are typically eager to implement cost-cutting technology as they lay off workers.

Though the United States is in the middle of its second longest expansion in history, and jobs data suggest that the economy remains healthy, many business leaders and economists have suggested in surveys that the United States could slip into a recession in 2020. In addition, the partial government shutdown has been creating anxieties about a downturn.

Some economic studies have found that similar shifts toward automating production happened in the early part of previous recessions, and may have contributed to the "jobless recovery" that followed the 2008 financial crisis.

But with new advances in artificial intelligence, it's not just industrial and warehouse robots that will alter the American workforce. Self-checkout kiosks and computerized hotel concierges will do their part.

Most jobs will change somewhat as machines take over routine tasks, but a majority of U.S. workers will be able to adapt to that shift without being displaced.

Some chain restaurants have already shifted to self-ordering machines; a handful have experimented with robot-assisted kitchens.

Google this year is piloting the use of its digital voice assistant at hotel lobbies to instantly interpret conversations across a few dozen languages. Autonomous vehicles could replace short-haul delivery drivers. Walmart and other retailers are preparing to open cashier-less stores powered by in-store sensors or cameras with facial recognition technology.

The changes will hit hardest in smaller cities, especially those in the heartland and the Rust Belt, according to the Brookings report. The risk is highest in Indiana and Kentucky, where some counties have nearly half the workforce employed in the labour-intensive manufacturing and transportation industries. The changes will also disproportionately affect the younger workers who dominate food services and other industries at highest risk for automation.

"Restaurants will be able to get along with significantly reduced workforces," Muro said. "In the hotel industry, instead of five people manning a desk to greet people, there's one and people basically serve themselves."

Many economists find that automation has an overall positive effect on the labour market, said Matias Cortes, an assistant professor at York University in Toronto who was not involved with the Brookings report. It can create economic growth, reduce prices and increase demand while also creating new jobs that make up for those that disappear.

But Cortes said there's no doubt there are "clear winners and losers." In the recent past, those hardest hit were men with low levels of education who dominated manufacturing and other blue-collar jobs, and women with intermediate levels of education who dominated clerical and administrative positions.

In the future, the class of workers affected by automation could grow as machines become more intelligent. The Brookings report analyzed each occupation's automation potential based on research by the McKinsey management consulting firm. Those jobs that remain largely unscathed will be those requiring not just advanced education, but also interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence.

"These high-paying jobs require a lot of creativity and problem-solving," Cortes said. "That's going to be difficult for new technologies to replace."
