

From: Immigration Ontario (MLITSD) <Immigration.Ontario@ontario.ca>

Sent: May 8, 2026 2:22 PM

To: Immigration Ontario (MLITSD) <Immigration.Ontario@ontario.ca>

Subject: Expression of Interest for OINP's Regional Immigration Initiative / Déclaration d'intérêt pour l'initiative régionale en matière d'immigration du POCI

A French version to follow

Good afternoon,

The Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development's Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) is pleased to invite your community to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) to solicit interest in participating in the next phase of Ontario's regionalization efforts aimed at supporting local labour market needs.

About the regional immigration initiative

The initiative is a regionalization effort from the OINP, set to start late summer 2026 until the end of 2027.

Dedicated nomination spaces will be allocated to each of the selected partner communities. These nominations are specifically reserved for applicants with job offers in one of the selected communities.

The objective is to ensure that communities across the province benefit from economic immigration and can leverage the OINP to attract and retain the skilled talent they need. The goal of this initiative is to continue to:

- Promote the OINP to support greater uptake within participating communities.
- Strengthen collaboration with regional partners and employers on how best to use the OINP to address local labour shortages.
- Provide a pathway to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers with a job offer who wish to live and work in selected communities.

Submitting an Expression of Interest

Interested municipalities within the same Census Division are asked to identify **a single lead organization** (ex: a Chamber of Commerce, an economic development agency or other appropriate regional body) to submit the EOI on behalf of the entire Census Division. **Only one EOI submission is allowed per Census Division.**

Interested communities will be chosen based on their need for economic immigration considering factors that will include:

- representation of Ontario's geographic diversity, including its Francophone communities
- demonstrated specific labour challenges (especially in priority sectors)
- capacity and willingness to support the new regional immigration initiative
- ability and readiness to help newcomers get settled
- interest from community stakeholders

Key Dates

Communities will have until **June 5** to complete and submit a questionnaire. Submission of an EOI does **not guarantee** participation. The OINP will review the submissions, and successful communities will be notified via email by **August 2026**.

If your Census Division wishes to be considered, please complete the following questionnaire by **June 5**:

<https://www.research.net/r/REDI-DERI2026>

Please refer to the **FAQ document** in attachment for more information on the new round of the REDI initiative.

For questions related to the process, please email immigration.ontario@ontario.ca.

Additional Program Updates: the OINP is making changes to [Ontario Regulation 421/17](#) under the Ontario Immigration Act, 2015 (OIA). This includes consolidating the existing eight program streams into four new streams, to be introduced in two phases. For more information, please visit [Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program \(OINP\) | ontario.ca](#)

Thank you for your continued support of the OINP.

Immigration Promotion and Employer Outreach Unit

Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP)

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development | Ontario Public Service

immigration.ontario@ontario.ca

Taking pride in strengthening Ontario, its places and its people

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills
Development

Regional Economic Development through Immigration (REDI) – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of this regional initiative?

This initiative is a continuation of the Regional Economic Development through Immigration (REDI) pilot and maintains the same goal of helping communities address local labour shortages by increasing access to skilled foreign talent through the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP).

The initiative will continue to:

- Promote the OINP to encourage uptake in selected communities.
- Enable collaboration with regional partners and employers on how best to leverage the OINP to fill local labour shortages.
- Provide a path to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers with a job offer who want to live and work in one of the selected communities.

2. How does this new round of the regional immigration initiative compare to the 2025 REDI pilot?

The new round of the regional immigration initiative builds on the success of the 2025 REDI pilot by continuing to leverage the OINP to help regional communities address local labour shortages. This round of the initiative maintains a strong focus on employer outreach, community engagement, and targeted draws for candidates with job offers in participating communities. It is also open to all Census Divisions outside of the Greater Toronto Area, which are invited to submit an Expression of Interest. Final details on community participation and nomination allocations will be confirmed once partner communities have been selected.

3. How will the initiative help economic growth in the selected communities?

Communities selected for the regional immigration initiative will have demonstrated that they have labour needs that cannot be met locally. The initiative aims to help attract and retain foreign workers to these communities that have the skills and experience needed to fill these labour shortages and support economic growth by providing them with a pathway to Permanent Residence (PR) in Ontario.

4. What is required of communities to participate in the initiative?

Communities who are selected to participate in the regional immigration initiative will have the following roles and responsibilities:

- Promoting the initiative to employers and building awareness in the community, including raising employers' awareness of the opportunity
- Vetting employers based on several eligibility criteria, and working closely with them to support their labour market needs, and ensure they are fulfilling their settlement obligations related to newcomers and their families
- Working closely with settlement service providers, employers, and other relevant community organizations to support candidates' settlement and integration
- Building and maintaining strong program integrity capacity to detect and deter fraud; and
- Reporting to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) on the performance of the initiative on a regular basis, including but not limited to employer engagement, application uptake, newcomer outcomes, labour market needs, and settlement of newcomers and their families.

Each community will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines the roles and responsibilities of both the community and ministry.

5. How will the OINP support the communities through this initiative?

A dedicated amount of nomination spaces will be allocated to each of the selected partner communities. These nominations are specifically reserved for applicants with job offers in one of the selected communities.

Additionally, the OINP will collaborate with the selected communities to:

- Provide additional support to find and retain foreign workers by:
 - Establishing local working groups from each selected community
 - Facilitating outreach activities
 - Hosting informational webinars
 - Arranging participation in local or industry-specific events
- Promote the benefits of settling in one of the selected communities and leverage tools and resources of the program to draw awareness to these communities.
- Ensure continuous feedback and evaluation on the initiative's progress and adjust resources where necessary.

6. How many nomination spaces will be allocated to each selected community?

The initiative will allocate nomination spaces to each selected community based on their size or historic nomination levels. Details will be made available once the partner communities have been selected.

7. Will participating communities receive funding from MLITSD?

No. MLITSD will **not** provide grants or funding to support the implementation of the initiative. Communities must be prepared to use their own resources to coordinate activities, promote the initiative, and engage employers.

8. How will the communities be selected?

Communities will be selected from across the province, and based on their need for economic immigration, considering factors that will include:

- Representation of Ontario's geographic diversity, including its Francophone communities
- Demonstrated specific labour challenges (especially in priority sectors)
- Capacity and willingness to support the new regional immigration initiative
- Ability and readiness to help newcomers get settled
- Interest from community stakeholders

Additional qualitative considerations can be used in addition to numerical scoring to capture the following:

- Geographic or regional representation needs, including Northern or rural communities
- Francophone presence or potential to attract and retain Francophone newcomers
- Emerging economic developments or new/upcoming investments

Information provided in communities' EOIs will be used to assess the above factors, along with other available data including regional labour market data such as unemployment and job vacancy rates.

9. How many communities will be selected?

Communities will be selected based on their strong potential for immigration uptake, including economic diversification, employer engagement and settlement services for a better newcomer integration. Further details on the number of communities participating will be provided at a later date.

10. Who is eligible to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI)?

All municipalities within a Census Division may participate; however, **only one EOI submission per Census Division** will be accepted. Municipalities must coordinate locally to identify one lead organization (ex: an economic development agency, chamber of commerce, or upper-tier municipality) to submit on behalf of the Census Division.

11. Where can communities submit an EOI?

Communities are required to complete the following questionnaire to submit their EOI: <https://www.research.net/r/REDI-DERI2026>. They will have until **June 5th** to complete and submit the questionnaire.

Important: Submission of an EOI does **not guarantee** participation.

12. What are the key dates?

The regional immigration initiative is set to start late summer 2026 and is anticipated to operate until the end of 2027.

Communities will have until **June 5th** to complete and submit their EOI via a questionnaire. The OINP will review the submissions and select the participating communities by **August 2026**; successful communities will be notified by email.

13. Where can I direct my question regarding the regional immigration initiative?

Please email immigration.ontario@ontario.ca for any questions or more information.