



November 14, 2018

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

Re: Newcomer Centre of Peel's (NCP) Proposal to IRCC for funding the Rural Business Development Initiative (RBDI) for Immigrant Entrepreneurs

The Municipality of Brockton is pleased to support the Newcomer Centre of Peel in its request for funding the Rural Business Development Initiative for immigrant entrepreneurs. We recently partnered with the NCP through the Saugeen Economic Development Corporation to host 30 entrepreneurs interested in investment opportunities in our community. The day-long bus tour was a first in our region, and considered a success by all.

The potential investors got to experience our communities first-hand and meet directly with elected officials, economic development staff and business owners, while we got the opportunity to establish connections with them and follow up on their specific interests. This would not have been possible without the assistance of the Newcomer Centre of Peel. Follow-up survey results have been positive, and we are already considering a second tour.

The Municipality of Brockton has particular interest in helping newcomers in the process of business acquisition and start-up because these types of opportunities to build long-term economic prosperity are integral to newcomer integration and belonging. Through our Saugeen Connects partnership initiative, we have been identifying and providing tools to existing businesses looking to sell and plan for their succession. The opportunity to work with NCP provides us a focused approach to directly target and engage investment prospects, to help immigrant entrepreneurs assess these opportunities and possibly proceed with acquisition.

We look forward to continuing to work with the NCP and support their application for funding.

Sincerely,

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