



# Merritt Information Item

FLOURISH UNDER THE SUN

**To:** Sean Smith, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Will George, Economic Development, Communication, & Tourism Manager

**Date:** October 7, 2020

**Subject:** City of Merritt BC PNP Committee 2020 Third Quarterly Report

---

**This is provided as information, and no resolution is required. Council may make a motion to direct staff to take particular action if they wish.**

In January 2019, the Province launched the two-year BC Provincial Nominee Program Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot (BC PNP), to assist in attracting foreign entrepreneurs to establish new businesses in BC.

At the April 9, 2019 Regular Council Meeting, Council approved the creation of a City of Merritt B.C. PNP Entrepreneur Immigration Pilot Committee. The purpose of the BC PNP Committee is to review and make referrals to the Province regarding the applications of entrepreneurs seeking to immigrate to Canada and establish businesses in Merritt as part of the BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration Pilot. This committee consists of: one member of Council, one member from Nicola Valley Community Futures, and one member from the Merritt and District Chamber of Commerce.

The BC PNP Committee Terms of Reference state “The Committee shall report the following information to Council, once quarterly:

- The number of applications received.
- The number of applications for which referrals were provided.
- A summary of the businesses proposed by applicants for which referrals were provided.”

As of October 6, 2020, the City of Merritt has received 284 inquiries from foreign entrepreneurs/immigration consulting companies looking to open a business in Merritt since the program opened on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Since last quarter, the City of Merritt has only received 10 business inquiries through this program, compared to the same amount weekly during 2019. As of October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the City of Merritt has hosted 20 community exploratory visits with foreign business entrepreneurs through the BC PNP program. There are currently 18 foreign entrepreneurs who have submitted the required documents and have their exploratory trips to Merritt planned once COVID-19 allows for international travel.

To-date the City of Merritt, via the BC PNP Committee, has provided 14 letters of referral to foreign entrepreneurs as outlined below:

- Miscellaneous Retail (7)
- Truck Transportation (7)
- Warehousing and Storage – (0)

**Attachments:**

- BC PNP Application Flowchart

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Will George**  
**Economic Development, Communication and Tourism Manager**