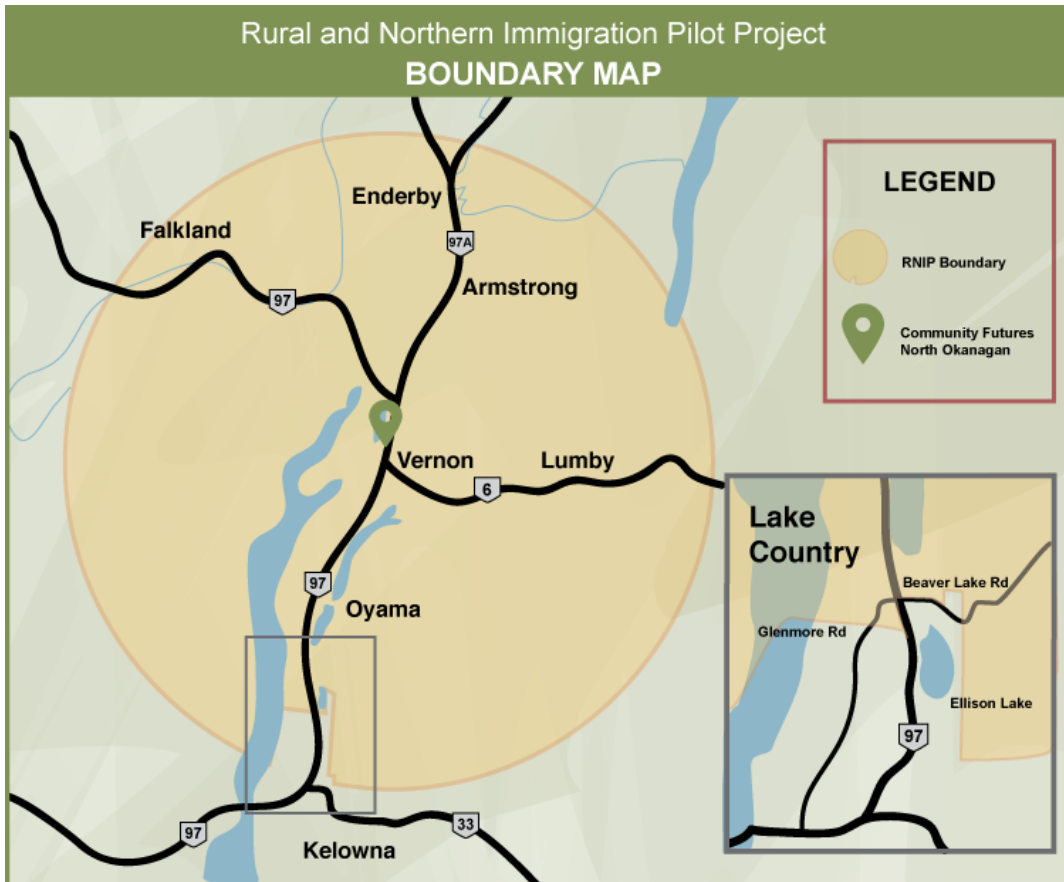# Community Criteria - Applicants

The Community Criteria reward the candidates who best fit the Community's needs. The Criteria prioritize candidates who intend to live in the Community after receiving Permanent Residency status. The Community Criteria were developed carefully by the Recommendation Committee in consultation with local businesses and interest groups.

1. Geographical Boundaries

The boundaries of the Community are shown on the map below. They include the City of Vernon, District of Lake Country, District of Coldstream, City of Armstrong, Township of Spallumcheen, City of Enderby, Village of Lumby and several unincorporated areas within the North Okanagan, Columbia Shuswap, Central Okanagan and Thompson Nicola Regional Districts, excluding the census subdivision of Kelowna (City), as defined by Statistics Canada.

2. Applicants residing out of the community

Wage Requirements:

If you are applying for a job in our community from abroad or you live beyond the boundaries of our community described in item 1, the wage offered must meet or exceed 23 dollars an hour. The wage must also be above or within the range of wages for that particular occupation, as defined in the Federal Job Bank, and for similar jobs in the region as per the Ministerial Instructions.

Points Requirements:

There is no minimal community criteria points requirement.

3. Applicants living in the community (minimum of 6 month)

Wage Requirements:

Applicants who are currently, and have been working, studying, and/or living for at least the last 6 months in the Community, will be exempt from the Community specific wage criteria of 23 dollars an hour if their offered wage is between 18 to 22.99 dollars and they get at least 30 points under the Community's Comprehensive Ranking System.

Note that only up to 75 per cent (%) of annual recommendations will be available for this exemption.

Points Requirements:

Minimum of 30 points from our Comprehension Ranking System is needed to become eligible to apply with the wage exception.

*** *add comprehensive ranking system table*

4. What makes employer eligible to provide a job offer under RNIP program?

The following are the criteria for businesses to become eligible to hire a foreign worker through RNIP program

The employer:

   a. **must be based in the Community and the employee must do most of their duties within the Community as described in Definitions below.**
   b. **must not receive any form of payment in exchange for a job offer.**
   c. the job posting must meet the federal eligibility criteria as described in the Ministerial Instructions.
   d. must prove their efforts to hire a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident before hiring a foreign worker.
   e. Employers must go through a required training session about settlement, eligibility, and program integrity before posting a job through RNIP.

f. Employers must comply with information sharing arrangement with IRCC and in referring employee to VDICSS upon arrival.

The operation of business:

a. businesses must have operated in Canada for five years with two of those years being in the Community (as described in Definitions).
b. businesses that have not operated in Canada for five years with two of those years being in the Community <u>will</u> be eligible if they:

    i. are the product of a new investment of over $200,000.00 or more in the Community as described in Definitions (below) AND
    ii. have operated in Canada for at least the last 2 years, AND
    iii. be expanding or moving to the Community , AND
    iv. have a physical business location within the Community that they have operated at least 3 months, AND
    v. Consent to a site visit by the RNIP Coordinator, AND
    vi. Consent to a mandatory interview conducted by the RNIP Coordinator, AND
    vii. Consent to the submission of all required Business Investment Documents (as defined in definitions).

5. Additional Information – no change

6. Definition

Adult is a person 19 years of age or older.

Immediate family includes parents, step-parents, grandparents, adult siblings and the children of the principal applicant or their spouse.

Extended Family is all non-immediate adult family members of the principal applicant or spouse including aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins, and spouses of adult siblings.

Working age spouse is a person who is 19 years of age or older and complies with the definition of a spouse under Canadian law. This includes common law partners and conjugal partners, as defined by the <u>Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations</u> (IRPR).

Community is a 40-kilometer radius centred on the Community Futures North Okanagan office located at 3105 33rd Street in Vernon BC. This includes the City of Vernon, District of Lake Country, District of Coldstream, City of Armstrong, Township of Spallumcheen, City of Enderby, Village of Lumby and several unincorporated areas within the North Okanagan, Columbia Shuswap, Central Okanagan and Thompson Nicola Regional Districts, and land under the authority of the Okanagan Indian Band and the Splatsin First Nation. It is important to note that this excludes the census subdivision of Kelowna (City), as defined by Statistics Canada.