

## REQUEST FOR DECISION

**TO:** Council **MEETING DATE:** June 18, 2025  
**FROM:** Mayor J. Henderson  
**SUBJECT:** Mayor's Reconsideration – Advocating for Change in the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Policy for Renewal of Work Permits  
**FILE NO:** 0550

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### RECOMMENDATION

Whereas:

- Many services provided by government agencies and businesses in Sechelt and the Sunshine Coast are dependent on employing workers who have chosen to move here from overseas; and
- These workers came to Canada under immigration programmes and regulations that provided for them to have their spouse and children accompany them along with assurances that the worker could both renew their own work permit and renew the permits for their spouse and children; and
- Early in 2025, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada unilaterally changed their policy whereby the worker's permit can be renewed but those of their spouse and family cannot, thereby causing uncertainty and grief to many of the families who are facing the prospect of either staying in Canada and being separated from their families or all leaving Canada to keep their families together. This despite having made their homes here and being important contributors to our community's well being; and
- A great many residents of Sechelt and the Sunshine Coast depend on the services of both these temporary foreign workers and their spouses and if such were to leave Canada, it would hurt our quality of life significantly; and
- Many employers are gravely concerned about the viability of their businesses without such workers; and
- Such workers are not taking jobs from local residents, as confirmed by employers in all sectors.

NOW THEREFORE:

That Council immediately provide a letter to MP Patrick Weiler confirming Council supports a change in the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada policy for renewal of work permits so that the families of Temporary Foreign Workers can stay in Canada and asking him to advocate for such a change as a matter of urgency to our community; and that a copy of this letter of

support be provided to other local governments on the Sunshine Coast encouraging them to also support this initiative.

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## **PURPOSE**

To reconsider the decision made at the June 4, 2025, Regular Council Meeting regarding advocating for change in the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada policy for renewal of work permits.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Background**

Mayor Henderson brought forward a notice of motion at the June 4, 2025 Regular Council Meeting seeking a Council resolution for sending a letter of support on behalf of the temporary foreign worker community, to local Member of Parliament, Patrick Weiler. Three members of Council were not present for the vote and one requested more time for consideration. This reconsideration is to provide opportunity for more members of Council to consider the motion.

### **Legislative Context**

Section 131 of the Community Charter states that the Mayor may require council reconsideration of a matter:

- 131** (1) Without limiting the authority of a council to reconsider a matter, the mayor may require the council to reconsider and vote again on a matter that was the subject of a vote.
- (2) As restrictions on the authority under subsection (1),
- (a) the mayor may only initiate a reconsideration under this section
    - (i) at the same council meeting as the vote took place, or
    - (ii) within the 30 days following that meeting, and
  - (b) a matter may not be reconsidered under this section if
    - (i) it has had the approval of the electors or the assent of the electors and was subsequently adopted by the council, or
    - (ii) there has already been a reconsideration under this section in relation to the matter.
- (3) On a reconsideration under this section, the council
- (a) must deal with the matter as soon as convenient, and
  - (b) on that reconsideration, has the same authority it had in its original

consideration of the matter, subject to the same conditions that applied to the original consideration.

**POLICY AND BYLAW IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mayor John Henderson