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BC Provincial Nominee Program

The BC PNP has introduced a new stream called Express Entry British Columbia. Visit [Express Entry British Columbia](#) for more information and to see if you are eligible.

The BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) is an economic immigration program designed to help B.C. meet its evolving labour market needs. The program helps employers attract and retain qualified foreign workers who have the skills and experience to contribute to B.C.'s economy. It also selects entrepreneurs ready to invest in our economy and create jobs for Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

The PNP is operated by the Province of B.C. in partnership with the federal government through Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). The PNP assesses applications and nominates candidates for permanent residence, after which CIC makes the final decision on each application and issues permanent resident visas to successful applicants.

You can apply to the PNP under the Express Entry British Columbia, Skills or Business Immigration streams.

I want to work in B.C.

Under the Express Entry British Columbia or Skills Immigration streams, B.C. welcomes skilled workers, recent international graduates from Canadian colleges and universities, and entry-level and semi-skilled workers in certain occupations.

- [Read more about Express Entry British Columbia](#)
- [Read more about Skills Immigration](#)

I want to invest in and manage a business in B.C.

If you are an entrepreneur interested in moving to B.C. to invest in and actively manage a business, you may be eligible to immigrate through the PNP Business Immigration stream.

- [Read more](#)

I am an employer

If you are a B.C. employer, the Express Entry British Columbia and Skills Immigration streams can help you attract and retain skilled and qualified foreign workers to help meet your critical employment needs.

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Learn More

- Learn more [about the PNP](#).
- Learn more about [other ways to immigrate to B.C.](#)
- Learn more about [the labour market and finding work in B.C.](#)
- Learn more about [trade and investment in B.C.](#)

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About the PNP

Economic growth in B.C. depends on people – on having the qualified workers and entrepreneurs we need to meet labour market demand and ensure the continued prosperity of our province. Immigration will play an important role in helping B.C. meet anticipated labour market shortages.

The BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) is an economic immigration program based on provincial priorities and selection criteria. It offers accelerated immigration for foreign workers and entrepreneurs who intend to live permanently in B.C., demonstrate the ability to become economically established and contribute significantly to the provincial economy.

The process

The PNP is one way for individuals to obtain permanent resident status in Canada. The first step in the process is to apply to the PNP. If your application is approved by the PNP, you are a Provincial Nominee who may then apply to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for a permanent resident visa in the Provincial Nominee Class. As part of the application to CIC, nominees can also apply for a permanent resident visa for their spouses and dependants.

The PNP offers options for immigrating to B.C.:

Express Entry British Columbia and Skills Immigration: Applying as a worker

For individuals with a job offer in a high-demand occupation (or students with a post-graduate degree from a B.C. post-secondary institution in the natural, applied or health sciences), the PNP is an immigration option for obtaining permanent resident status in Canada.

Applicants must meet specific eligibility criteria. With the exception of individuals applying with a post-graduate degree from a B.C. university in the natural, applied or health sciences, all applicants must have a full-time job offer from an eligible B.C. employer.

- [Read more about Express Entry British Columbia](#)
- [Read more about Skills Immigration](#)

Business Immigration: Applying as an entrepreneur

The PNP also has an immigration option for experienced entrepreneurs who intend to invest in and actively manage an eligible business in the province.

Applicants must be investment-ready, with business ownership or management experience. They must demonstrate that they are able to establish themselves in B.C. and invest in a new or existing business that will employ Canadian citizens or permanent residents, providing significant

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economic benefits to the province.

- [Read more about Business Immigration](#)

We're here to help

If you have questions about the PNP, you can email or call us for assistance. We will respond to inquiries within three business days. While we cannot tell you whether you meet the program criteria without assessing your complete application, we can answer your questions about the overall process and specific requirements.

PNP staff also host information and outreach sessions so that workers, entrepreneurs and employers can learn more about the program. Please contact us for more information.

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Benefits of the PNP

There are several immigration options available for people interested in moving to Canada. Some of the benefits of the PNP are outlined below.

Helping workers and entrepreneurs immigrate to B.C.

The PNP offers many advantages to workers and entrepreneurs wishing to settle in B.C.:

- Under the Express Entry British Columbia stream, qualifying applicants will receive priority processing of their PNP application, and if nominated, permanent residency application.
- Each application is assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Program staff are available to help explain the requirements of the program.
- The PNP provides Provincial Nominees with a letter of support they can use to obtain or extend a work permit from CIC. This helps applicants continue working in Canada while they are waiting for CIC to process their permanent resident application.

Helping employers meet critical skill needs

The PNP helps B.C. employers meet their critical labour market needs:

- If employers are unable to fill vacancies through the local labour market, the PNP can be a useful tool for attracting and retaining foreign workers – making it easier to transition workers from temporary to permanent status.
- If the PNP nominates your employee for permanent residence, you do not need to apply for a Labour Market Opinion. Where required, the PNP can issue a letter of support that your employee can use to apply for or extend a work permit.
- Our staff are available to help you determine whether you and your employees meet the requirements of the program.

Contributing to B.C.'s economic prosperity

The PNP nominates individuals for permanent residence who can contribute to B.C.'s economy by:

- meeting critical skill shortages,
- creating or maintaining employment,
- transferring skills and knowledge to Canadians,
- accelerating the adoption of new technologies,
- developing new products, technologies, services or markets and
- establishing new businesses or enhancing existing businesses.

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Business Immigration Seminars

Attend a business immigration seminar

Would you like to learn more about investing in and managing a business and immigrating to B.C.?

The BC PNP Business Immigration Seminars are held in Vancouver twice a month. This is a valuable opportunity for you to learn more about B.C.'s economy and the PNP Business Immigration process.

The seminars cover a range of topics, including:

- B.C.'s economy and regions
- The Business Immigration process
- Running a business in B.C.
- Settling in B.C.

Program staff are available to answer your questions and explain program criteria.

To see the available dates for upcoming PNP Business Immigration Seminars, please click on the registration link highlighted below.

How do I register?

ALERT: Please read carefully to understand the new registration process for the business seminars.

- Registration for the seminars is now a two-step process.
- **Step 1:** You must register online following [this link](http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2014/BusinessSeminar.asp): www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2014/BusinessSeminar.asp
- **Step 2:** Complete the fee payment form that appears after completing Step 1 and submit it to [the PNP](#) within 5 business days. If payment is not received within 5 business days, your spot will not be held. Duplicate forms will not be processed.
- Once your fee payment form has been processed, you will receive a confirmation email that includes details of the seminar. Please allow a minimum of 5 business days for your payment to be processed.
- You must register for the seminar you plan to attend using the online system and pay the fee in advance; registrations will NOT be processed at the event.
- The registration confirmation allows entrance to the prospective applicant and one other person only.
- Registrations are non-transferrable.

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Fees are non-refundable.

- If you have already registered for a seminar and are unable to attend, you must re-register and pay the seminar fee again. Rescheduling is NOT permitted.
- Once a seminar date is full, no further registrations will be taken. A waitlist will not be created.
- Registrants must provide passport photo identification to enter the event.
- The use of recording devices, such as cameras, phone cameras, video recorders and voice recorders is not permitted during the seminar.
- Please plan to arrive 30 minutes before the seminar begins.

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BC PNP News

February 2, 2015

Updates to the Express Entry British Columbia stream FAQs

New questions and answers have been added to the [FAQ section](#) of the Express Entry British Columbia stream.

January 6, 2015

Introduction of the Express Entry British Columbia Stream

The BC PNP has introduced a new stream called Express Entry British Columbia. Visit the [Express Entry British Columbia](#) page for more information and to see if you are eligible.

August 29, 2014

Please note that changes have been made to the International Graduate category under the Skills Immigration. Certificates from public post-secondary institutions will now be recognized. Please visit the [International Graduate page](#) of the website for more information.

August 11, 2014

Online registration for the Business Immigration Seminars

The B.C. PNP has moved to an online system for registration of the Business Immigration Seminars. Please visit the [Business Seminars page](#) for more information.

Business Immigration Guide now available

The Business Immigration Guide is now available. The guide provides information about the Business Immigration stream in an easy-to-read and downloadable format. It can be accessed under any page on the Business Immigration tab on this website.

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August 1, 2014

CIC Changes to the Definition of a Dependent Child

Please note that effective August 1, 2014, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) changed the definition of a dependent child. Simply stated, the age at which a child will be considered a dependant has changed from under 22 to under 19.

Complete applications received by the BC PNP by July 31st, 2014 will be subject to the previous definition. Applications received by the BC PNP on or after August 1, 2014 will be subject to the new definition.

More information on the change to the definition of dependent child is available on CIC's website (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/notices/2014-08-01.asp>).

October 10, 2013

BC PNP Website Refresh

The B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) is pleased to announce the launch of new and improved content for our website – www.welcomebc.ca/pnp.

With a focus on applicants, the changes make our website easier to understand and navigate. You will see new pages such as PNP processing times, Categories at a Glance and a dedicated section for B.C. Employers. Please note the PNP Application Checklists and Forms have been updated. Old PNP forms and checklists will be accepted until November 15, 2013. After this date, applications with old forms and checklists will not be accepted and will be returned to applicants.

September 5, 2013

Updated BC PNP Income Threshold figures

Please note that the BC PNP has updated income thresholds to reflect 2012 data published by Statistics Canada. BC PNP applications received on or before October 4, 2013 will be assessed according to the previously published income threshold figures. Applications received after October 4, 2013 will be assessed according to the current income threshold figures taken from Statistics Canada's 2012 Low Income Cut-Offs.

Read more about the [PNP's income thresholds](#).

July 31, 2013

International Post-Graduates to support innovation in B.C.

After a three-year pilot project, the Province has confirmed today that the International Post-Graduates (IPG) pilot project will become a permanent category of the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP). The PNP conducted an evaluation of the IPG pilot project, which was introduced in 2010 to attract international graduates with B.C. masters or doctoral degrees in natural, applied or health sciences. Based on an independent survey of 462 nominees, the PNP found positive labour market and other outcomes.

- [News Release](#)

April 15, 2013

International Post-Graduates Pilot Project Update

The BC PNP's International Post-Graduates Pilot Project has been extended to **July 31, 2013**. The short-term extension will allow the BC PNP to complete a review of the pilot project and assess outcomes. Applications under this pilot project may be submitted until this date.

15 November 2012

Suspension of the Fast Track Nomination Option in the Business Immigration Stream

Effective immediately, the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) is suspending the Fast Track nomination option in its Business Immigration stream pending completion of a review of this program component. The review will assess whether the Fast Track option continues to be aligned with program objectives and supports program integrity.

► [Read more](#)

18 July 2012

Information Sessions for Temporary Foreign Workers Currently Working in British Columbia

The BC Provincial Nominee Program, together with Employment Standards Branch and Citizenship and Immigration Canada, will be hosting two information sessions for temporary foreign workers currently working in B.C. on Wednesday, July 25, 2012 at the Vancouver Public Library (Central Library Branch).

This is a unique opportunity to speak to program experts, learn about your employment rights, and explore different options to stay in B.C.

► [Download Event Poster \(PDF\)](#)

15 June 2012

New Language Requirements for Entry Level and Low-Skilled Provincial Nominees

The BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) is introducing minimum language requirements for applicants with job offers in entry level or semi-skilled positions. These requirements are aligned with revised [federal eligibility criteria](#) for provincial nominees that were recently announced.

Beginning July 1, 2012, all applicants with job offers at level C or D of the [National Occupation Classification \(NOC\) matrix](#) will be required to undergo mandatory language testing and achieve a minimum standard of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 4 across the four competencies: listening, speaking, reading and writing. These new requirements will affect all BC PNP applicants in the Entry-Level and Semi-Skilled category (including those qualifying under the Northeast Pilot) as well as International Graduates who have NOC C or D level job offers accompanied by a structured plan for career progression.

Applicants must provide valid results from a language test administered by a designated testing agency. The acceptable tests are:

- the [International English Language Testing System \(IELTS\)](#) General Training;
- the [Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program \(CELPIP\)](#); and
- the [Test d'évaluation de français \(TEF\)](#). (to test proficiency in French).

No other evidence of language proficiency will be accepted.

Exemption: Temporary Foreign Workers who arrived in Canada on or before July 1, 2012 and who have applied to the BC PNP no later than April 1, 2013 are exempt from this new language requirement.

13 June 2012

Streamlined Application Process for Business Immigration Stream

The BC Provincial Nominee Program is streamlining the assessment process for its Business Immigration categories. For applications received as of June 15, 2012, the initial review will be eliminated and the partial refund of fees will no longer be available.

4 April 2012

Northeast Pilot Project Expands List of Eligible Entry Level and Semi-Skilled Occupations

In response to an advance recommendation by the Premier's Immigration Task Force following consultations in Fort St. John, the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) is implementing a two-year Northeast Pilot Project that builds on the existing Entry Level and Semi-Skilled (ELSS) category.

The Northeast Region is experiencing an extremely tight labour market driven by rapid growth in the energy sector, and is forecast to have the highest growth in labour demand of any of BC's eight Development Regions over the coming decade. This Pilot expands the existing ELSS category to include all Temporary Foreign Workers in the region who are employed in any C or D level occupation of the National Occupation Classification system.

All other requirements of the BC PNP's province-wide ELSS category remain the same, including 9 months of full-time employment with the supporting employer prior to the date of application; minimum education and English language standards; and, a family income that meets or exceeds the BC PNP's Income Threshold.

[▶ Read more](#)

15 March 2012

Federal Skilled Worker Backlog Reduction Pilot

On March 15, 2012 the BC PNP launched a new pilot project in partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to reduce processing times for select Federal Skilled Worker applicants. The Federal Skilled Worker Backlog Reduction Pilot targets CIC clients who submitted their applications for permanent residence prior to February 27, 2008 and who have experience in a select group of high demand engineering, information technology and construction occupations.

Those who are invited to participate will receive a letter from CIC and will be eligible to submit an application to the BC PNP without a job offer from a BC employer. The BC PNP will assess pilot project participants on their ability to become economically established in BC by considering a number of factors including age, education, work experience and English language ability. Successful applicants will be issued a nomination certificate that will entitle them to expedited processing of their applications for permanent residence by CIC. The BC PNP will issue up to 250 nomination certificates through the pilot.

9 February 2012

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL IRANIAN NATIONALS AND PERSONS RESIDING IN IRAN

Effective November 21, 2011, Iranian nationals (citizens) and persons residing in Iran face restrictions in transferring funds to or opening bank accounts with Canadian financial institutions as a result of sanctions imposed by the Government of Canada. Therefore, all BC PNP Business applicants who are Iranian nationals or residents of Iran must familiarize themselves with the requirements posted on the website below to ensure that they comply with the "Special Economic Measures" outlined therein.

► <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/manuals/bulletins/2012/ob378.asp>

2 December 2011

Centralized Processing of Provincial Nominee Applications

Citizenship and Immigration Canada has changed how it processes permanent resident visa applications submitted by provincial nominees.

Effective Dec. 1, 2011 all provincial nominees must submit their permanent resident applications to CIC's new centralized intake office in Sydney, N.S.

The BC PNP has updated the nomination package we send to all provincial nominees to reflect the changes in CIC's processes.

Other changes include:

- a unified document checklist for all provincial nominees, regardless of their country of residence. This checklist can be found at cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/provincial/apply-application.asp.
- provincial nominees must include their processing fee at the time they send their application to the centralized intake office. CIC has introduced additional payment options for provincial nominee applicants, including credit card payment. For more information visit cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5620E.pdf.

Contact information - CIC Centralized Intake Office

MAIL

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Provincial Nominee Program
Centralized Intake Office
PO BOX 1450
Sydney, NS
B1P 6K5
Canada

Courier

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Provincial Nominee Program
Centralized Intake Office
47-49 Dorchester Street
Sydney, NS
B1P 5Z2
Canada

14 October 2011

Enhanced program promotes investment and jobs.

The provincial government is taking steps to further encourage business immigrants to invest in communities in regional B.C. through the BC Provincial Nominee Program. This is one of a series of steps as part of a commitment in 'Canada Starts Here - The BC Jobs Plan' to attract more entrepreneurs from other countries to help create jobs regionally.

► [News Release](#)

01 September 2011

Effective September 1, 2011 the BC PNP has simplified the process to apply in the Business categories by removing the preliminary application stage. The BC PNP will not accept preliminary applications after August 31, 2011.

For full information on the new, simplified application process please see the How to Apply pages for each of the BC PNP Business categories on the WelcomeBC.ca portal:

► [Business Immigration](#)

15 August 2011

Entry Level and Semi-Skilled Pilot Project Update

The Entry Level and Semi-Skilled Pilot Project of the BC PNP expires on August 31, 2011. A review of this pilot project is currently being completed and an update will be posted on our website over the next few weeks.

Until further notice, applications will not be accepted for processing after August 31, 2011. Also, applications received prior to the expiry of the pilot project will be accepted for processing only if the applicant meets the requirement of having at least 9 months of consecutive work experience with the same employer at the time the application is received.

8 August 2011

Business Immigration Component Updatae

The BC PNP is currently reviewing the application process for the Business Immigration component. On August 15, 2011 further information related to this review will be posted to the BC PNP website on these pages. Please check back at that time.

17 June 2011

Evaluation Report on the BC Provincial Nominee Program

A new independent evaluation report on the BC PNP's performance, outcomes and program design and delivery has been released.

- [News Release](#)
 - [Download the Report \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Download the Technical Compendium \(PDF\)](#)
-

6 June 2011

BC Provincial Nominee Program Office Move

The BC Provincial Nominee Program office located at 730-999 Canada Place will be closed for business starting at noon on June 8, 2011 and will re-open on June 13, 2011 at our new location and mailing address:

800 – 360 W Georgia St
Vancouver, BC V6B 6B2

During this move, the PNP Information line and main phone lines will be unattended. We appologize for any inconvenience.

28 May 2010

Enhancements to the International Graduates stream and Introduction of International Post-Graduates Pilot Project

The BC PNP has enhanced access to the International Graduates stream and extended eligibility to post-secondary institutions across Canada. A three year International Post-Graduates Pilot Project for those who complete a masters or doctorate in the natural, applied or health sciences in BC has been launched.

- ▶ [News release](#)
- ▶ [More on the International Graduates stream](#)
- ▶ [More on the International Post-Graduates Pilot Project](#)

4 February 2010

Extension of the Entry Level and Semi-Skilled Pilot Project

The BC PNP's Entry Level and Semi-Skilled Pilot Project has been extended until August 31, 2011. Applications under this pilot project will be accepted until that date.

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Application Forms

Jan 6th 2015 - Applications received or post-marked after Jan 6th, 2015 for ALL BC PNP streams must use the new forms outlined below.

Click on the relevant BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) stream that you are applying for:

- Express Entry British Columbia Stream
- Skills Immigration Stream
- Business Immigration stream

Express Entry British Columbia stream

You will need to complete the following steps to apply to the PNP:

1. Print and review the application checklist for your category.

Express Entry British Columbia Checklists

- Express Entry BC - Skilled workers checklist
- Express Entry BC - Health care professional checklist
- Express Entry BC - International graduate checklist
- Express Entry BC - International post-graduate checklist

2. Complete the applicable PNP application forms (with your B.C. employer, if applicable), and attach photocopies of all required documents listed in the checklist. (Note: If you are experiencing difficulties opening the Nominee Applicant Form from your internet browser, please download and save the Nominee Applicant Form to your computer and open it with Adobe Acrobat Reader.)

- Nominee Applicant Form (Express Entry British Columbia and Skills Immigration streams only) **Note: You must have obtained an Express Entry Profile Number and a Job Seeker Validation Code from CIC to proceed with an application under the Express Entry British Columbia stream.**
- Job Offer Form
- Fee Payment Form

3. If you are using a representative to apply to the PNP, you (and your B.C. employer or key staff member(s), if applicable) must also complete and submit the following form:

- Use of a Representative Form

4. Submit the required passport page and photo (nominee applicant only).

- A photocopy of the biographical page of your passport. The biographical page means the

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page that has your name, photo, passport/travel document number, issue date and expiration date.

- A passport-style photo taken in the last 6 months is only required for the nominee applicant. Spouses/common-law partners and dependents do not need to submit photographs. The photo should meet the standard passport requirements of 50mm wide and 70 mm in height. A guarantor is not required.

5. Submit your complete application package to the PNP.

If you are applying to the PNP under the [Express Entry BC - health care professional category](#), we encourage you to submit your application directly to [Health Match BC](#). This free provincial service recruits health professionals on behalf of B.C.'s public health care authorities. In addition to helping you find a job in your field, Health Match BC staff can answer your questions about the PNP and assist you with your PNP application.

Skills Immigration Stream

1. Print and review the application checklist for your category.

Skills Immigration Checklists

- [Skilled workers checklist](#)
- [Health care professional checklist](#)
- [International graduate checklist](#)
- [International post-graduate checklist](#)
- [Entry-level and semi-skilled and northeast pilot project checklist](#)

2. Complete the applicable PNP application forms (with your B.C. employer, if applicable), and attach photocopies of all required documents listed in the checklist. (Note: If you are experiencing difficulties opening the Nominee Applicant Form from your internet browser, please download and save the Nominee Applicant Form to your computer and open it with Adobe Acrobat Reader.

- [Nominee Applicant Form](#) (Express Entry British Columbia and Skills Immigration streams only)
- [Job Offer Form](#)
- [Fee Payment Form](#)

3. If you are using a representative to apply to the PNP, you (and your B.C. employer, if applicable) must also complete and submit the following form:

- [Use of a Representative Form](#)

4. Include photocopies of the following completed CIC forms with your application to the PNP.

- [Generic Application Form for Canada \[IMM 0008\]](#)
- [Additional Dependents/Declaration \[IMM 0008 DEP\]](#) (Only required if you have more than five dependants including your spouse)
- [Schedule A – Background Declaration \[IMM 5669\]](#)
- [Additional Family Information \[IMM 5406\]](#)
- [Schedule 4: Economic Classes: Provincial Nominees \[IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 4\]](#)

5. Submit the required passport page and photo (nominee applicant only).

- A photocopy of the biographical page of your passport. The biographical page means the page that has your name, photo, passport/travel document number, issue date and expiration date.
- A passport-style photo taken in the last 6 months is only required for the nominee applicant. Spouses/common-law partners and dependents do not need to submit photographs. The photo should meet the standard passport requirements of 50mm wide and 70 mm in height. A guarantor is not required.

6. Review CIC's guide for provincial nominees. DO NOT submit this guide to the PNP.

- [Application for Permanent Residence: Guide for Provincial Nominees \[IMM EP7000\]](#) (FOR REFERENCE ONLY)
- If we approve your application and nominate you for permanent residence, you will then need to make a separate application directly to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for a permanent resident visa. You will have six months from the date of your nomination to apply to CIC.

7. Submit your complete application package to the PNP.

- If you are applying to the PNP under the [health care professional category](#), we encourage you to submit your application directly to [Health Match BC](#). This free provincial service recruits health professionals on behalf of B.C.'s public health care authorities. In addition to helping you find a job in your field, Health Match BC staff can answer your questions about the PNP and assist you with your PNP application.

Business Immigration Stream

1. Print and review the application checklist for your category.

Business Immigration Checklists

- [Entrepreneur Checklist](#)
- [Regional Entrepreneur Checklist](#)

2. Review the Business Immigration Stream Application Guide (Entrepreneur and Regional Entrepreneur categories only)

- [Business Immigration Application Guide](#)

3. Complete the applicable PNP application form, and attach photocopies of all required documents listed in the checklist.

- [Business Immigration Application Form](#) (Entrepreneur and Regional Entrepreneur only)
- [Fee Payment Form](#)

If your company wants to apply to the Strategic Projects category, see the [program page](#) for information about the application process.

4. If you are using a representative to apply to the PNP, you (and your key staff member(s), if applicable) must also complete and submit the following form:

- [Use of a Representative Form](#)

5. Include photocopies of the following completed CIC forms with your application to the PNP.

- [Generic Application Form for Canada \[IMM 0008\]](#)
- [Additional Dependants/Declaration \[IMM 0008 DEP\]](#) (Only required if you have more than five dependants including your spouse)
- [Schedule A – Background Declaration \[IMM 5669\]](#)
- [Additional Family Information \[IMM 5406\]](#)
- [Schedule 4: Economic Classes: Provincial Nominees \[IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 4\]](#)
- [Schedule 4A: Economic Classes: Provincial Nominees – Business Nominees \[IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 4A\]](#)

6. Submit the required passport page and photo (nominee applicant, and key staff, if applicable).


- A photocopy of the biographical page of your passport. The biographical page means the page that has your name, photo, passport/travel document number, issue date and expiration date.
- A passport-style photo taken in the last 6 months is only required for the nominee applicant. Spouses/common-law partners and dependents do not need to submit photographs. The photo should meet the standard passport requirements of 50mm wide and 70 mm in height. A guarantor is not required.

7. Review CIC's guide for provincial nominees. DO NOT submit this guide to the PNP.


- [Application for Permanent Residence: Guide for Provincial Nominees \[IMM EP7000\]](#) (FOR REFERENCE ONLY)

8. Submit your complete application package to the PNP.


- If you are approved under the [Entrepreneur](#), [Regional Entrepreneur](#) or [Strategic Projects](#) categories and you are looking for information on your next steps please visit the [post-application process](#) page for guides and forms as well as information on obtaining a work permit, arriving in B.C. and investing and operating your business.







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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > About the PNP > Success Stories

Success stories

The B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) has nominated many workers and entrepreneurs who have contributed to B.C.'s labour market and economic growth. They have brought new skills and trained others, started or expanded businesses, settled in their communities, employed local residents and contributed their energy and enthusiasm to our province.

Read more about some of our successful immigrants.

Skills Immigration

Dr. Surjit Dixit, Zymeworks Inc.

(Vancouver & Metropolitan Area)

Nominated for permanent residence by his company in 2008, Dr. Surjit Dixit is a B.C. Provincial Nominee from India. After completing a post-doctoral fellowship at Wesleyan University in the United States, he was hired in 2007 as a molecular simulation scientist and the eighth employee at Zymeworks, a Vancouver biotechnology company. Today, the company has 40 employees and Dixit is the Chief Technology Officer, responsible for designing the computational and protein engineering technology for creating new drug molecules with the potential to treat cancer, autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.

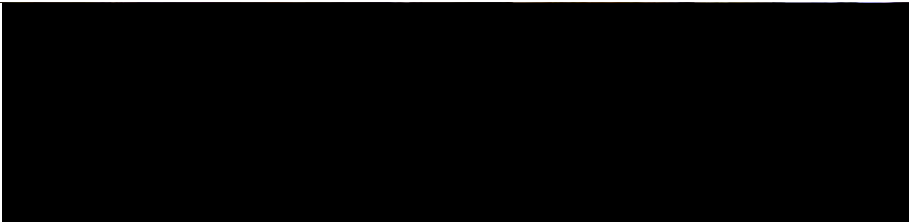
"The moment we landed in Vancouver, my wife and I were totally taken by the beauty of the city. The permanent residency has provided us a lot of comfort and a sense of belonging ... the most rewarding thing about living in B.C. is the sense of living as one with nature, which is disappearing in so many other parts of the world." – Dr. Surjit Dixit

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- Benefits of the PNP
- Learn about B.C.'s Regions
- Contact the BC PNP

PNP Application Forms

http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP/About-the-BC-PNP/Success-Stories.aspx[2015-03-19 3:17:56 PM]



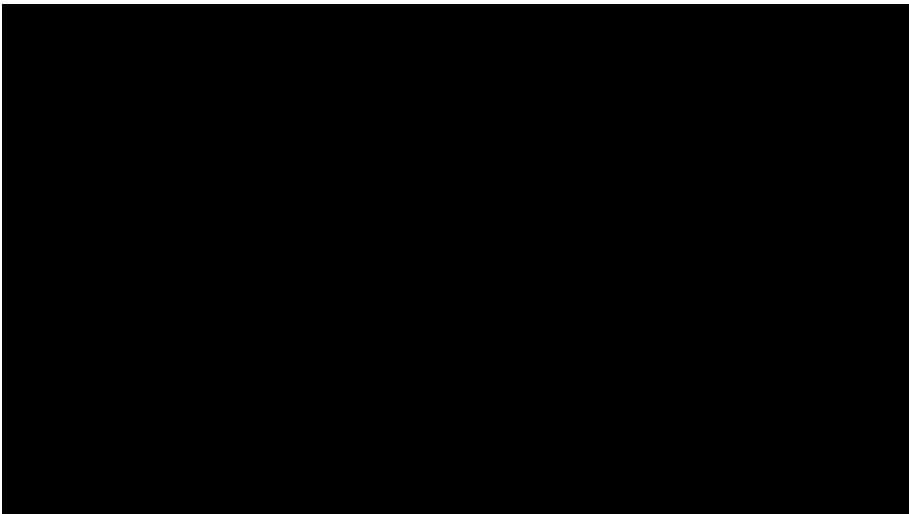
Business Immigration

Nathan Yang, Kuzco Lighting Inc.

(Vancouver & Metropolitan Area)

Shaokun (Nathan) Yang, a B.C. Provincial Nominee from China, arrived in British Columbia in 2007 to set up Kuzco Lighting Inc. in Surrey. With over 15 years of experience in the lighting business, Yang has more than doubled his initial investment and expanded his business for a total investment of \$2.5 million. Kuzco Lighting currently has 12 employees and expects to double its warehouse capacity with continued growth over the next year.

"We just fell in love with Vancouver. We have more than 300 distributors across Canada and we have just started in the United States market ... I find here in B.C., it really is the right place to start a business." – Nathan Yang



John Eckland, Kaslo Hotel

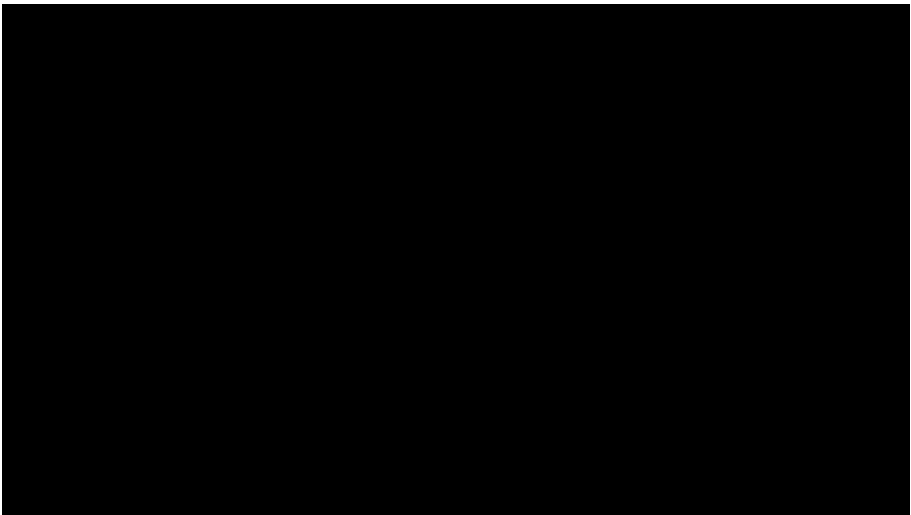
(Kootenay Region)

In 2006 John Eckland came to British Columbia from the United States as a business immigrant under the PNP and settled in Kaslo. With a \$2.8 million investment, Eckland completely renovated the Kaslo Hotel and created 24 new jobs.

Capitalizing on his management experience and knowledge of the hotel business, he completely renovated the historic building, transforming it into a thriving hotel with thousands of dollars in spinoff benefits for other local businesses. In recognition of his contribution, Eckland was named

one of the Top Ten Kootenay Business People of 2010 and awarded the Gordon Wilder Memorial Award for significant achievement in support of tourism in British Columbia's Kootenay Rockies region.

"We came up and looked around, liked the area here in the Kootenays, liked Kaslo ... The key to our success here is in providing a service to the customer that they perceive value in."— John Eckland

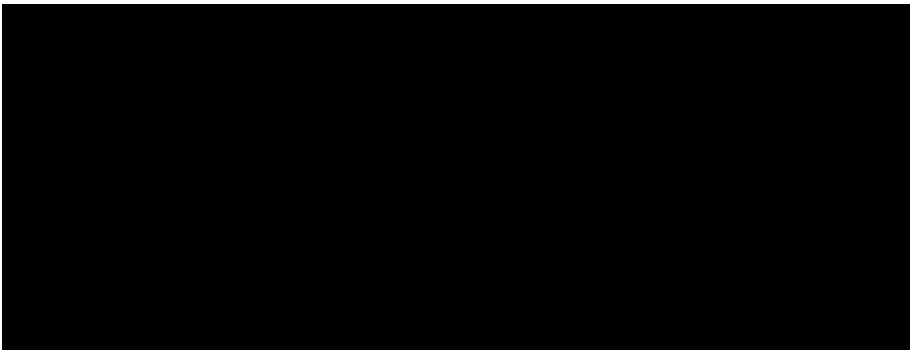


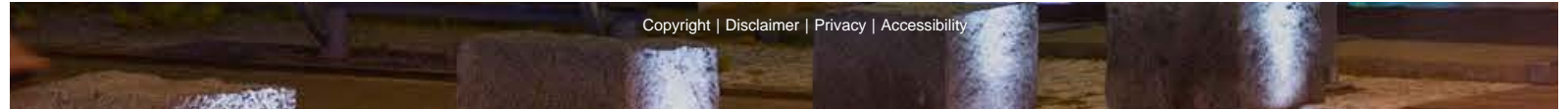
Yoon Bok Park, Lucky 6 Industrial Co. Ltd.

(Vancouver & Metropolitan Area)

Yoon Bok Park is a B.C. Provincial Nominee from Korea. In 2011, he established Lucky 6 Industrial Company in Chilliwack to manufacture high-density polyethylene containers for medical supplements. With his proven experience in creating successful manufacturing companies, Park hired and trained 10 full-time employees for Lucky 6 and increased the company's sales by 50% in his first eight months in business. Lucky 6 currently produces 30,000 bottles a day and is on track for continued growth.

"I was attracted to Chilliwack because of its environmental beauty, and because I heard that Chilliwack had a new industrial park beside Highway Number 1. Thanks to the active presence of the City Hall, fire department, water department and BC Hydro, I was able to create the company relatively easily." – Yoon Bok Park







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Immigrate > The BC PNP > About the PNP > Processing Times

Application Processing Times

The federal government sets B.C.'s quota for the PNP. This year, that quota is 5,500 nominations.

The PNP intends to fully utilize its 2015 quota of 5,500 nominations.

The BC PNP reserves the right to prioritize applications for occupations that are in high demand or that contribute significant economic benefits to British Columbia.

Skills Immigration

Important: The PNP will not respond to inquiries about the status of an application if it is within the processing times shown in the following table.

Estimated Processing Times by Date of Application

Date Submitted	Estimated Processing Time
Mar-May 2014	6-8 months
June-Aug 2014	8-10 months
Sep-Dec 2014	10-13 months

* The total processing time is from date of application receipt to decision for a complete application. Applications are assessed on a case by case basis, and therefore actual processing time may differ from the average.

The number of applications the PNP receives is much higher than the quota allotted to the province. Since the federal government's changes to their Temporary Foreign Worker Program in April and June of 2014, there has been a sharp increase in the number of applications to the PNP. The result has been an excess of more than 4,500 applicants and longer overall processing times.

Express Entry British Columbia

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- ▶ Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)
- ▶ Skills Immigration FAQs
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- ▶ Contact the BC PNP

[PNP Application Forms](#)

Applicants eligible for one of the PNP's *Express Entry British Columbia* categories will receive priority processing of their PNP applications.

Because Express Entry British Columbia only launched on January 6, 2015, the PNP has not yet established processing times for applications in this stream; we will be publishing this information when we have a clearer indication of application volumes.

Business Immigration

Applications under the **Regional Business Succession Option** currently receive priority processing, and are normally processed within 9 to 12 months of receipt.

For all other applications under the Business Immigration stream, we are currently processing applications received in June 2012.

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > About the PNP > Using a Representative

Using a representative

You do not have to use a representative – such as an immigration consultant or lawyer – to apply to the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP). The program is designed for you to be able to complete the process on your own.

The PNP assesses all applications equally, regardless of whether they were prepared with the assistance of a representative. Your application will not receive special attention, faster processing or a more favourable outcome if it was submitted using the services of a representative.

Some people choose to use a representative to provide immigration advice or offer assistance with the application process. If you pay someone to act as your representative, they must meet the requirements for authorized representatives stated below.

Who is an authorized representative?

If you are using a third-party representative to help you prepare and submit your application to the PNP, they must follow federal legislation requiring that all paid immigration representatives meet the definition of an “authorized representative.” Authorized representatives are:

- immigration consultants who are full members in good standing of the [Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council](#),
- lawyers who are members in good standing of the [Law Society of BC](#) or another law society in Canada and students-at-law under their supervision, or
- notaries who are members in good standing of the [Chambre des notaires du Québec](#) and students-at-law under their supervision.

Unpaid immigration third parties

You can also use the services of an unpaid third party, such as a family member, friend, or a member of a non-governmental or religious organization, to act on your behalf.

The PNP only considers third-party representatives as unpaid if they **do not charge fees or receive any other compensation or benefit** for providing immigration advice or related services.

Submit a representative form

If you are using an authorized or unpaid representative to help you prepare your application to the PNP, you must submit the following disclosure consent forms for third-party representatives:

- [Use of a Representative form](#)

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- ▶ [Express Entry BC](#)
- ▶ [Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council \(ICCRC\)](#)
- ▶ [Working with an Employment Agency or Recruiter](#)
- ▶ [Warning: Beware of fraud](#)
- ▶ [Contact the BC PNP](#)

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For Skills Immigration applications, both you and your employer must complete a separate Use of a Representative form. The PNP reserves the right to contact the nominee applicant and/or employer directly regarding the application.

You may only have one third-party representative for your application at any given time. If you wish to change your representative during the PNP application process, you (and if applicable your B.C. employer) must submit another [Use of a Representative Form](#) allowing the PNP to disclose information to a different third-party. If you wish to remove your representative during the PNP application process, you must notify the PNP in writing (by email or a signed letter).

Beware of immigration fraud and scams

We encourage you to protect yourself from immigration fraud and scams. Learn more about:

- [Protecting yourself from fraud](#)

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > About the PNP > Withdrawing a nomination

Withdrawal of a nomination

After you are nominated for permanent residence by the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP), you have six months to apply to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for a permanent resident visa. CIC will then review your application and has the final authority to determine whether you will be granted a permanent resident visa.

Throughout this process, the PNP may withdraw your nomination if you do not continue to meet the requirements under which you were nominated. Some reasons why we might withdraw a nomination include:

- if the information provided in your application to the PNP was false or misleading,
- if the terms under which you were nominated are no longer being met (for example, if your income was reduced and you no longer meet the income threshold, or if your hours of work have been reduced to casual or part-time employment), or
- if you leave your current job in B.C., change employers or are no longer living in B.C.

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Contact us

We are here to help. If you have questions about the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) requirements and application process, please call or email us.

For PNP information, please contact:

BC Provincial Nominee Program Office
800 - 360 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6B2
Canada

Tel: (604) 775-2227
Fax: (604) 660-4092
E-mail: PNPInfo@gov.bc.ca

Office hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm - Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Media Relations, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
(250) 387-5920

If you are applying to the PNP in the health care professional category, please contact:

Health Match BC
200 - 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C6
Canada

Tel: (604) 736-5920
Fax: (604) 736-5963

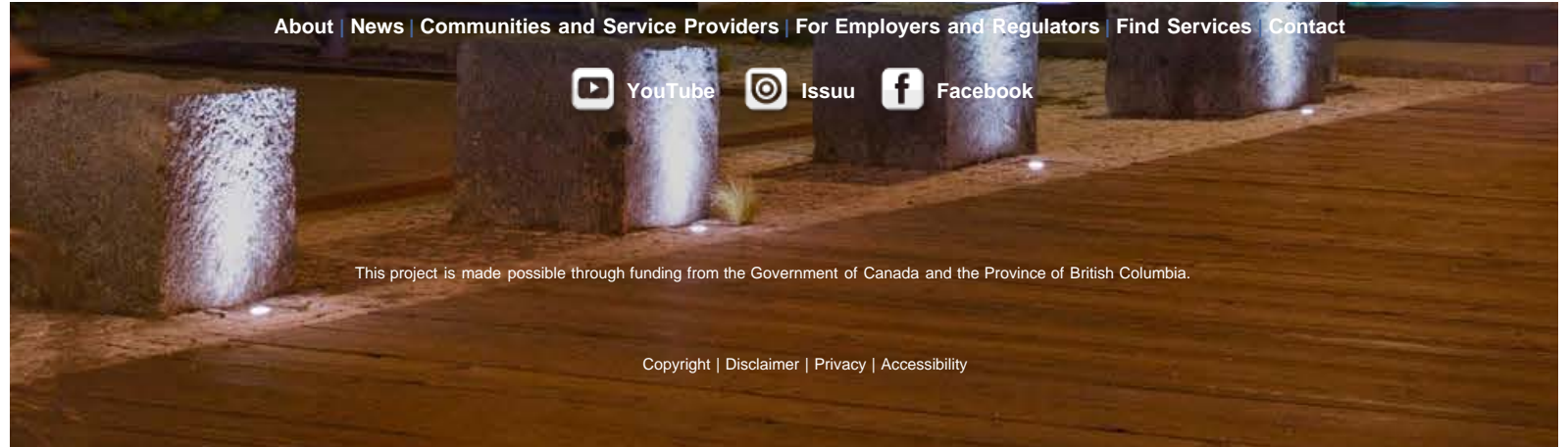
E-mail: welcome@healthmatchbc.org
Website: www.healthmatchbc.org

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Express Entry BC

Express Entry British Columbia

Express Entry is a new online application management system introduced by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) in January 2015. Express Entry will transform Canada's immigration system into one that is faster and more responsive to economic and labour market needs and will enable employers to have a direct role in selecting economic immigrants.

British Columbia is adding a new stream to the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) called Express Entry British Columbia. This new stream allows PNP to use CIC's Express Entry system to meet B.C.'s specific labour market needs.

Benefit for Employers

The new Express Entry British Columbia stream of the PNP will help B.C. meet the need for skilled workers. Eligible applicants for one of the PNP's Express Entry British Columbia categories will receive priority processing of PNP applications, and if nominated, permanent residence applications.

Benefit for Individuals

The PNP's new Express Entry British Columbia stream will result in faster and more efficient processing for eligible skilled workers and significantly reduce their application processing time.

Individuals who meet all of the following requirements will receive priority processing of their PNP application, and if nominated, permanent residence application:

- Meet the criteria for at least one of the [federal economic immigration programs](#) subject to CIC's Express Entry system,
- Obtain a CIC Express Entry Profile Number and a Job Seeker Validation Code, and indicate their interest in immigrating to B.C., and
- Meet the criteria under one of the PNP's Express Entry British Columbia categories.

If you are interested in applying to the PNP and want to determine if you qualify under the Express Entry British Columbia stream, you need to ensure that you meet the minimum criteria for both the [relevant PNP categories](#) as well as one of the eligible [federal economic immigration programs](#).

How does it work?

You must meet the minimum criteria for one of the categories under the Express Entry British Columbia stream:

- [Express Entry British Columbia - Skilled Worker*](#)
 - [Express Entry British Columbia - Health Care Professional*](#)

Express Entry BC

- ▶ [Express Entry BC - Categories at a Glance](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - Skilled Worker](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - Health Care Professional](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - International Graduate](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - International Post Graduate](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- ▶ [How to Apply](#)

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- [Express Entry British Columbia - International Graduate*](#)
- [Express Entry British Columbia - International Post Graduate](#)

*Please note - To qualify under these categories, you must have a valid offer of indeterminate full-time employment from a B.C. employer.

You must **also** meet the minimum criteria for one of the following [federal economic immigration programs](#):

- [Federal Skilled Worker Program](#)
- [Federal Skilled Trades Program](#)
- [Canadian Experience Class](#)

*Please note - This may include a language proficiency level and an independent evaluation of your education that is assessed against Canadian standards

- You must go to [CIC's Express Entry](#) system, complete the self-assessment and if eligible, create a profile. You must also indicate that you are interested in settling in B.C.
- You will be required to enter information regarding your education, language and work experience as part of the Express Entry system. If you meet the criteria for one of the [federal economic immigration programs](#) subject to Express Entry, you will receive an Express Entry Profile Number and a Job Seeker Validation Code. These are specific numbers assigned only to you.
- Complete the PNP Nominee Applicant Form, enter your Express Entry information into the relevant section of the form, including your Express Entry Profile Number and a Job Seeker Validation Code, as well as the applicable federal economic immigration program(s) for which you are eligible.
- Once complete, submit the form, checklists and any other required documents to the [PNP](#). For more information about the PNP process, visit the [How to Apply](#) page.
- If you currently have an application with the PNP under the Skilled Worker (including Health Care Professional), International Graduate, or International Post Graduate categories under the Skills Immigration stream, you may be eligible for the Express Entry British Columbia stream if you meet all of the requirements. For more information, please [visit this page](#).

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Immigrate > The BC PNP > Express Entry BC > Express Entry BC - Categories at a Glance

Categories at a Glance – Express Entry British Columbia

All categories require that you:

- Have, or be eligible for, legal immigration status in Canada, and
- Provide evidence that you can support yourself (and your dependants) and become economically established in B.C., and
- Intend to reside in B.C.

For the federal economic immigration programs subject to CIC's Express Entry system, you will:

- meet minimum language proficiency requirements in English or French,
- may need to have your foreign education assessed against Canadian standards, AND
- may have to demonstrate that you meet CIC's requirements for settlement funds.

Express Entry BC

- ▶ [National Occupational Classification \(NOC\)](#)
- ▶ [Occupational Guides for immigrants](#)
- ▶ [Learn about B.C.'s Regions](#)
- ▶ [How to Apply](#)
- ▶ [Contact the BC PNP](#)

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	Employment	Occupation (Skill Level based on the National Occupational Classification (NOC) Matrix)	Experience	Education	Other Requirements
Express Entry BC - Skilled Worker	Full-time job offer from an eligible B.C. employer	Skill Level O, A or B	Directly related work experience	Applicable credentials or qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Candidates must meet minimum criteria for one the federal economic programs<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Federal Skilled Worker Program◦ Federal Skilled Trades Program◦ Canadian Experience Class
Express	Full-time job	Physicians,	Directly related	Applicable licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Candidates must meet

Entry BC- Health Care Professional	offer from a Public Health Authority in B.C.	nurses, nurse practitioners, midwives and allied health professionals	work experience	or registration	minimum criteria for one the federal economic programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Federal Skilled Worker Program◦ Federal Skilled Trades Program◦ Canadian Experience Class
Express Entry BC - International Graduate	Full-time job offer from an eligible B.C. employer	Skill Level O, A or B occupations	As required under the applicable federal economic programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal Skilled Worker Program• Federal Skilled Trades Program• Canadian Experience Class	Eligible degree or diploma from a Canadian college or university	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Candidates must meet minimum criteria for one the federal economic programs<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Federal Skilled Worker Program◦ Federal Skilled Trades Program◦ Canadian Experience Class
Express Entry BC - International Post-Graduate	A job offer is not required.		As required under the applicable federal economic programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal Skilled Worker Program• Federal Skilled Trades Program• Canadian Experience Class	Master's or doctoral degree from an eligible B.C. institution Only open to natural, applied or health sciences graduates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Candidates must meet minimum criteria for one the federal economic programs<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Federal Skilled Worker Program◦ Federal Skilled Trades Program◦ Canadian Experience Class

***Please note that you must meet all other applicable requirements listed under the relevant PNP category webpage.**

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Express Entry British Columbia - Skilled Worker

B.C. is looking for skilled workers who have post-secondary education or training and several years of employment experience in a professional, management, technical, trade or other skilled occupation.

Am I eligible?

To apply to the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) under the Express Entry British Columbia - Skilled Worker category, you must have the following:

A CIC Express Entry Profile Number and a Job Seeker Validation Code that indicates you meet the criteria for one of the federal economic immigration programs subject to CIC's Express Entry system:

- [Federal Skilled Worker Program](#)
- [Federal Skilled Trades Program](#)
- [Canadian Experience Class](#)

Directly related work experience in an eligible occupation, and, if applicable, the credentials and qualification requirements of the position.

- Your occupation must be classified as Skill Level 0, A or B in the [National Occupational Classification Matrix](#). These positions normally require post-secondary education and several years of directly related work experience.
- If you are working in a [regulated occupation](#) that requires mandatory certification, licensing or registration you must demonstrate that you meet these requirements when you apply to the PNP.

An offer of full-time indeterminate employment from an eligible employer at a wage that will allow you to establish economically in B.C.

- Your employer must provide you with a written offer of employment on official company letterhead. The letter must be:
 - signed and dated by a person authorized to hire employees, and
 - signed and dated by you, and stating that you accept the job offer.

In addition, the offer of employment must state:

- your job title and duties,

Express Entry BC

- ▶ [Express Entry BC](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - Categories at a Glance](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - Skilled Worker](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - Health Care Professional](#)
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- your rate of pay,
- your standard hours of work,
- that the position is indeterminate and full-time (at least an average of 30 hours a week, year-round),
- any discretionary benefits in addition to those required by law (such as pension and medical plans, disability insurance, sick pay, accommodation and meal allowances, and extra paid vacations), and
- a reference to the collective agreement if the position is covered by such agreement.
- The wage stated on your offer of employment must be at market rate and comparable to the rate paid to workers with a similar level of experience and training for equivalent jobs in B.C. We do not consider bonuses, commissions, profit-sharing distributions, tips/gratuities, overtime wages or other similar payments to be part of your wage.
- You must be establishing an employee/employer relationship with your employer. If you will be providing services as an independent contractor to the business supporting your application you are not eligible for the Skills Immigration stream of the PNP.
- Your employer also needs to be [eligible](#) for the program.

Evidence that you can support yourself (and your dependants).

- You must show us that you have the ability to pay for your ongoing housing and living expenses in B.C. We will assess this using your:
 - employment income in B.C. ,
 - location of residence in B.C., and
 - number of dependants.
- Learn more about how we assess your [minimum income requirements](#).

Have or be eligible for legal immigration status in Canada.

- The PNP will **not** nominate you if:
 - you are prohibited from entering Canada,
 - you have not been lawfully admitted in the country where you currently reside,
 - you are in Canada illegally,
 - you have an unresolved refugee claim in Canada, or
 - you are under a removal order in Canada.

How do I apply?

1. You and your employer complete the [application forms](#).
2. You submit these forms to the PNP, along with the processing fee of \$550.
3. We review your application.
4. If we approve your application, we will nominate you for permanent residence. You will then need to make a separate application to [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) (CIC) for a permanent resident visa.

Learn more

- Read answers to our most [frequently asked questions](#) about the Express Entry British Columbia stream.
- Read some [success stories](#) of provincial nominees who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.
- Learn more about [employer eligibility](#).

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The BC PNP

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Express Entry BC > Express Entry BC - Skilled Worker > Express Entry BC - Health Care Professional

Express Entry British Columbia - Health Care Professional

Health care workers are in demand across British Columbia. If you are a physician, nurse, psychiatric nurse or allied health professional, you may be eligible to apply to the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) in the health care professional category.

Health Match BC

If you are looking for opportunities to work as a health care professional in B.C., we encourage you to contact [Health Match BC](#). This free provincial service recruits health professionals on behalf of B.C.'s public health care authorities. In addition to helping you find a job in your field, Health Match BC staff can answer your questions about the PNP and assist you with your PNP application.

Am I eligible?

To apply to the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) under the Express Entry British Columbia - Health Care Professional category, you must have the following:

A CIC Express Entry profile number and a Job Seeker Validation Code that indicates you meet the criteria for one of the federal economic immigration programs subject to CIC's Express Entry system:

- [Federal Skilled Worker Program](#)
- [Federal Skilled Trades Program](#)
- [Canadian Experience Class](#)

You must also be sponsored by or have a full-time job offer from a public health authority as a physician, nurse, psychiatric nurse or allied health professional:

- Physician
- Specialist
- Registered nurse
- Registered psychiatric nurse
- Nurse practitioner
- An allied health professional such as a:
 - Diagnostic medical sonographer
 - Clinical pharmacist
 - Medical laboratory technologist
 - Medical radiation technologist

Express Entry BC

- ▶ [Express Entry BC](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - Categories at a Glance](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - Skilled Worker](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - Health Care Professional](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - International Graduate](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - International Post Graduate](#)
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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Express Entry BC > Express Entry BC - International Graduate

Express Entry British Columbia - International Graduate

I have graduated from a Canadian university or college

If you are an international student who has graduated from a Canadian university or college in the past two years, you may be eligible for the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

You need a job offer from an employer for an indeterminate full-time position that typically requires a university or college education.

Am I eligible?

To apply to the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) under the Express Entry British Columbia - International Graduate category, you must have the following:

A CIC Express Entry profile number and a Job Seeker Validation Code that indicates you meet the criteria for one of the federal economic immigration programs subject to CIC's Express Entry system:

- [Federal Skilled Worker Program](#)
- [Federal Skilled Trades Program](#)
- [Canadian Experience Class](#)

A degree, diploma or certificate from a recognized post-secondary institution in Canada.

- Your undergraduate or graduate degree must be from a Canadian post-secondary institution authorized to grant degrees. If the location is in B.C.,
 - See the [Education Planner](#) for a list of degree programs offered in B.C.
 - See the [Ministry of Advanced Education](#) website for a list of authorized degree programs offered by B.C. private post-secondary institutions.
- If you have a diploma or certificate, it must be from a public post-secondary institution in Canada. Private institutions are not eligible. Your program must have been at least 8 months (two semesters) of full-time equivalent study. You may be requested to provide a letter from your educational institution that confirms your program meets this requirement. Your program of study is not eligible if you spent more than one-quarter of the program time in a co-op work term or internship.
 - See the [Education Planner](#) for a list of public post-secondary institutions in B.C.
- You must submit your application to the BC PNP within **two years** of the date shown on

Express Entry BC

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- ▶ [Express Entry BC - Skilled Worker](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - Health Care Professional](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry BC - International Graduate](#)
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[PNP Application Forms](#)

your official transcript indicating that you have completed all requirements of the degree or diploma program.

A job offer for an indeterminate full-time position that typically requires a university or college education at a wage that allows you to establish yourself economically in B.C.

- Your occupation must be classified as Skill Level 0, A or B in the [National Occupational Classification Matrix](#).

Please note – If your current occupation or job offer is classified at a NOC C & D level, you are not eligible for this category. However, you may still be eligible under the [Skills Immigration - International Graduate](#) category.

- If you are working in a [regulated occupation](#) that requires mandatory certification, licensing or registration, you must provide documentation showing that you meet these requirements.
- Your employer must provide you with a written offer of employment on official company letterhead. The letter must be:
 - signed and dated by a person authorized to hire employees, and
 - signed and dated by you, and stating that you accept the job offer.
- In addition, the offer of employment must state:
 - your job title and duties,
 - your rate of pay,
 - your standard hours of work,
 - that the position is indeterminate and full-time (at least 30 hours per week, year-round),
 - any benefits in addition to those required by law (such as pension and medical plans, disability insurance, sick pay, accommodation and meal allowances, and extra paid vacations), and
 - if the position is covered by a collective agreement, a reference to the agreement.
- Your employer cannot make any deductions from your pay (or require you to pay any fees) for recruitment or retention, including fees related to immigration.
- The wage stated on your offer of employment must be at market rate and comparable to the rate paid to workers with a similar level of experience and training for equivalent jobs in B.C. We do not consider bonuses, commissions, profit-sharing distributions, tips/gratuities, overtime wages or other similar payments to be part of your wage.
- If you were originally hired based on a positive Labour Market Opinion, the wage you are currently earning must be equal to or greater than the wage stated in the offer of employment and on the Labour Market Opinion.
- Your employer also needs to be [eligible for the program](#).

Evidence that you can support yourself (and your dependants).

- You must demonstrate that you have the ability to pay for your housing and living expenses in B.C. We will assess this using your:
 - income and employment prospects,
 - location of residence in B.C., and
 - number of dependants.

Learn more about how we assess your [minimum income requirements](#).

Have or be eligible for legal immigration status in Canada.

- The PNP will **not** nominate you if:
 - you are prohibited from entering Canada,
 - you have not been lawfully admitted in the country where you currently reside,
 - you are in Canada illegally,
 - you have an unresolved refugee claim in Canada, or
 - you are under a removal order in Canada.

How do I apply?

1. You and your employer complete the [application forms](#).
2. You submit these forms to the PNP, along with the processing fee of \$550.
3. We review your application.
4. If we approve your application, we will nominate you for permanent residence. You will then need to make a separate application to [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) for a

permanent resident visa.

Learn more

- Read some [success stories](#) of PNP nominees who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.
- See the [Education Planner](#) for a list of degree programs offered in B.C.
- See the [Ministry of Advanced Education](#) website for a list of authorized degree programs offered by B.C. private post-secondary institutions.
- Read answers to our most [frequently asked questions](#) about the Express Entry British Columbia stream.

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Express Entry BC > Express Entry BC - International Post Graduate

Express Entry British Columbia - International Post Graduate

I have a master's or doctoral degree in the natural, applied or health sciences

Individuals with graduate degrees in the sciences are highly sought after by employers in the technology, health care and other sectors.

If you have recently graduated from a B.C. post-secondary institution with a master's or doctoral degree in the natural, applied or health sciences, you may be eligible for the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

If you are applying in this category, you do not need a job offer from an employer.

Am I eligible?

To apply to the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) under the Express Entry British Columbia - International Post Graduate category, you must have the following:

A CIC Express Entry profile number and a Job Seeker Validation Code that indicates you meet the criteria for one of the federal economic immigration programs subject to CIC's Express Entry system:

- [Federal Skilled Worker Program](#)
- [Federal Skilled Trades Program](#)
- [Canadian Experience Class](#)

A master's or doctoral degree received within the past two years from an eligible program at a post-secondary institution in B.C.

- Your master's or doctoral degree must be from an eligible B.C. post-secondary institution. (See the [Education Planner](#) for a list of degree programs offered by B.C. public post-secondary institutions. See the [Ministry of Advanced Education](#) website for a list of degree programs offered by B.C. private post-secondary institutions.)

AND

- Your graduate degree (master's or doctorate) must be in one of the following programs of study in the natural, applied or health sciences:
 - Agriculture
 - Biological and biomedical sciences

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- Computer and information sciences and support services
- Engineering
- Engineering technology
- Health professions and related clinical sciences
- Mathematics and statistics
- Natural resources conservation and research
- Physical sciences
- Further details regarding the classification of these programs of study can be found on Statistics [Canada's Classification of Instructional Programs \(CIP\)](#) website

Evidence that you intend to reside in B.C.

- You must provide us with evidence that you intend to live and work in B.C. once you obtain your permanent resident status in Canada. This evidence may include:
 - the length of any previous and/or current period of residence in B.C.,
 - your connections to B.C. through work, study or family, and
 - a description of any actions you've taken to settle in B.C., such as finding a job or place to live.

Have or be eligible for legal immigration status in Canada.

- The PNP will not nominate you if:
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 - you are in Canada illegally,
 - you have an unresolved refugee claim in Canada, or
 - you are under a removal order in Canada.

How do I apply?

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2. We review your application.
3. If we approve your application, we will nominate you for permanent residence. You will then need to apply to [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) (CIC) for a permanent resident visa.

Learn more

- See the [Education Planner](#) for a list of degree programs offered in B.C.
- See the [Ministry of Advanced Education](#) website for a list of authorized degree programs offered by B.C. private post-secondary institutions.
- Read some [success stories](#) of provincial nominees who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.
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Immigrate > The BC PNP > Express Entry BC > Express Entry BC - FAQs

Express Entry British Columbia - Frequently Asked Questions

Click on the relevant links for more information on the following:

- [General questions about Express Entry British Columbia](#)
- [Application process](#)
- [Language requirements](#)
- [Educational credential assessments](#)
- [Job offer](#)
- [Settlement funds](#)
- [Role of employers](#)
- [Processing times](#)

General questions about Express Entry British Columbia

1. What is Express Entry?

- Express Entry is a new online application management system introduced by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) in January 2015. Express Entry will transform Canada's immigration system into one that is faster and more responsive to economic and labour market needs and will enable employers to have a direct role in selecting economic immigrants.
- British Columbia is adding a new stream to the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) called Express Entry British Columbia. This new stream allows PNP to use CIC's Express Entry system to meet B.C.'s specific labour needs.

2. What is Express Entry British Columbia? **NEW**

- B.C. has introduced a new immigration stream under its Provincial Nominee Program called [Express Entry British Columbia](#) that will operate in conjunction with the federal government's [Express Entry](#) system.
- The Express Entry British Columbia stream is one of three options the PNP offers for immigrating to B.C.
- The introduction of the Express Entry British Columbia stream will complement BC PNP's existing [Skills Immigration](#) and [Business Immigration](#) streams, which will continue to operate.
- Under this new BC PNP stream, applicants who are eligible for one of the Express Entry BC categories will receive priority processing of their PNP application, and if nominated, permanent residence application.

Express Entry BC

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Individuals nominated under the Express Entry British Columbia stream will have their applications for permanent residence processed through CIC's [Express Entry](#) system.

3. What are the benefits of Express Entry British Columbia? **NEW**

- The key benefit of applying under the [Express Entry British Columbia](#) stream is that the applicant will receive priority processing of their BC PNP application, and if nominated, permanent residence application.
- Under CIC's [Express Entry](#) system, a nomination by B.C. under the Express Entry British Columbia stream will give an Express Entry candidate additional points in the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) to rank high enough to be invited to apply for permanent residence at the next eligible draw of candidates.
- The PNP offers many other advantages to workers and entrepreneurs wishing to settle in B.C. and also helps B.C. employers meet their critical labour market needs.

4. What is the difference between the Express Entry British Columbia stream and the Skills Immigration stream of the PNP?

- The key difference is that under the Express Entry British Columbia stream, you must meet the minimum criteria for one of the federal economic immigration programs subject to [CIC's Express Entry](#) system as well as be eligible for one of the Express Entry British Columbia categories. This means that you must meet CIC's minimum requirements that includes language, education and work experience in addition to meeting the PNP's eligibility criteria for these categories.
- Specific information about the individual categories can be found [here](#).
- A benefit of applying under the Express Entry British Columbia stream is that you will receive priority processing of your PNP application, and if nominated, your permanent residence application.

5. Do all new applications to the BC PNP have to be made under the Express Entry British Columbia stream? **NEW**

- No. Applications are still accepted under the Skills Immigration and Business Immigration stream of the PNP.

6. What are the categories under the Express Entry British Columbia stream?

- There are currently 3 new categories under the Express Entry British Columbia stream. More information about the minimum requirements are available on the individual category pages.
 - [Express Entry British Columbia - Skilled Worker*](#)
 - [Express Entry British Columbia - Health Care Professional*](#)(this is included in the Express Entry British Columbia – Skilled Worker category)
 - [Express Entry British Columbia - International Graduate*](#)
 - [Express Entry British Columbia - International Post Graduate](#)

**Please note - To qualify under these categories, you must have a valid offer of indeterminate full-time employment from a B.C. employer.*

7. Does the Express Entry British Columbia stream include new categories under the Business Immigration stream?

- No. There is currently no Express Entry British Columbia option under the Business Immigration stream.

8. Can I have an application under two streams - Skills Immigration and Express Entry British Columbia - at the same time? **NEW**

- No. An individual can only have one application at a time under the Skills Immigration or the Express Entry British Columbia stream.

Application Process

9. How does the Express Entry British Columbia stream work?

- You must meet the minimum criteria for one of the categories under the Express

Entry British Columbia stream:

- [Express Entry British Columbia - Skilled Worker*](#)
 - [Express Entry British Columbia - Health Care Professional*](#)
- [Express Entry British Columbia - International Graduate*](#)
- [Express Entry British Columbia - International Post Graduate](#)

**Please note - To qualify under these categories, you must have a valid offer of indeterminate full-time employment from a B.C. employer.*

- You must also meet the minimum criteria for one of the following federal economic immigration programs:
 - [Federal Skilled Worker Program](#)
 - [Federal Skilled Trades Program](#)
 - [Canadian Experience Class](#)
- Please note - This may include a language proficiency level and an independent evaluation of your education that is assessed against Canadian standards
- You must go to [CIC's Express Entry](#) system, complete the self-assessment and if eligible, create an online profile. You must also indicate that you are interested in settling in BC.
- You will be required to enter information regarding your education, language and work experience as part of your Express Entry profile. If you meet the criteria for one of the federal economic immigration programs subject to CIC's Express Entry system, you will receive an Express Entry Profile Number and a Job Seeker Validation Code. This is a specific number assigned only to you.
- Complete the PNP Nominee Applicant Form, and enter your Express Entry information into the relevant section of the form, including the Express Entry Profile Number and a Job Seeker Validation Code as well as the applicable federal economic immigration program(s) for which you are eligible.
- Once complete, submit the form, checklists and any other required documents to the [BC PNP](#). For more information about the PNP process, visit the [How to Apply](#) page.
- If you currently have an application with the PNP under the Skilled Worker (including Health Care Professional), International Graduate, and International Post Graduate categories under the Skills Immigration stream, you may be eligible for the EEBC stream if you meet all of the requirements. For more information, please [visit this page](#).

10. I have already applied to the BC PNP Skills Immigration stream and my application is in process, am I still able to apply under the new Express Entry British Columbia stream?

- Yes. If you applied to the PNP under NOC Skill level O, A or B occupations (including applications under the following categories: Skilled Worker, including Health Care Professional, International Post Graduate, and International Graduate) on or before January 5, 2015 and a decision has not been made on your application, you or your authorized representative should have received correspondence indicating the steps that you need to follow if you would like to be considered in the Express Entry British Columbia stream.
- Applications to the PNP for NOC Skill Level C or D occupations in the Entry-Level or Semi-Skilled, Northeast Pilot Project, and International Graduate categories under the Skills Immigration stream are not eligible for the Express Entry British Columbia stream

11. I submitted an application under the new Express Entry British Columbia stream and my application was refused. Can my Express Entry British Columbia application be considered under the regular Skills Immigration stream instead?

NEW

- No, applicants who applied under the [Express Entry British Columbia](#) stream and received a refusal decision must re-apply to the PNP in order to have an application considered under the [Skills Immigration](#) stream. This means that applicants must submit a new application under the Skills Immigration stream and pay the \$550 application processing fee. Applicants may re-apply to the PNP at any time; however, we recommend that applicants do so only after all the reasons for a previous refusal have been resolved. Applicants should ensure that the eligibility requirements for the program category for which the applicant intends to apply have been met.

12. I was nominated under the Skills Immigration stream. Is it better to apply for permanent residence through the normal paper application for provincial nominees or should I apply through Express Entry? **NEW**

- If your PNP application has been approved for nomination under the **Skills Immigration** stream, you are responsible for submitting a complete **paper application for permanent residence** to the CIC visa office. As outlined in the nomination package sent to you, this must be submitted prior to the expiry date listed on your nomination certificate or your nomination will expire. The PNP does not extend nominations.
- Note that as your nomination was approved under the Skills Immigration stream, it cannot be used in CIC's Express Entry system or to apply on-line for permanent residence through the Express Entry system.

Applicants nominated in 2014 or earlier:

- If you wish to apply on-line for permanent residence as a nominee in CIC's **Express Entry** system, you will first need to apply to and be nominated by PNP under the new **Express Entry British Columbia** stream. This means that you will need to submit a new application to PNP under the Express Entry British Columbia stream and pay the \$550 application processing fee. If approved for nomination under the new stream, you can then apply for permanent residence through the Express Entry system.
- If you intend to re-apply to PNP under the Express Entry British Columbia stream, please carefully review the requirements under the program category for which you intend to apply to ensure that you meet these requirements. The PNP will assess the new application to ensure that the criteria for the applicable category under the Express Entry British Columbia stream have been met before a decision on the new application will be issued. If the application is approved for nomination, the PNP will confirm the nomination with the applicant using CIC's Express Entry portal.
- If your PNP application is refused, you will receive a letter stating the reasons for the decision. You may re-apply to the PNP at any time; however, we recommend that you do so only after all the reasons for a previous refusal have been resolved and you ensure that the requirements for the applicable program category have been met.

Applicants nominated in 2015:

- If you were nominated in 2015 through the Skills Immigration stream and wish to apply on-line for permanent residence as a nominee in CIC's **Express Entry** system, you will first need to apply and be nominated by PNP under the new **Express Entry British Columbia** stream.
- Contact the PNP and you will be provided with the required documents. Complete and submit these documents to the PNP as soon as possible. Please carefully review the requirements under the program category for which you intend to apply to ensure that you meet these requirements.
- Once the completed documents are received by the PNP, your application will be converted to an Express Entry British Columbia application and will be assessed against the criteria of the applicable category under this new stream. If the application is approved for nomination, the PNP will confirm the nomination with the applicant using CIC's Express Entry portal.
- If your PNP application is refused, you will receive a letter stating the reasons for the decision. You may re-apply to the PNP at any time; however, we recommend that you do so only after all the reasons for a previous refusal have been resolved and you ensure that the requirements for the applicable program category have been met.

Language Requirements

13. Do I have to take a language test if I want to apply under the Express Entry British Columbia stream? **NEW**

- Yes. In order to apply under the Express Entry British Columbia stream, you must meet the **requirements for the different categories**. These include a mandatory language level requirement that is determined by CIC. The PNP cannot waive this

requirement.

14. What language level do I need to meet in order to qualify for Express Entry British Columbia? NEW

- The minimum language level requirement under PNP's [Express Entry British Columbia](#) stream is determined by the federal economic immigration program under CIC's [Express Entry](#) system for which you intend to apply.
- The minimum language level requirement varies for each of the three economic immigration programs subject to Express Entry. Please visit the [CIC website](#) for complete and up-to-date information on [minimum language ability requirements](#) as well as other eligibility requirements of the federal economic immigration program(s) for which you intend to apply to ensure that the requirements are met.

15. Where do I take a language test? NEW

- CIC has designated agencies to conduct language tests and issue language test results as proof of English or French language ability for the economic immigration programs subject to Express Entry. Approved language tests include:
 - Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program (CELPIP)
 - International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
 - TEF: Test d'Évaluation de Français
- Please visit the [CIC website](#) for complete and up-to-date information on language tests under Express Entry, including designated language testing agencies, location of testing sites, and minimum language level requirements.

16. I disagree with my language test results. How can I appeal the results? NEW

- PNP does not issue language test results and cannot respond to questions about your individual results.
- CIC has designated agencies to conduct language tests and issue language test results as proof of English or French language ability for the economic immigration programs subject to Express Entry.
- Please contact the designated agency that issued the language test results to discuss any questions or concerns regarding your language test results.
- Please visit the [CIC website](#) for complete and up-to-date information on language tests under Express Entry.

17. My language test results have expired or are about to expire. Can I renew or retake the test? NEW

- Language test results are valid for 2 years from the day on which it was issued, and they must be valid when:
 - you create an Express Entry profile,
 - when your PNP application under the Express Entry British Columbia stream is submitted to the PNP, and
 - when the application for permanent residence (APR) under Express Entry is submitted.
- If you get a new language test after you have applied to the PNP, you must provide the PNP with a photocopy of your new language test results and you must update your Express Entry Profile.
- If you apply for permanent residence with language test results that have expired, your application will be refused by CIC.
- Please visit the [CIC website](#) for complete and up-to-date information on language tests.

Educational Credential Assessments

18. Do I need to obtain an Educational Credential Assessment? NEW

- An Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) is required as part of your PNP application under the [Express Entry British Columbia](#) stream if you included the results of your ECA in your Express Entry profile under CIC's [Express Entry](#) system.
- An Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) is used to verify that your foreign degree, diploma, certificate (or other proof of your credential) is valid and equal to a Canadian credentials.

- Please visit the [CIC website](#) for complete and up-to-date information on ECAs, including who needs an ECA and agencies designated to provide ECAs.

19. **How do I obtain an Educational Credential Assessment? NEW**

- Please visit the [CIC website](#) for complete and up-to-date information on ECAs, including who needs an ECA and agencies designated to provide ECAs

20. **Do I need to send an original copy of my Educational Credential Assessment to the PNP? NEW**

- Nominee applicants with foreign educational credentials, who have included the results of their Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) in their Express Entry profile, must provide a clear photocopy of their ECA. Note that the PNP may request an original copy of the ECA if needed. The ECA must be from a [designated agency](#). ECAs are valid for five years from the day on which it was issued and must have been issued on or after April 17, 2013. ECAs must also be valid at the time of application for permanent residence. You will submit your original ECA to CIC if your application is approved for nomination under the PNP and you are invited to apply for permanent residence by CIC.
- If you get a new ECA report after you have applied to the PNP, you must provide the PNP with a photocopy of your new report and you must update your Express Entry Profile.
- Please visit the [CIC website](#) for complete and up-to-date information on ECAs, including who needs an ECA and agencies designated to provide ECAs.

21. **I disagree with my Educational Credential Assessment Report. I want to appeal the decision. NEW**

- Please contact the designated agency that issued your ECA report to discuss any questions or concerns regarding your report.
- Please visit the [CIC website](#) for complete and up-to-date information on ECAs, including who needs an ECA and agencies designated to provide ECAs.

Job Offer

22. **Do I need a valid job offer to be eligible for CIC's Express Entry system? NEW**

- A valid job offer may be required depending on which of the federal economic immigration program under CIC's [Express Entry](#) system you intend to apply.
- Please visit the [CIC website](#) for complete and up-to-date information on job offer requirements as well as other eligibility requirements of the federal economic immigration program(s) for which you intend to apply to ensure that the requirements are met.

23. **Do I need a job offer to be eligible for BC PNP's Express Entry BC stream? NEW**

- You can only apply to the [Express Entry British Columbia](#) stream without a job offer if you are applying under the [International Post Graduate category](#).
- A job offer is required for all other categories under the Express Entry British Columbia stream. The job offer must be full-time and indeterminate.
- Under all [Express Entry British Columbia](#) categories, you must also meet the minimum criteria for one of the federal economic immigration programs under CIC's Express Entry system.

24. **I have a job offer from my employer that meets PNP requirements. Does it qualify as a job offer under CIC's Express Entry system? NEW**

- The requirements for a job offer under the [PNP](#) are different from the requirements for a valid job offer under CIC's [Express Entry](#) system. One of the key differences is that a job offer under the PNP does not need to be supported by a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) whereas a valid job offer under Express Entry must be supported by a LMIA.
- Please visit the [PNP website](#) for more information on PNP job offer requirements.
- Please visit the [CIC website](#) for complete and up-to-date information on the job offer requirements of each economic immigration program subject to Express Entry.

Settlement Funds

25. When do I need to show settlement funds (or proof of funds) to meet CIC's Express Entry minimum requirements? NEW

- Please refer to CIC's website for detailed information on when proof of settlement funds are required under Express Entry. Requirements for settlement funds differ across the [federal economic immigration programs](#) for which you may be eligible.
- All Express Entry British Columbia applicants are required to meet the [PNP minimum income requirements](#).
- In some circumstances, Express Entry British Columbia applicants will have to meet the PNP's income requirements as well as the Express Entry requirement for proof of settlement funds. More information regarding when [settlement funds are required](#) can be found at [this link](#).

Role of Employers

26. Is the role of the employer in a PNP application different under Express Entry British Columbia stream?

- No. The role of the employer remains the same as it does under the Skills Immigration stream. For more information, please visit the [Employers](#) page.

Processing Times

27. Will applications under the Express Entry British Columbia stream receive priority processing by the PNP?

- Yes, applications under the [Express Entry British Columbia](#) stream will be prioritized.

28. What are the processing times under Express Entry British Columbia?

- [Express Entry British Columbia](#) applications will receive priority processing by the PNP. More details on PNP processing times for Express Entry British Columbia will be posted on the [processing times page](#) of the website.
- CIC has indicated that 80% of applications for permanent residence under Express Entry will be processed within 6 months or less from the date CIC receives a complete application for permanent residence. This processing time applies only to the CIC process and does not include the time it takes for the BC PNP to reach a decision on an application for nomination and does not include the time to receive an Invitation to Apply (ITA). For permanent residence application processing times, please visit [CIC's website](#).

29. I am not eligible for the categories under the Express Entry British Columbia stream. How long will it take for my application to be processed under the Skills Immigration stream? NEW

- PNP applicants who choose not to complete an Express Entry profile or those who are ineligible for entry into CIC's Express Entry system will have their PNP applications reviewed as per the Skills Immigration stream [processes and time frames](#).

30. How can I check the status of my Express Entry British Columbia stream application with the PNP?

- The PNP will not respond to inquiries about the status of an application if it is within the processing times listed on the [website](#).

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Immigrate > The BC PNP > Skills Immigration

Skills Immigration

The BC PNP has introduced a new stream called Express Entry British Columbia. Visit **Express Entry British Columbia** for more information and to see if you are eligible.

I want to work in B.C.

The BC Provincial Nominee Program's (PNP) Skills Immigration stream is intended for people with the skills, experience and qualifications needed by B.C. employers. This stream is designed for individuals who would like to live and work in B.C. and become permanent residents of Canada.

To be eligible for the program, you will need to satisfy the criteria in one of the following categories:

- **Skilled workers** (managers, professionals and skilled trades people),
- **Health care professionals** (physicians, registered nurses and other health care workers),
- International graduates:
 - **With a degree or diploma from a Canadian college or university**, or
 - **With a master's or doctoral degree in the natural, applied or health sciences from a B.C. university** (for this category only, you do not need to have a job offer),
- **Entry-level or semi-skilled workers** in tourism/hospitality, food processing and long-haul trucking, and
- **Entry-level or semi-skilled workers who are living in the northeast region of the province.**

How does the program work?

1. You accept an offer of indeterminate full-time employment from a B.C. employer who is willing to support your application for permanent residence through the PNP. If you are currently working in B.C. on a temporary work permit, your employer will need to offer you an indeterminate position without an end date.
2. If you and your current or prospective employer meet the program criteria, you will submit a joint application to the PNP office.
3. We assess your application against program criteria, and if we approve your application, we will nominate you for permanent residence. If necessary, we will provide you with a work permit support letter so you can apply to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to obtain or renew a work permit to start or continue working in B.C. for your employer.
4. After the PNP nominates you for permanent residence, you (and your spouse and dependent children if applicable) will submit a separate application for a permanent

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resident visa to CIC in the [Provincial Nominee Class](#). You will have six months from the date of your nomination to apply to CIC.

5. If CIC approves your application, you will be issued a permanent resident visa to live in Canada.

You are responsible for demonstrating that you meet the program criteria. If the PNP is not satisfied that your application meets the program criteria, we will not approve your application.

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Skills Immigration

Categories at a glance

You can apply to the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) as a worker in 6 different categories, each with its own criteria and requirements. With the exception of individuals applying with a post-graduate degree from a B.C. university in the natural, applied or health sciences, all applicants must have a full-time job offer from an eligible B.C. employer.

Please note that the outline below illustrates an overview of the minimum program criteria. See the specific program requirements for each category to find out if you are eligible.

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	Employment	Occupation <i>(Skill level based on the National Occupational Classification (NOC) Matrix)</i>	Experience	Education	Other Requirements
Skilled Worker	Full-time job offer from an eligible B.C. employer	Skill Level 0, A or B	Directly related work experience	Applicable credentials or qualifications	
Health Care Professional	Full-time job offer from a Public Health Authority in B.C.	Physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, midwives and allied health professionals	Directly related work experience	Applicable licensing or registration	
	Full-time job	Skill Level 0, A or B occupations		Eligible degree or	Proficiency in English if

International Graduate	offer from an eligible B.C. employer	(Skill Level C or D may be eligible if there is a structured career progression)	Not required	diploma from a Canadian college or university	applying with a Skill Level C or D occupation
International Post-Graduate	A job offer or work experience is not required.			Master's or doctoral degree from an eligible B.C. institution	Only open to natural, applied or health sciences graduates
Entry-Level or Semi-Skilled Worker	Full-time job offer from an eligible B.C. employer	Select Skill Level C or D occupations in tourism/hospitality, food processing and long-haul trucking	At least 9 months of full-time continuous employment	Minimum successful completion of secondary education	Proficiency in English
Northeast Pilot Project	Full-time job offer from an eligible B.C. employer	NOC Skill Level C or D occupations	At least 9 months of full-time continuous employment	Minimum successful completion of secondary education	Proficiency in English

All categories require that you:

- Have or be eligible for legal immigration status in Canada.
- Evidence that you can support yourself (and your dependants) and become economically established in B.C.
- Intend to reside in B.C.

Learn more

- Read about the eligibility criteria in the Skills Immigration categories.
- Are you a B.C. employer? Learn more about how the PNP helps B.C. employers attract and retain international workers and students.

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Immigrate > The BC PNP > Skills Immigration > Skilled Worker

Skills Immigration - Skilled Worker

The BC PNP has introduced a new stream called Express Entry British Columbia. Visit [Express Entry British Columbia](#) for more information and to see if you are eligible.

Am I eligible?

To apply to the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) as a Skills Immigration - Skilled Worker, you must have the following:

Directly related work experience in an eligible occupation, and, if applicable, the credentials and qualification requirements of the position.

- Your occupation must be classified as Skill Level 0, A or B in the [National Occupational Classification Matrix](#). These positions normally require post-secondary education and several years of directly related work experience.
- If you are working in a [regulated occupation](#) that requires mandatory certification, licensing or registration you must demonstrate that you meet these requirements when you apply to the PNP.

An offer of full-time indeterminate employment from an [eligible employer](#) at a wage that will allow you to establish economically in B.C.

- Your employer must provide you with a written offer of employment on official company letterhead. The letter must be:
 - signed and dated by a person authorized to hire employees, and
 - signed and dated by you, and stating that you accept the job offer.

In addition, the offer of employment must state:

- your job title and duties,
- your rate of pay,
- your standard hours of work,
- that the position is indeterminate and full-time (at least an average of 30 hours a week, year-round),
- any discretionary benefits in addition to those required by law (such as pension and medical plans, disability insurance, sick pay, accommodation and meal allowances, and extra paid vacations), and
- if the position is covered by a collective agreement, a reference to the agreement.

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- The wage stated on your offer of employment must be at market rate and comparable to the rate paid to workers with a similar level of experience and training for equivalent jobs in B.C. We do not consider bonuses, commissions, profit-sharing distributions, tips/gratuities, overtime wages or other similar payments to be part of your wage.
- You must be establishing an employee/employer relationship with your employer. If you will be providing services as an independent contractor to the business supporting your application you are not eligible for the Skills Immigration stream of the PNP.
- Your employer also needs to be [eligible](#) for the program.

Evidence that you can support yourself (and your dependants).

- You must show us that you have the ability to pay for your ongoing housing and living expenses in B.C. We will assess this using your:
 - employment income in B.C. ,
 - location of residence in B.C., and
 - number of dependants.
- Learn more about how we assess your [minimum income requirements](#).

Have or be eligible for legal immigration status in Canada.

- The PNP will **not** nominate you if:
 - you are prohibited from entering Canada,
 - you have not been lawfully admitted in the country where you currently reside,
 - you are in Canada illegally,
 - you have an unresolved refugee claim in Canada, or
 - you are under a removal order in Canada.

How do I apply?

1. You and your employer complete the [application forms](#).
2. You submit these forms to the PNP, along with the processing fee of \$550.
3. We review your application.
4. If we approve your application, we will nominate you for permanent residence. You will then need to make a separate application to [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) (CIC) for a permanent resident visa. You will have six months from the date of your nomination to apply to CIC.

Learn more

- Read some [success stories](#) of provincial nominees who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.
- Read answers to our most [frequently asked questions](#) about the Skills Immigration stream.
- Learn more about [employer eligibility](#).

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Skills Immigration > Skilled Worker > Health Care Professional

Skills Immigration - Health Care Professional

The BC PNP has introduced a new stream called Express Entry British Columbia. Visit [Express Entry British Columbia](#) for more information and to see if you are eligible.

Health care workers are in demand across British Columbia. If you are a physician, nurse, psychiatric nurse or allied health professional, you may be eligible to apply to the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) in the Skills Immigration – Health Care Professional category.

Health Match BC

If you are looking for opportunities to work as a health care professional in B.C., we encourage you to contact [Health Match BC](#). This free provincial service recruits health professionals on behalf of B.C.'s public health care authorities. In addition to helping you find a job in your field, Health Match BC staff can answer your questions about the PNP and assist you with your PNP application.

Am I eligible?

You can apply to the PNP through the Skills Immigration – Health Care Professional category if you are sponsored by or have a full-time job offer from a public health authority as a:

- Physician
- Specialist
- Registered nurse
- Registered psychiatric nurse
- Nurse practitioner
- An allied health professional such as a:
 - Diagnostic medical sonographer
 - Clinical pharmacist
 - Medical laboratory technologist
 - Medical radiation technologist
 - Occupational therapist
 - Physiotherapist

If you are working in a health care field outside these occupations or working for a private employer, you may still be eligible to apply to the PNP in the [skilled worker](#) category.

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To apply to the PNP as a health care professional, you must meet the following eligibility criteria for your occupation.

I am a physician or specialist.

- You must be sponsored by one of B.C.'s five regional health authorities or the Provincial Health Services Authority.

I am a registered nurse, registered psychiatric nurse, or nurse practitioner.

- You must have a job offer for an indeterminate full-time position from one of B.C.'s five regional health authorities or the Provincial Health Services Authority.
- You must be registered with the [College of Registered Nurses of BC](#), the [College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of BC](#).

I am a midwife.

- You must have a letter of confirmation an established practice group in British Columbia confirming their acceptance into the group as an affiliated midwife for a period of at least six months. This letter must be on the practice group's official letterhead, and must be signed by the head of the practice group and the midwife applicant.
- You must be registered with the [College of Midwives of British Columbia](#).

I am an allied health professional.

- You must have a job offer for an indeterminate full-time position from one of B.C.'s five regional health authorities or the Provincial Health Services Authority.
- You must be registered with the provincial licensing body that regulates your health care profession. See [Health Match BC](#) for a list of the licensing bodies.

How do I apply?

1. You and your employer complete the [application forms](#).
2. You submit these forms to Health Match BC or the PNP, along with the processing fee of \$550.
3. We review your application.
4. If we approve your application, we will nominate you for permanent residence. You will then need to make a separate application to [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) (CIC) for a permanent resident visa. You will have six months from the date of your nomination to apply to CIC.

Learn more

- Read some [success stories](#) of B.C. provincial nominees who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.
- Read answers to our most [frequently asked questions](#) about the Skills Immigration Stream.
- Contact [Health Match BC](#) to learn about job opportunities in the health care field.

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Immigrate > The BC PNP > Skills Immigration > International Graduate

Skills Immigration - International Graduate

The BC PNP has introduced a new stream called Express Entry British Columbia. Visit [Express Entry British Columbia](#) for more information and to see if you are eligible.

I have graduated from a Canadian university or college

If you are an international student who has graduated from a Canadian university or college in the past two years, you may be eligible for the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

Although you do not need work experience, you do need a job offer from an employer for an indeterminate full-time position that typically requires a university or college education.

Am I eligible?

To apply to the Skills Immigration - International Graduate category of the PNP as a recent graduate of a Canadian institution, you must have the following:

A degree, diploma or certificate from a recognized post-secondary institution in Canada.

- Your undergraduate or graduate degree must be from a Canadian post-secondary institution authorized to grant degrees. If the location is in B.C.,
 - See the [Education Planner](#) for a list of degree programs offered in B.C.
 - See the [Ministry of Advanced Education](#) website for a list of authorized degree programs offered by B.C. private post-secondary institutions.
- If you have a diploma or certificate, it must be from a public post-secondary institution in Canada. Private institutions are not eligible. Your program must have been at least 8 months (two semesters) of full-time equivalent study. You may be requested to provide a letter from your educational institution that confirms your program meets this requirement. Your program of study is not eligible if you spent more than one-quarter of the program time in a co-op work term or internship.
 - See the [Education Planner](#) for a list of public post-secondary institutions in B.C.
- You must submit your application to the BC PNP within **two years** of the date shown on your official transcript indicating that you have completed all requirements of the degree or diploma program.

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A job offer for an indeterminate full-time position that typically requires a university or college education at a wage that allows you to establish yourself economically in B.C.

- Your occupation must be classified as Skill Level 0, A or B in the [National Occupational Classification Matrix](#).
- If your current occupation is classified as Skill Level C or D and if your employer can demonstrate that there is a structured plan in place for your career progression to an occupation classified as Skill Level 0, A or B, you can apply to the PNP. In this case, you will also need to submit the results of a [language proficiency test](#).
- If you are working in a [regulated occupation](#) that requires mandatory certification, licensing or registration, you must provide documentation showing that you meet these requirements.
- Your employer must provide you with a written offer of employment on official company letterhead. The letter must be:
 - signed and dated by a person authorized to hire employees, and
 - signed and dated by you, and stating that you accept the job offer.
- In addition, the offer of employment must state:
 - your job title and duties,
 - your rate of pay,
 - your standard hours of work,
 - that the position is indeterminate and full-time (at least 30 hours per week, year-round),
 - any benefits in addition to those required by law (such as pension and medical plans, disability insurance, sick pay, accommodation and meal allowances, and extra paid vacations), and
 - if the position is covered by a collective agreement, a reference to the agreement.
- Your employer cannot make any deductions from your pay (or require you to pay any fees) for recruitment or retention, including fees related to immigration.
- The wage stated on your offer of employment must be at market rate and comparable to the rate paid to workers with a similar level of experience and training for equivalent jobs in B.C. We do not consider bonuses, commissions, profit-sharing distributions, tips/gratuities, overtime wages or other similar payments to be part of your wage.
- If you were originally hired based on a positive Labour Market Opinion, the wage you are currently earning must be equal to or greater than the wage stated in the offer of employment and on the Labour Market Opinion.
- Your employer also needs to be [eligible for the program](#).

Evidence that you can support yourself (and your dependants).

- You must demonstrate that you have the ability to pay for your housing and living expenses in B.C. We will assess this using your:
 - income and employment prospects,
 - location of residence in B.C., and
 - number of dependants.

Learn more about how we assess your [minimum income requirements](#).

Have or be eligible for legal immigration status in Canada.

- The PNP will **not** nominate you if:
 - you are prohibited from entering Canada,
 - you have not been lawfully admitted in the country where you currently reside,
 - you are in Canada illegally,
 - you have an unresolved refugee claim in Canada, or
 - you are under a removal order in Canada.

How do I apply?

1. You and your employer complete the [application forms](#).
2. You submit these forms to the PNP, along with the processing fee of \$550.
3. We review your application.
4. If we approve your application, we will nominate you for permanent residence. You will then need to make a separate application to [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) for a permanent resident visa. You will have six months from the date of your nomination to apply to CIC.

Learn more

- Read some [success stories](#) of PNP nominees who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.
- See the [Education Planner](#) for a list of degree programs offered in B.C.
- See the [Ministry of Advanced Education](#) website for a list of authorized degree programs offered by B.C. private post-secondary institutions.
- Read answers to our most [frequently asked questions](#) about the Skills Immigration stream.

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Skills Immigration > International Post Graduate

Skills Immigration - International Post Graduate

The BC PNP has introduced a new stream called Express Entry British Columbia. Visit [Express Entry British Columbia](#) for more information and to see if you are eligible.

I have a master's or doctoral degree in the natural, applied or health sciences

Individuals with graduate degrees in the sciences are highly sought after by employers in the technology, health care and other sectors.

If you have recently graduated from a B.C. post-secondary institution with a master's or doctoral degree in the natural, applied or health sciences, you may be eligible for the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

If you are applying in this category, you do not need a job offer from an employer.

Am I eligible?

To apply to the Skills Immigration - International Post Graduate category as a recent graduate of a master's or doctoral program, you must have the following:

A master's or doctoral degree received within the past two years from an eligible program at a post-secondary institution in B.C.

- Your master's or doctoral degree must be from an eligible B.C. post-secondary institution. (See the [Education Planner](#) for a list of degree programs offered by B.C. public post-secondary institutions. See the [Ministry of Advanced Education](#) website for a list of degree programs offered by B.C. private post-secondary institutions.)

AND

- Your graduate degree (master's or doctorate) must be in one of the following programs of study in the natural, applied or health sciences:
 - Agriculture
 - Biological and biomedical sciences

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- Computer and information sciences and support services
- Engineering
- Engineering technology
- Health professions and related clinical sciences
- Mathematics and statistics
- Natural resources conservation and research
- Physical sciences
- Further details regarding the classification of these programs of study can be found on Statistics [Canada's Classification of Instructional Programs \(CIP\)](#) website

Evidence that you intend to reside in B.C.

- You must provide us with evidence that you intend to live and work in B.C. once you obtain your permanent resident status in Canada. This evidence may include:
 - the length of any previous and/or current period of residence in B.C.,
 - your connections to B.C. through work, study or family, and
 - a description of any actions you've taken to settle in B.C., such as finding a job or place to live.

Have or be eligible for legal immigration status in Canada.

- The PNP will not nominate you if:
 - you are prohibited from entering Canada,
 - you have not been lawfully admitted in the country where you currently reside,
 - you are in Canada illegally,
 - you have an unresolved refugee claim in Canada, or
 - you are under a removal order in Canada.

How do I apply?

1. You complete and submit the [application forms](#) to the PNP, along with the processing fee of \$550.
2. We review your application.
3. If we approve your application, we will nominate you for permanent residence. You will then need to apply to [Citizenship and Immigration Canada \(CIC\)](#) for a permanent resident visa. You will have six months from the date of your nomination to apply to CIC.

Learn more

- See the [Education Planner](#) for a list of degree programs offered in B.C.
- See the [Ministry of Advanced Education](#) website for a list of authorized degree programs offered by B.C. private post-secondary institutions.
- Read some [success stories](#) of provincial nominees who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.
- Read answers to our most [frequently asked questions](#) about the Skills Immigration stream.

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Skills Immigration > Entry Level or Semi-Skilled

Skills Immigration - Entry-Level or Semi-Skilled Worker

Please note that this category is not eligible under the Express Entry British Columbia stream.

I work in an entry-level and semi-skilled position

If you are working in an entry-level and semi-skilled position, you may be eligible for the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

You may be eligible in this category if you are currently in B.C. and:

- work in a specified occupation in the tourism/hospitality, long-haul trucking or food processing industry, or
- work in a Skill Level C or D occupation (as defined by the National Occupational Classification), within the Northeast Development Region of the province. Your employer must meet all employer requirements and have an established business within this region.

Am I eligible?

To apply to the PNP as an entry-level and semi-skilled worker, you must have the following:

B.C. work experience.

- You must currently be employed full-time and you must have been employed full-time by your employer in B.C. in an eligible occupation for at least nine consecutive months immediately prior to applying to the PNP. Eligible occupations are divided into three categories:
 - [Tourism and hospitality](#)
 - [Long-haul trucking](#)
 - [Food processing](#)
 - All jobs in Skill Level C or D in the National Occupational Classification (except Live-In Caregivers), if you are working in the [Northeast Development Region](#).
- You must maintain full-time employment with your employer in B.C. throughout both PNP and permanent residence application processes.
- Work experience that is part of a program of study (such as co-op) or obtained using an Off-Campus Work Permit does not qualify.

Entry-Level or Semi-skilled

- ▶ [Tourism and Hospitality](#)
- ▶ [Long-Haul Trucking](#)
- ▶ [Food Processing](#)
- ▶ [National Occupational Classification \(NOC\)](#)
- ▶ [Eligible Employers](#)
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An offer of full-time indeterminate employment from an eligible employer at a wage that will allow you to become economically established in B.C.

- Your employer must provide you with a written offer of employment on official company letterhead. The letter must be:
 - signed and dated by a person authorized to hire employees and
 - signed and dated by you, and stating that you accept the job offer.
- In addition, the offer of employment must state:
 - your job title and duties,
 - your rate of pay,
 - your standard hours of work,
 - that the position is indeterminate and full-time (at least 30 hours per week, year-round),
 - any benefits in addition to those required by law (such as pension and medical plans, disability insurance, sick pay, accommodation and meal allowances, and extra paid vacations), and
 - a reference to the agreement if the position is covered by such agreement.
- Your employer cannot make any deductions from your pay (or require you to pay any fees) for recruitment or retention, including fees related to immigration.
- The wage stated on your offer of employment must be at market rate and comparable to the rate paid to workers with a similar level of experience and training for equivalent jobs in B.C. We do not consider bonuses, commissions, profit-sharing distributions, tips/gratuities, overtime wages or other similar payments to be part of your wage.
- If you were originally hired based on a positive Labour Market Opinion, the wage you are currently earning must be equal to or greater than the wage stated in the offer of employment and on the Labour Market Opinion.
- Your employer also needs to be [eligible for the program](#).

Evidence that you can support yourself (and your dependants).

- You must demonstrate that you have the ability to pay for your housing and living expenses in B.C. We will assess this using your:
 - income and employment prospects,
 - location of residence in B.C.,
 - number of dependants, and
 - English language ability.
- Learn more about how we assess your [minimum income requirements](#).

Completion of secondary education and any licensing or certification required for your job.

- At a minimum, you must have successfully completed secondary education (graduated from high school) either within or outside of Canada. You will need to submit a copy (in English) of your highest-level diploma, certificate, degree, or transcripts.
- You must also meet any regulatory or licensing requirements of your occupation. For example, if you are applying as a long-haul truck driver you must hold a valid BC Class 1 driver's licence with air brake endorsement and any other certification required for the position, such as certification for transporting dangerous goods.

Proficiency in English if you are applying for a Skill Level C or D occupation.

- You must submit a [language proficiency test](#) result showing you have obtained a minimum score equal to or greater than a benchmark 4 under the [Canadian Language Benchmark 2000](#) (CLB) in all four competencies: listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- For the purpose of your PNP application, tests results will be considered valid for the two years from the date the test was taken.
- Have or be eligible for legal immigration status in Canada.
- The PNP will **not** nominate you if:
 - you are prohibited from entering Canada,
 - you have not been lawfully admitted in the country where you currently reside,
 - you are in Canada illegally,
 - you have an unresolved refugee claim in Canada, or
 - you are under a removal order in Canada.

How do I apply?

1. You and your employer complete the [application forms](#).
2. You submit these forms to the PNP, along with the processing fee of \$550.
3. We review your application.
4. If we approve your application, we will nominate you for permanent residence. You will then need to apply to [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) (CIC) for a permanent resident visa. You will have six months from the date of your nomination to apply to CIC.

Learn more

- Read some [success stories](#) of provincial nominees who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.
- Read answers to our most [frequently asked questions](#) about the Skills Immigration stream.

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Skills Immigration > Entry Level or Semi-Skilled

I work in tourism and hospitality

If you work in a specified occupation within the tourism and hospitality sector, you may be eligible for the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

We have listed the eligible occupations below. Please see the [National Occupational Classification](#) for a description of the main duties and employment requirements for each occupation.

Occupations in travel and accommodation

- 6525 Hotel Front Desk Clerks

Tour and recreational guides and casino occupations

- 6531 Tour and Travel Guides
- 6532 Outdoor Sport and Recreational Guides
- 6533 Casino Occupations

Occupations in food and beverage service

- 6511 Maîtres d'hotel and Hosts/Hostesses
- 6512 Bartenders
- 6513 Food and Beverage Servers

Food counter attendants, kitchen helpers and related occupations

- 6711 Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers and Related Occupations

Note: If you are working as a chef or a cook, you must apply under the Skilled Worker category.

Cleaners (employed directly by hotels/resorts)

- 6731 Light Duty Cleaners
- 6732 Specialized Cleaners
- 6733 Janitors, Caretakers and Building Superintendents
- 6721 Support Occupations in Accommodation, Travel and Facilities Set-Up Services

Other service occupations (employed directly by hotels/resorts)

- 6741 Dry Cleaning, Laundry and Related Occupations
- 6742 Other Service Support Occupations

Skills Immigration

- [Categories at-a-glance](#)
- [Skilled Workers](#)
- [Health Care Professionals](#)
- [International Graduates](#)
- [Post-Graduates](#)
- [Entry-Level or Semi-Skilled Workers](#)
- [Northeast Pilot Project](#)
- [Establishing Economically](#)
- [How to Apply](#)
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Entry-Level or Semi-skilled

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Important Information

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I work in long-haul trucking

If you are a long-haul truck driver as defined by the National Occupational Classification, you may be eligible for the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

Please see the [National Occupational Classification](#) for a description of the main duties and employment requirements for this occupation.

Long-haul truck drivers

- [7511 Long-Haul Truck Driver](#)

To qualify in this category, you must meet the eligibility requirements for the [entry-level and semi-skilled worker category](#). You must also:

- have at least two years of employment experience as a long-haul truck driver in the three years before you apply to the PNP,
- have a valid B.C. Class 1 driver's licence,
- have air brake endorsement and, if required, other certification (such as certification for transporting dangerous goods).

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Entry-Level or Semi-skilled

- ▶ [Tourism and Hospitality](#)
- ▶ [Long-haul Trucking](#)
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Immigrate > The BC PNP > Skills Immigration > Entry Level or Semi-Skilled

I work in food processing

If you work in a specified occupation within the food processing sector, you may be eligible for the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

We have listed the eligible occupations below. Please see the [National Occupational Classification](#) for a description of the main duties and employment requirements for each occupation.

- 9461 Process Control and Machine Operators, Food and Beverage Processing
- 9462 Industrial Butchers and Meat Cutters, Poultry Preparers and Related Workers
- 9463 Fish and Seafood Plant Workers
- 9465 Testers and Graders, Food, Beverage and Associated Products Processing
- 9617 Labourers in Food, Beverage and Associated Products Processing
- 9618 Labourers in Fish and Seafood Processing

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Entry-Level or Semi-skilled

- ▶ [Tourism and Hospitality](#)
- ▶ [Long-haul Trucking](#)
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Skills Immigration - Northeast Pilot Project

Please note that this category is not eligible under the Express Entry British Columbia stream.

I work in Northeastern B.C.

Due to the recent rapid growth of the energy sector, the Northeast Development Region of British Columbia has a high demand for workers. In April 2012, the B.C. government launched a two-year pilot project to expand the types of workers eligible for the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) in the Northeast Development Region only. Applications under the Northeast Pilot Project has been extended to March, 31, 2015.

You may be eligible for the PNP if you are currently working in the Northeast Development Region as a temporary foreign worker in any occupation listed as Skill Level C or D in the [National Occupational Classification Matrix](#). These occupations usually require completion of secondary school, occupation-specific training or on-the-job training. The occupations include (but are not limited to) mine service workers, heavy equipment operators, machine operators and retail sales clerks.

If you have a work permit under the federal Live-In Caregiver program, you are not eligible for the PNP as this federal program already provides participants with a pathway to permanent residence.

All other requirements of the [entry-level and semi-skilled worker category](#) remain the same, including:

- nine months of full-time employment with the supporting employer immediately prior to the date of application,
- minimum education,
- English language proficiency, and
- a family income that meets or exceeds the PNP's [income threshold](#).

If you have an offer of permanent full-time employment for a higher-skilled occupation at the [National Occupational Classification](#) Skill Level O, A or B, you may apply to the PNP under the [Skills Immigration Entry-Level and Semi-Skilled Worker category](#).

Skills Immigration

- ▶ [Entry-Level or Semi-Skilled Worker](#)
- ▶ [National Occupational Classification \(NOC\)](#)
- ▶ [Eligible Employers](#)
- ▶ [Minimum income requirements](#)
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Important Information

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The application process

1. **Before you apply, please carefully review all requirements for the PNP program category for which you intend apply.**

2. **Complete your application**

Ensure that all of the required checklist and application forms are complete and signed, if applicable. Be sure to include photocopies of all required supporting documents.

If you are applying under the new Express Entry British Columbia stream, please ensure you have completed the relevant sections of the Nominee Applicant Form.

Please ensure that your application materials are assembled in the order shown on the checklist.

3. **Pay the processing fee**

You must pay a \$550 processing fee if you are applying to the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) through the Skills Immigration or Express Entry British Columbia stream. If you do not submit this fee with your application, we will return your application to you. This fee is non-refundable unless the application is withdrawn prior to being assigned for assessment.

You can pay the fee by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, certified cheque or money order. If paying by certified cheque or money order, it must be made payable to "Minister of Finance." The PNP does not accept payment by personal cheque or cash.

Follow the instructions on the [Fee Payment Form](#).

4. **Send us your application**

Mail your completed application package to:

BC Provincial Nominee Program
800 - 360 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 6B2
Canada

If your application is incomplete or if you have not paid the correct processing fee, we will contact you to provide the missing information. If you do not provide the missing additional information within 15 business days, we will return your application unprocessed.

If you are applying to the PNP under the [Health Care Professional category](#), we encourage you to submit your application directly to [Health Match BC](#).

Skills Immigration

- ▶ [Processing times](#)
- ▶ [Citizenship and Immigration Canada \(CIC\)](#)
- ▶ [Preparing for life in B.C.](#)
- ▶ [Skills Immigration FAQs](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry FAQs](#)
- ▶ [Contact the BC PNP](#)

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5. Acknowledgement of receipt email

When your complete application is received at the PNP office, you will receive an acknowledgement of receipt (AOR) email which contains your official receipt and official PNP file number.

Please note – it may take up to 6 weeks from the date you have submitted your application to receive this email. Please be advised that the PNP will not respond to inquiries about your AOR if it falls within the above processing time.

6. Processing Times

Processing times are estimates only and subject to change without notice.

See here for the most current processing

times:<http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP/About-the-BC-PNP/Processing-Times.aspx>

Please be advised that the PNP will not respond to inquiries about the status of applications.

We will **ONLY** contact you if further information to process your application is required.

Work permit support letters are **NOT** provided during the processing time. See here for more information about the work permit support letter process:

<http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP/Skills-Immigration/How-To-Apply/Work-permit-support.aspx>

As the nominee applicant, you are responsible for maintaining your legal immigration status with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) while your application is in process. If your current work permit is about to expire, you may want to apply for an extension with [Citizenship and Immigration Canada \(CIC\)](#).

7. Decision on the Application

If the application is approved, you are considered to have been “nominated”. See the section below “After You are Nominated” for further information.

If the application is refused, you will receive a letter stating the reasons for the decision. You may re-apply to the PNP at any time, however we recommend that you do so only after all the reasons for a previous refusal have been resolved.

8. After You Are Nominated

Skills Immigration Stream

Once an applicant has been nominated, the PNP will send you (the Nominee) or your Authorized Representative, if applicable, a letter of acceptance and a nomination package advising you of the next steps to submit your application for permanent residence.

After receiving your PNP letter of acceptance, you are responsible for submitting a complete application for permanent residence to the CIC visa office. This must be prior to the expiry date listed on your nomination certificate. The PNP does NOT extend nominations.

If you intend to work in B.C. while waiting for the processing of your permanent residence application, you are responsible to apply for and to keep your work permit valid until you become a permanent resident. Nomination by the PNP does **NOT** authorize you to work legally while awaiting processing of your permanent resident visa without a valid work permit. If required, we may issue you (the Nominee) a work permit support letter which will assist you in applying to CIC for a new or renewed work permit for full-time employment in a specific job with a B.C. employer. For more information, visit <http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP/Skills-Immigration/How-To-Apply/Work-permit-support.aspx>

Express Entry British Columbia Stream

Once a nomination decision has been made on your application, the PNP will nominate you through the Express Entry portal. You will need to accept the nomination through the Express Entry portal within 30 days before you can receive an Invitation To Apply (ITA) for permanent residence.

For more information, please visit [CIC's website](#).

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Minimum Income Requirements

Express Entry British Columbia and Skills Immigration

To be eligible for the PNP's Express Entry British Columbia and Skills Immigration streams, you must demonstrate that you are able to support yourself (and your dependants) according to your:

- income,
- location of residence in B.C., and
- number of dependants.

We have established minimum family income thresholds for the **Metropolitan Vancouver** area and the rest of B.C. Your family must meet the minimum family income threshold for your chosen area of residence.

Family income is the total of:

- your regular gross annual wage from the B.C. employer supporting your PNP application, and, if applicable,
- your spouse or common-law partner's regular gross annual wage in B.C. from work authorized under a valid work permit.

In calculating your family income, we will only consider regular gross annual wages. We do not consider bonuses, commissions, profit-sharing distributions, tips/gratuities, overtime wages or other similar payments to be part of your wage.

Your spouse's annual wage will only be included in the family income calculation if your spouse or common-law partner has a valid work permit and is currently employed in B.C. In the table below, you will see that we include the size of your family unit (your spouse or common-law partner and dependants, whether they come with you to live in B.C. or not), to determine if you meet the minimum family income threshold for your area of residence.

Skills Immigration

- ▶ [Working in Canada](#)
- ▶ [Eligible Employers](#)
- ▶ [Skills Immigration FAQs](#)
- ▶ [Express Entry FAQs](#)
- ▶ [Newcomers' Guide](#)
- ▶ [Contact the BC PNP](#)

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Size of Family	Family Income Threshold by Area of residence	
	Metropolitan Vancouver	Rest of B.C.
1	\$21,282	\$17,738
2	\$26,496	\$22,081

3	\$32,574	\$27,146
4	\$39,548	\$32,960
5	\$44,855	\$37,382
6	\$50,588	\$42,161
7 or more	\$56,323	\$46,940

The income thresholds in this table represent 90% of an amount calculated from the appropriate Low-Income Cut-Off (LICO) figures set for 2012 by Statistics Canada. This table will be updated regularly to reflect the latest published LICO figures.

Express Entry British Columbia stream only

Under the Express Entry British Columbia stream, you may have to show that you meet the minimum proof of settlement funds criteria of one of the federal economic immigration programs subject to Express Entry.

Please carefully review [CIC's website for detailed information on when proof of settlement funds](#) are required under Express Entry. Requirements for settlement funds differ across the federal economic immigration programs for which applicants may be eligible.

All Express Entry British Columbia applicants are required to meet the BC PNP minimum income requirements outlined above.

Please note that in some circumstances, applicants under the Express Entry British Columbia stream will have to meet the PNP's income requirements outlined above as well as Express Entry's requirement for proof of settlement funds.

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Do I meet the minimum language requirements?

Express Entry British Columbia stream

Under the Express Entry British Columbia stream, you will have to **meet the minimum language criteria of one of the federal economic programs.**

You must show that you meet the minimum language requirements for the federal category under which you are eligible and provide your **language test results** from an agency designated by CIC.

Your language test results must be less than two years old on the day that CIC receives your complete application for permanent residence.

Skills Immigration stream

If you are applying to the Skills Immigration stream with on a job offer in a **National Occupational Classification** Skill Level O, A or B occupation, you do not need to submit language test results.

If you are applying to the Skills Immigration stream with on a job offer in a **National Occupational Classification** Skill Level C or D occupation (the entry-level or semi-skilled or international graduate categories), you must demonstrate language proficiency.

As part of your application to the PNP, you must submit a language proficiency test result showing you have obtained a minimum score equal to or greater than a benchmark 4 under the **Canadian Language Benchmark 2000 (CLB)** in all four competencies: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

A benchmark score of 4 is considered "Basic Proficiency" and means that you can:

- communicate basic needs and personal experience,
- follow, with considerable effort, simple formal and informal conversations,
- read a simple set of instructions in plain language, and
- write short messages, postcards, notes or directions.

Your application to the PNP must include valid results from one of the following language proficiency tests administered by a designated testing agency:

Skills Immigration

- ▶ **Entry-Level or Semi-Skilled Worker**
- ▶ **Northeast Pilot Project**
- ▶ **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**
- ▶ **Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program (CELPIP)**
- ▶ **Study English as a Second Language (ESL)**
- ▶ **Skills Immigration FAQs**
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- the [International English Language Testing System \(IELTS\) General Training](#), or
- the [Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program \(CELPIP-General\)](#).
- the [Test d'évaluation de français \(TEF\)](#)

Test results are valid for two years from the date the test was issued.

The following table shows the minimum scores required in each of the designated tests:

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
IELTS	4.5	3.5	4.0	4.0
CELPIP	4	4	4	4
TEF	145	233	349	181

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Important Information

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Work Permit Support

How to obtain a work permit support letter

You will need a valid work permit to work in B.C. CIC is responsible for issuing work permits. If you do not have a work permit, or if your work permit has expired (or is about to expire), and you intend to work or continue working in B.C., you will need to apply to CIC for a work permit.

We will only accept requests for work permit support letters if ALL of the following are met:

- you have been nominated by the BC PNP, and
- you have submitted your application for permanent residence to CIC within the six-month period after you have been nominated, and
- you continue to meet the conditions under which you were nominated, and
- your current work permit expires within 120 days.

The BC PNP cannot apply for a work permit on your behalf. You must apply to CIC for your own work permit and include the PNP work permit support letter with your application.

To obtain a work permit support letter, please submit your request to PNPInfo@gov.bc.ca with the subject line: Work Permit Support Letter Request.

Within your email request, include:

- your full name,
- your date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY) e.g. 01 JAN 1981
- your Provincial Nominee File Number,
- an attached scanned copy of pay stubs for the last two pay periods,
- an attached scanned copy of your current work permit, and
- verification you have submitted your application for permanent residence to CIC within the six-month period after you have been nominated.

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Skills Immigration - Frequently asked questions

We've included some of the most common questions asked about the Skills Immigration stream of the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP). If you can't find the information you are looking for, you can always [contact us](#) directly.

FAQs for workers

1. What are the advantages of the PNP?

The PNP offers the following benefits:

- Under the Express Entry British Columbia stream, qualifying applicants will receive priority processing of their PNP application, and if nominated, permanent residency application.
- We assess each application on a case-by-case basis.
- You can apply to the PNP if you work in any occupation classified as Skill Level 0, A or B by the [National Occupational Classification](#), as well as select entry-level and semi-skilled occupations.
- You do not require British Columbia work experience (unless you are applying in the [entry-level and semi-skilled worker category](#)).
- If you are an international student who has graduated from a Canadian university or public college, you do not require prior work experience. In the international graduate category of the [Skills Immigration](#) stream, you can apply to the PNP immediately after you complete your graduation requirements.
- PNP staff are available to provide ongoing support after you have been nominated. This includes providing a work permit support letter so you can apply for a temporary work permit without requiring your employer to apply for a Labour Market Impact Assessment.

2. What is Express Entry and how does it impact the PNP?

- Express Entry British Columbia is a new stream under the PNP. This new stream allows PNP to use CIC's Express Entry system to meet BC's specific labour market needs.
- The new Express Entry British Columbia stream of the PNP will help BC meet the need for skilled workers. It will result in faster and more efficient processing for eligible skilled immigrants and significantly reduce their application processing time. Applications that are eligible for one of the PNP's Express Entry British Columbia categories will receive priority processing of their PNP application, and if nominated, permanent residency application.
- More information about Express Entry British Columbia can be found [here](#).

3. What occupations are eligible under the PNP?

Skills Immigration

- ▶ [Find a job](#)
- ▶ [National Occupational Classification \(NOC\)](#)
- ▶ [Occupational Guides for Foreign Trained Professionals](#)
- ▶ [Working in Canada](#)
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The PNP considers all skilled occupations classified as Skill Level 0, A or B by the [National Occupational Classification](#), as well as select [entry-level or semi-skilled occupations](#) in tourism/hospitality, food processing, and long-haul trucking.

4. I don't have a job offer from a B.C. employer. Can I still apply to the PNP?

You can only apply to the PNP without a job offer if you are applying as an international student with a master's or doctoral degree from a B.C. university in the natural, applied or health sciences under the [Express Entry British Columbia](#) or [Skills Immigration](#) stream.

All other categories of the worker stream of the PNP require you to have a job offer. If you are applying in these categories, you must have a full-time and indeterminate job offer in a high-demand occupation.

5. How do I get a work permit?

You need a valid work permit to work in B.C. To obtain a temporary work permit, you will need to apply to CIC.

If we nominate you for permanent residence, we can provide you with a [work permit support letter](#) that will make it easier for you to obtain or extend a work permit from CIC for full-time employment with a B.C. employer.

6. Can you review my resume and qualifications and let me know if I am eligible for nomination before I submit an application? Can you tell me which category I should apply under?

We cannot pre-assess your qualifications or recommend which category you should apply under. It is up to you to decide whether you meet the requirements of the program and which category best matches your experience and skills. Please remember that the PNP is an employer-driven program, and as such, you must have a job offer from a B.C. employer before you apply.

7. Where can I look to find a job in Canada?

The following [resources](#) can help you with your job search.

8. Do I need a third-party representative to apply to the PNP?

You do not need a third-party representative to submit an application to the PNP. Applications prepared with the assistance of an authorized representative are assessed using the same criteria and do not receive any special attention. If you have questions about the application process, a [PNP advisor](#) is available to help you during business hours. If you are planning to use a third-party representative, please see the [using a representative](#) section for further information.

9. What if my employer does not want to support me with my PNP application?

With one exception for international post graduates, all applicants to the PNP require the support of an employer. This means that your employer must provide you with an indeterminate full-time job offer, submit an application form and supporting documentation, and meet specific [eligibility criteria](#).

If your employer would like to learn more about the PNP, you may refer them to our website or suggest that they [contact us](#) directly and we can answer their questions.

One application category does not require an employer's support for an application. This is for international students who have completed a master's or doctoral program from a B.C. university in the natural, applied or health sciences under the [Express Entry British Columbia](#) or [Skills Immigration](#) stream. These applicants are not required to have a job offer.

10. How much does it cost to apply to the PNP?

If you are applying as a worker to the PNP, you must include a \$550 processing fee with your application, payable to 'Minister of Finance' by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, money order or certified cheque ONLY. The PNP does not accept payment by personal cheque or cash. See [fees](#) for more information.

11. What happens to my application once I submit it to the PNP?

Once you submit your application to the PNP, we will process your payment, assign you a file number and notify you by email that we have received your application. A PNP advisor will then assess your application and will notify you if we require more information to process your application. You will have 15 business days to provide this information.

A PNP advisor will review your complete application and decide whether you meet the BC PNP criteria. If your application is approved, you are nominated for permanent residence.

We will send you a written notice of our decision and provide instructions on what steps you need to take to apply for a permanent resident visa from CIC.

12. If the PNP nominates me for permanent residence, am I entitled to work in B.C.?

No. Being nominated for permanent residence by the PNP does NOT provide you with the legal status to work in B.C. It is your responsibility to obtain and maintain legal working status.

However, if you are nominated for permanent residence, the PNP can provide you with a [work permit support letter](#) that will help you obtain or extend an existing work permit.

13. If I am nominated by the PNP, does this mean I have been approved for permanent resident status?

No. Being nominated for permanent residence by the PNP does NOT mean you have been granted permanent resident status. Once you are nominated, you must submit a separate application for permanent residence to CIC under the Provincial Nominee Class, who will decide whether to grant you a permanent resident visa.

14. What if there is a change in my employment (i.e. I am promoted, laid off, terminated or take a new job) after I've been nominated?

After you are nominated for permanent residence by the PNP, both you and your employer are responsible for advising us of any changes in your employment. This includes a promotion, lay off, termination or a potential new job with a new employer. In each of these cases, you are required to inform a PNP advisor of the change in your employment and he or she will inform you of any implications. Please note that failing to inform us of a change in your employment status could lead us to withdraw your nomination or could result in questions from CIC when they process your application for permanent residency.

14. What if the PNP does not approve my application?

If your application to the PNP is refused, we will send you a letter letting you know of our decision and the reasons for it. If you and your employer are able to resolve all the reasons that your application was initially refused, you and your employer may re-apply to the PNP in the future.

The PNP is only one way of applying for permanent resident status in Canada. See the [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) website for further information.

15. What if my employer is not meeting the terms and conditions of my employment contract or offer?

All employers must demonstrate good workplace and business practices, including compliance with employment, immigration, health and safety laws and regulations. If you are concerned about your rights and responsibilities as a foreign worker, please refer to the information on [employment standards for foreign workers](#).

FAQs for employers

1. What if I only want to hire a foreign worker for a temporary rather than indeterminate position?

The PNP is an immigration program intended for employers who wish to hire and retain employees for indeterminate employment within their company in B.C. This will eventually lead towards permanent resident status for the employee. The PNP does not approve applications if the intent of employment is temporary in nature. If you want to hire an employee for a temporary period only, we encourage you to explore the other options available to you through [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#).

2. Do I need to treat employees that are applying to the PNP any differently from my other employees?

No. Your obligations to employees applying to the PNP include providing the employee with an indeterminate full-time job offer (that is, a job offer without an end date), submitting an application form and supporting documentation, and meeting specific [eligibility criteria](#).

3. What are my obligations after submitting an application to the PNP?

As an employer applicant to the PNP, you may be required to provide us with additional information to confirm your company's eligibility. You are also responsible for advising us of any changes to the employment status of any nominees for your company.

4. Why does the PNP assess an employer's 'history and operations'?

The PNP must be satisfied that an employer has the financial viability to offer indeterminate and full-time employment to the nominee applicant. For further information on the factors assessed, please refer to the section on [eligible employers](#).

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Immigrate > The BC PNP > Business Immigration

Business Immigration

There is currently no Express Entry British Columbia option under the Business Immigration stream.

I want to invest in and manage a business in B.C.

British Columbia is one of North America's most dynamic places to do business. Entrepreneurs benefit from our strategic location, low taxes, competitive operating costs and a multicultural workforce that is well educated, highly skilled and productive.

If you are an entrepreneur ready to invest in and actively manage a business in the province, you may be eligible for the BC Provincial Nominee Program's (PNP) Business Immigration stream. This stream accelerates the permanent residence application process for individuals who can establish themselves in B.C. and develop a business that will provide significant economic benefits to the province. To qualify, you must meet specific personal net worth thresholds, make a minimum investment in an eligible business, be actively involved in the daily management of the business, and create one or more new jobs for Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Please note that meeting the minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee approval.

The Business Immigration application process has two phases:

- In phase one, you sign a performance agreement and are initially supported for a two-year work permit.
- In phase two, you arrive in B.C. on the work permit, establish and actively manage your business, and complete the investment and job-creation requirements.

Applicants are nominated by the BC PNP for Permanent Residence in Canada only when they satisfy the terms of their performance agreement.

You can apply to the PNP as a business immigrant in one of three categories as described below. Each category has specific requirements.

The **Entrepreneur category** is the best choice if:

- You would like to start or purchase and expand a business anywhere in B.C.
- You have a personal net worth of at least \$800,000.
- You intend to invest at least \$400,000 in (and acquire at least one-third equity ownership of) the business.
- You can commit to creating at least three new jobs for Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

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- You would like to propose one key staff member on your application.

The **Regional Entrepreneur** category is the best choice if:

- You would like to start or purchase and expand a business outside of the Vancouver and Abbotsford metropolitan areas.
- You have a personal net worth of at least \$400,000.
- You intend to invest at least \$200,000 in (and acquire at least one-third equity ownership of) the business.
- You can commit to creating at least one new job for a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

The **Strategic Projects** category is the best choice if:

- Your company is interested in setting up a B.C.-based operation (such as a branch office or subsidiary) anywhere in the province.
- Your company intends to make an equity investment of at least \$500,000 in the business.
- You would like to propose up to five key staff members on the application and you can commit to create at least three new jobs for each key staff member.

The **Regional Business Succession Option** is a good choice if you intend to purchase and manage an existing B.C. business. This option applies to all business immigration categories where the business is located outside of the Vancouver and Abbotsford metropolitan areas. This category offers priority processing and includes reduced job creation requirements.

Farming Businesses Only

Applications proposing agricultural activities must include a feasibility assessment of the proposed business prepared by a consultant from the List of Eligible Consultants approved by the Ministry of Agriculture under its **B.C. Farm Business Advisory Services Program**.

Read more about the **criteria** required to apply under these categories.

You may wish to explore other options for immigrating to Canada. Visit **Citizenship and Immigration Canada's website** to read about federal business immigration options.

How does the program work?

We have included a simplified overview of the application process below.

1. We strongly encourage you to make an exploratory visit to B.C. to learn more about opportunities and the local business environment before you submit your application.
2. You submit all application forms, along with the required fees, to the PNP office.
3. We assess your application against program criteria and may follow up with specific questions or ask for more information.
4. If your application passes our initial assessment, we will ask you to attend an in-person interview in Vancouver to discuss your application and make a final decision.
5. If we approve your application, you must sign a Performance Agreement. It describes the type of business you intend to invest in and manage, the breakdown of your total investment, the number of jobs you intend to create, and other milestones associated with your business proposal.
6. We will issue you a work permit support letter so you can apply to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for a two-year work permit. This will enable you and your dependants to move to B.C. so you can start implementing your business plan.
7. Within the designated timelines, you notify the PNP of your arrival in B.C. and submit proof that you have transferred the required funds for your investment.
8. You implement your business plan. When you have met the conditions of the Performance Agreement, you submit a final report to the PNP.
9. The PNP reviews your final report and, if you have satisfied the conditions of the Performance Agreement, nominates you (and your eligible dependants and, if applicable, key staff members) for permanent residence.
10. We will issue you a nomination certificate that you will include with your application for permanent residence (and those of your spouse, eligible dependent children and, if applicable, key staff members) to CIC. If CIC approves your application, you will be issued a permanent resident visa to live and work in Canada.

You are responsible for demonstrating that your application meets the program criteria. Please carefully review the **application categories** as well as the specific pages on each category for

additional details on the process.

Learn More

Learn about the different requirements of each [application category](#).

Read more about the [application process](#) and [processing times](#). Learn about the [next steps](#) if we approve your application.

Watch [videos](#) and [read success stories](#) of PNP entrepreneurs who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.

Learn more about [B.C. regions](#).

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Immigrate > The BC PNP > Business Immigration > Categories at a glance

Business immigration

Categories at a Glance

You can apply to the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) as a business immigrant in three different categories, each with its own criteria and requirements. The Regional Business Succession Option is an alternative to consider if you wish to purchase an existing business outside of the Vancouver or Abbotsford metropolitan areas.

Please note that the outline below illustrates the minimum program criteria. See the specific program requirements for each category to find out if you are eligible.

	Entrepreneur	Regional Entrepreneur	Strategic Projects
Place of business	Anywhere in B.C. (including Vancouver and Abbotsford)	Outside of Vancouver and Abbotsford	Anywhere in B.C. (including Vancouver and Abbotsford)
Minimum investment in a business	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$500,000
Job creation requirements (Full-time or full-time equivalents)	Three new jobs	One new job	Three new jobs for each key staff member proposed
Personal net worth	\$800,000	\$400,000	Not applicable, but must demonstrate a record of good business practices and successful business operations

Business Immigration

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Ability to propose a key staff member?	Yes. The principal applicant can propose one key staff member in the application.	No	Yes. Up to five.
Regional Business Succession Option Available?	<p>Available for all categories, but the proposed business must be located outside of the Vancouver and Abbotsford metropolitan areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If applying through the Regional Entrepreneur category, there are no additional job creation requirements if you commit to maintain the current full-time equivalent workforce of Canadian citizens or permanent residents. There must be at least one full-time equivalent employee in the business.• If applying through the Entrepreneur or Strategic Projects categories, the job creation requirements are reduced by one for each existing job maintained for the full-time equivalent workforce of Canadian citizens or permanent residents. There must be at least three full-time equivalent employees in the business.		

Learn more

Read about the eligibility criteria in the [Entrepreneur](#) and [Regional Entrepreneur](#) and [Strategic Projects](#) categories and see if the [Regional Business Succession](#) Option applies to you.

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Business Immigration > Eligible Businesses

Eligible Businesses

The B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) will only consider applications to establish or purchase and expand a business that contributes to the economic growth of our province.

What types of businesses are eligible?

The business must:

- Be operated for the primary purpose of earning profits by providing products and/or services.
- Have strong potential for sustained commercial success.
- Have the potential to create significant economic benefits for British Columbia, such as by:
 - increasing value-added manufacturing or processing, exports, destination tourism, R&D and technology commercialization,
 - developing innovative approaches to traditional businesses,
 - transferring technology and specialized knowledge to B.C.,
 - providing products or services to an under-served local or regional market, or
 - enabling the purchase of an existing B.C. business.

In addition, the PNP will only consider the purchase of an existing franchise as an eligible business if it includes an expansion plan that is consistent with franchisor requirements.

What types of businesses are not eligible?

We will not approve an application if the proposed business does not have the potential to be commercially successful in British Columbia. In addition, the following types of businesses are not eligible:

- Bed and breakfasts, hobby farms and home-based businesses
- Pay day loan, cheque cashing, money changing and cash machine businesses
- Pawnbrokers
- Scrap metal recycling
- Coin-operated laundries
- Automated car wash operations
- Businesses selling used goods (excluding collectibles, or businesses that provide value-added services such as repairs, refurbishing or recycling)
- Real estate development/brokerage, insurance brokerage or business brokerage
- Businesses involved in producing, distributing or selling pornography or sexually explicit products or services, or providing sexually oriented services
- Any other type of business that by association would tend to bring the BC PNP or the Government of British Columbia into disrepute.

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We will also not consider applications for the following types of businesses in the [Vancouver metropolitan area](#) or the [Abbotsford metropolitan area](#):

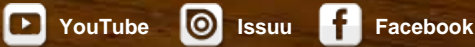
- Convenience stores
- DVD rental stores
- Gasoline service stations
- Personal dry cleaning services

Learn more

We encourage you to review the [Opportunities BC](#) online database for potential business opportunities across the province. Please note that the PNP does not make any recommendations or endorsements about these business opportunities and be advised that PNP business immigration applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis against all program criteria.

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Immigrate > The BC PNP > Business Immigration > Entrepreneur

Entrepreneur

If you are applying under the Entrepreneur category, please review the criteria below.

Am I eligible?

To apply to the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) in the Entrepreneur category, you must have the following:

- Business experience as a senior manager or business owner.
- A viable business proposal that will bring significant economic benefits to the province.
- The financial ability to invest in a business.
 - You, and, if applicable, your spouse, must have a personal or combined net worth of at least \$800,000 obtained from legal sources. **You must provide documentation to support the net worth reported in your application.**
- Have or be eligible for legal immigration status in Canada.
 - We will not accept your application if:
 - you are prohibited from entering Canada,
 - you have not been lawfully admitted in the country where you currently reside,
 - you are in Canada illegally,
 - you have an unresolved refugee claim in Canada, or
 - you are under a removal order in Canada.

What are the requirements?

If we approve your application, you will be required to:

- Make a minimum investment of \$400,000 to establish, or purchase and expand an eligible business.
- Hold at least one-third ownership in the proposed business in B.C.
- Sign a Performance Agreement with the province.
- Create a minimum of three jobs for Canadians or permanent residents.
- Be actively involved in the daily management and direction of the proposed business in B.C.

Can I bring a key staff member to B.C.?

Yes, your application can include one foreign key staff member whose expertise is essential to the success of your business. Typically, this key staff member will have worked with you in a senior position over a number of years and have a unique skill set. We will only provide a work permit support letter for a key staff member for a temporary work permit if you can demonstrate

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that a Canadian or permanent resident would not be able to take on the proposed role. The staff member will also be eligible to be nominated for permanent residence if your business meets the terms of your Performance Agreement.

Learn more

- Read more about the [application process](#) and [processing times](#).
- Learn about the [next steps](#) if we approve your application.
- Read about the [Regional Business Succession](#) Option for purchasing and expanding an existing business.
- Watch [videos](#) and [read success stories](#) of BC PNP entrepreneurs who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Business Immigration > How to Apply

The application process

Complete your application

Please see the Business Immigration Application Checklists for detailed information on how to complete the required application forms.

Once you have completed all the application forms, you should carefully review them to make sure you have filled in all required information, signed the forms in the correct places and attached photocopies of all supporting documents.

Pay the processing fee

If you are applying to the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) through the Entrepreneur, Regional Entrepreneur or Strategic Projects categories, you must pay a \$3,000 non-refundable processing fee.

In addition, if you are applying under the Entrepreneur or Strategic Projects categories and you are proposing a key staff member or members, you must pay an additional \$1,000 processing fee for each key staff member included in the application.

We will not accept an application if the fee amount or type of payment is incorrect, or if your application is incomplete.

You can pay the fee by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, certified cheque or money order. If paying by certified cheque or money order, it must be made payable to the "Minister of Finance." The PNP does not accept payment by personal cheque or cash.

Send us your application

Mail, courier or drop off your completed application package to:

BC Provincial Nominee Program
800 - 360 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 6B2
Canada

We will screen your application to ensure it is complete. We may contact you to request any missing or incomplete documentation prior to issuing you a file number. If you do not provide the missing additional information within 15 business days, we will return your application unprocessed.

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If the application is complete, we will email you an official receipt and file number.

We recommend that you send your application package by registered mail or courier so that you can track your package and ensure it was delivered.

Next steps

A Program Advisor will review and assess your application. The timing of this process depends on the volume of applications received and their priority. Applications that demonstrate greater potential to create significant economic benefits for British Columbia will receive priority processing.

As part of our initial review process, we may ask you to provide additional information.

If your application passes our initial screening, we will ask you to attend an in-person interview in Vancouver.

Once we have made a decision about the application, we will notify you in writing of our decision. Decisions on applications are final.

Learn more

Find out about the process [after your application is approved](#).

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Immigrate > The BC PNP > Business Immigration > How to Apply > Exploratory Visits

Visit B.C. to learn about business opportunities

As a successful entrepreneur, you know that it's important to have an in-depth understanding of all the variables that impact a business. That's why we encourage you to make an exploratory visit to B.C. before you submit your application to the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP). If you are applying under our [Regional Business Succession Option](#), this exploratory visit is mandatory.

Your visit will allow you to:

- investigate and evaluate potential business opportunities,
- make local business contacts,
- attend a PNP [Business Immigration Seminar](#), and
- learn more about what it's like to live and work in B.C., gaining a better understanding of our health care and education programs, housing, culture, recreation opportunities and lifestyle.

Online resources

Before you visit, you will also want to explore the following online resources to learn more about our province:

Welcome BC: Learn about living, investing, working and studying in B.C. as an immigrant to Canada.

Small Business BC: This resource centre has information, products, services and support for entrepreneurs at every stage of business development.

Trade and Invest BC: Learn about the many opportunities to invest in high growth businesses, discover B.C.'s innovation clusters, connect to B.C.'s businesses and communities, and explore B.C.'s unique lifestyle.

Opportunities BC: An online searchable database of business and project opportunities suitable for foreign investment.

BC Regions Overview: Learn about B.C.'s distinct regions, including economic profiles, community information and more.

Visitor Information: British Columbia's official tourism website, with suggestions on things to see and do, places to stay and information on how to get around.

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Visa Requirements for Visitors: Check to see if your country of origin is included on the list of those countries whose citizens need a temporary resident visa to visit Canada.

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Business Immigration > How to Apply > Business Immigration FAQs

Frequently asked questions

We've included some of the most common questions asked about the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP). If you can't find the information you are looking for, you can always [Ask the Expert](#) or [contact us](#) directly.

1. How long is the review process?

Applications that demonstrate greater potential to create significant economic benefits for B.C. will receive priority processing. See the [Processing Times](#) page for the current average processing time.

2. I have a business plan. Can the PNP review it before I submit a formal application?

No. The PNP cannot comment on the eligibility of your business plan or the likelihood of whether we will approve you as a nominee candidate and support your work permit before assessing your formal application. We require that you submit all forms and documentation to determine if you meet the program requirements.

3. Can the PNP refer me to business brokers and specific opportunities in the province?

We cannot recommend business brokers or pre-approve or vet business applications. This includes the business opportunities listed in the [Opportunities BC](#) database, which may or may not meet our [business eligibility requirements](#).

4. Are there any types of businesses preferred by the PNP?

We do not provide any advice on preferred types of businesses. Each application is individually assessed based on the applicant's background, transferrable skill set and the commercial viability of the business concept/existing business.

5. If the business I want to invest in requires less than the minimum personal investment, is this business eligible?

If the business you want to invest in requires less than the minimum personal investment requirement, you must make up the shortfall by investing in other eligible investments such as expansions or improvements to the business. You must demonstrate the viability and long-term stability of the initial investment in the business and any improvements or expansion plans.

6. I am buying an existing business in B.C. What part of the total purchase price can I include towards the PNP's minimum personal investment requirement?

The minimum personal investment requirements in the business are:

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- At least \$400,000 for applicants to the Entrepreneur category; or
- At least \$200,000 for applicants to the Regional Entrepreneur category.

If you are purchasing an existing business in B.C., the PNP will consider the lesser of the total purchase price of the existing B.C. business or two-thirds (66.666%) of your minimum personal investment. The remaining amount of your personal investment must go towards upgrading, expanding or improving the business.

For example, if you are purchasing an existing business for \$1,000,000 CAD under the Regional Entrepreneur category, the BC PNP will only consider \$133,333 as an eligible investment (66.666% x \$200,000). You must invest at least an additional \$66,667 to upgrade or expand the business. Your total investment will be \$1,066,667 or more.

In another scenario, if you are purchasing an existing business for \$100,000 CAD under the Regional Entrepreneur category, the BC PNP will consider the entire \$100,000 as an eligible investment (the lesser of two-thirds of the minimum personal investment or the total purchase price). You must then invest at least an additional \$100,000 to upgrade or expand the business. Your total investment will be \$200,000 or more.

Finally, if you are purchasing an existing business for \$500,000 CAD under the Entrepreneur category, the BC PNP will only consider \$266,666 as an eligible investment (66.666% x \$400,000). You must invest at least an additional \$133,334 to upgrade or expand the business. Your total investment will be \$633,334 or more.

7. What is the difference between the Regional Business Succession Option and just purchasing an existing business?

The Regional Business Succession Option is intended to support business transitions for retiring small business owners in communities outside of the Vancouver and Abbotsford metropolitan areas. The [Regional Business Succession Option](#) only applies to businesses outside the [Vancouver](#) and [Abbotsford](#) metropolitan areas and it represents a complete purchase and complete takeover of an existing business.

8. How do I calculate my personal net worth?

You calculate your personal net worth by subtracting you and your spouse or common-law partner's liabilities (including mortgages and personal debts) from the current market value of you and your spouse's assets including:

- assets in bank accounts,
- fixed (term) deposits
- real property,
- investments in bonds, stocks and mutual funds,
- investments in one or more businesses, and
- pensions and other assets.

The [Citizenship and Immigration Canada form Schedule 4A – Personal Net Worth](#) includes details about how to calculate personal net worth. The PNP will review and confirm your personal net worth calculation in our evaluation of your application.

9. My wealth is closely tied to that of my family. Can I include my family's assets in my personal net worth?

Declared net worth must be in your name or your spouse's name. You must provide details of your net worth in the Citizenship and Immigration Canada form [Schedule 4A – Personal Net Worth](#). You must have clear title to any real estate holdings and business ownership. You will be asked to provide supporting documentation of your and your spouse's respective ownership, or percentage ownership, positions on the property, as well as equity amounts based on current market values less outstanding mortgages or other encumbrances. Future inheritances cannot be counted towards your personal net worth, and the share of business or property ownership must be supported by legal documents, such as deeds, shareholder agreements, etc.

10. Do I need to meet any language proficiency requirements?

We do not currently require applicants in the Business Immigrant stream to meet language proficiency requirements. However, fluency in English is important for business success in B.C.

Your application should inform us of your plans to address any language barriers. This could include current or planned language training, participation in immigrant service provider mentorship programs, partnerships with other businesses, hiring key staff members, and connections in the community where the business operates.

11. Once I apply, how long will it take for me to obtain permanent residence?

The length of time to obtain permanent residence depends on the following factors:

- The PNP's current [processing times](#). Applications that demonstrate greater potential to create significant economic benefits for British Columbia, especially in regions outside of the [Vancouver](#) and [Abbotsford](#) metropolitan areas, will receive priority processing. See the [PNP Processing Times](#) page for current average processing times.
- The time required to satisfy the requirements of your Performance Agreement.
- CIC's processing times for permanent residence applications. Please see the [CIC website](#) for an estimate of current processing times.

12. Does the PNP have age limits for applicants?

No. The PNP does not have age limits or give preferential consideration to specific age groups. We assess each application individually on its own merits and based on our program criteria. Applicants must demonstrate their ability to effectively manage and operate their proposed business.

13. If my application is approved, do I have to stay in B.C. until I am nominated for permanent residence by the PNP?

The PNP is designed to support business entrepreneurs that have a legitimate, long-term intention to contribute to the B.C. economy. We do not have a minimum number of days you must reside in B.C. while you are on your PNP supported work permit. We understand that you may need to return to your country of origin for brief periods to visit family and conduct business, but the majority of your time should be directed to operating your B.C. business.

Keep in mind that our expectation is that you are actively managing your business and have an on-site senior management role that is evident on a day to day basis. PNP Program Advisors will evaluate your active involvement in the business when you submit your Final Report and consider this to determine whether to nominate you for permanent residence.

14. I would like to make a business trip to B.C. to investigate opportunities. Can you provide me with an invitation letter to support my application for a temporary resident visa?

The PNP does not issue temporary resident visa support letters for interviews and exploratory visits. Our applicants are generally able to demonstrate to the CIC visa office that they are legitimate business travellers conducting research and attending meetings. While you are visiting the province, you may want to consider attending one of our [Business immigration seminars](#), held every two weeks in Vancouver.

15. I would like my vice-president to join me in B.C. because I feel that he would contribute greatly to the success of my new business. How can I arrange for this?

If you apply in the Entrepreneur category you can propose one key staff member and if you apply in the Strategic Projects category you can propose up to five key staff members as part of your application. You must demonstrate that the key staff member is essential to the business in B.C. It is expected that the key staff member has a unique skill set and/or technical background that is not readily available in the local labour market in B.C. Typically, a level of trust exists between the key staff member and the principal applicant, often as a result of a long-term working relationship.

If you are proposing a key staff member in your application, you must clearly define the senior management role of the key staff member and outline his or her work experience. The key staff member must submit specific application forms, including supporting documentation ([see checklist](#)), and he or she must attend the in-person interview with the principal applicant. If accepted, the PNP will issue the key staff member a work permit support letter to apply to CIC for a work permit. He or she will be included with the principal applicant in the assessment for nomination completed after submitting the Final Report.

16. I submitted an immigration application to another province, but have not heard back from them. Can I also submit an application to the PNP?

Yes, you can submit an application to us. However, if the PNP approves your application, you must withdraw all other applications with provincial government(s) and/or CIC. Before you sign your Performance Agreement, we will ask you to provide proof that you have requested withdrawal from the other program(s). Once we approve your application, our expectation is that you are committed to settling in B.C.

17. Are my children eligible as dependants?

The PNP follows CIC's definition of an eligible dependant. Eligible dependants are a spouse, common-law partner or dependent child of a provincial nominee. For the purpose of the application for permanent residence, a dependent child must meet certain conditions, including age and marital status. Please see [CIC's website](#) for more details.

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Business Immigration Seminars

Attend a business immigration seminar

Would you like to learn more about investing in and managing a business and immigrating to B.C.?

The BC PNP Business Immigration Seminars are held in Vancouver twice a month. This is a valuable opportunity for you to learn more about B.C.'s economy and the PNP Business Immigration process.

The seminars cover a range of topics, including:

- B.C.'s economy and regions
- The Business Immigration process
- Running a business in B.C.
- Settling in B.C.

Program staff are available to answer your questions and explain program criteria.

To see the available dates for upcoming PNP Business Immigration Seminars, please click on the registration link highlighted below.

How do I register?

ALERT: Please read carefully to understand the new registration process for the business seminars.

- Registration for the seminars is now a two-step process.
- **Step 1:** You must register online following [this link](http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2014/BusinessSeminar.asp): www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2014/BusinessSeminar.asp
- **Step 2:** Complete the fee payment form that appears after completing Step 1 and submit it to [the PNP](#) within 5 business days. If payment is not recieved within 5 business days, your spot will not be held. Duplicate forms will not be processed.
- Once your fee payment form has been processed, you will receive a confirmation email that includes details of the seminar. Please allow a minimum of 5 business days for your payment to be processed.
- You must register for the seminar you plan to attend using the online system and pay the fee in advance; registrations will NOT be processed at the event.
- The registration confirmation allows entrance to the prospective applicant and one other person only.
- Registrations are non-transferrable.

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Fees are non-refundable.

- If you have already registered for a seminar and are unable to attend, you must re-register and pay the seminar fee again. Rescheduling is NOT permitted.
- Once a seminar date is full, no further registrations will be taken. A waitlist will not be created.
- Registrants must provide passport photo identification to enter the event.
- The use of recording devices, such as cameras, phone cameras, video recorders and voice recorders is not permitted during the seminar.
- Please plan to arrive 30 minutes before the seminar begins.

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Business Immigration > How to Apply > Post-application process

From application approval to nomination

If we approve your application, you will need to satisfy the terms of your Performance Agreement before we will nominate you for permanent residence.

Sign a Performance Agreement

If your application is approved, you will sign a Performance Agreement with the Province. This document outlines the terms and conditions you must satisfy as you establish your business, including:

- investment amounts and timelines,
- business establishment and operation timelines,
- the number and type of positions to be created for Canadians or permanent residents,
- implementation steps (such as purchasing or leasing buildings, land and equipment; leasehold improvements; obtaining permits, etc.),
- residency requirements, and
- time frames within which you must meet these requirements.

Post-application guides and forms

You will need to complete the requirements outlined in your Performance Agreement to be nominated for permanent residence. Please review the [Performance Agreement Compliance Guide](#) for further information.

You must also submit the following forms within the timelines designated in the [Performance Agreement Compliance Guide](#).

- [Arrival Report](#)
- [Final Report](#)

Obtain a work permit

We will provide you – and any key staff member approved with your application, if applicable – with a work permit support letter to include with your application to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for a two-year work permit. Your work permit allows you to move to B.C. so that you can start implementing your business plans.

Your spouse or common-law partner will be eligible for an open work permit and your dependent children will be eligible for study permits (please check with CIC to determine if study permits are

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required for your situation). If one or more key staff members are approved with your application, their spouse or common-law partner and dependent children will also be eligible for work or study permits.

You must submit your application for a work permit to CIC within 3 months of the date on the PNP work permit support letter.

Arrive in B.C.

You must:

- arrive in B.C. with a valid work permit within 1 year of the date on your work permit support letter, and
- submit the [Arrival Report](#) Form with proof that you have transferred the required funds for your investment to the PNP within 2 months of arriving in B.C.

You may submit forms and documentation prior to these timelines. We will close your PNP application if you fail to meet the timelines listed above.

Invest in and operate the business

You will invest in and actively manage your business according to the requirements specified in your Performance Agreement. When you meet the conditions of your Performance Agreement, you submit a [Final Report](#) to the BC PNP.

Nomination for permanent residence

We will review your Final Report. We may ask for additional documentation and/or complete a site visit to ensure that you have met the requirements of the Performance Agreement.

If we are satisfied that you have met all requirements, the PNP will nominate you and your dependants for permanent residence. If one or more key staff members are included in the application, they will also be nominated if they fulfilled their responsibilities by working at the business.

We will issue a nomination certificate that you will include with your permanent residence application (and those of your spouse and dependent children) to CIC. For approved applicants in the Strategic Projects category, we will also send a copy of the letters of acceptance for key staff (and their spouses and dependent children) to the sponsoring company.

Apply to CIC for permanent residence

You submit a separate application for permanent residence to CIC in the Provincial Nominee Class. This application must be submitted within six months of the date of nomination.

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Investment requirements

You are required to make a personal financial investment in the business you are establishing or purchasing and expanding. The level of investment depends on whether you are applying to the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) in the [Entrepreneur](#), [Regional Entrepreneur](#) or [Strategic Projects](#) category.

What are the equity investment requirements?

Applicants in the Entrepreneur or Regional Entrepreneur categories who are entering into a partnership with an existing business must acquire ownership of at least one-third of the proposed business. The acquired shares in the business must be common full-voting shares and must not have a redemption option.

In the Strategic Projects category, companies must make a minimum equity investment of \$500,000 and acquire ownership of at least one-third in the proposed business.

What are the personal investment requirements?

Applicants in the Entrepreneur category must personally invest at least \$400,000 in the business. Applicants in the Regional Entrepreneur category must personally invest at least \$200,000 in the business.

In addition:

- No more than the lesser of the purchase price or two-thirds of the required minimum personal investment will be counted towards the minimum required investment, and
- The personal investment cannot be used to purchase real estate, unless you can satisfy the PNP that the real estate is essential to the business, in which case no more than the lesser of the purchase price or two-thirds of the minimum personal investment can be applied towards the purchase of the real estate investment.
- At least one-third of the personal investment must be used to expand or improve the existing business.

Your personal investment can be used for the following types of business costs, provided the amounts can be considered reasonable for the specific business:

- Machinery, equipment, furniture and fixtures
- Leasehold improvements
- Inventory
- Patents and licences
- Franchise purchase fees
- Allowable real estate (see above)

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Initial promotion and marketing

- Other start-up expenses, such as incorporation and permit fees, legal and other professional fees

If, because of the nature of the business, you cannot apply the full amount of the required personal investment to these types of expenditures, you can apply the balance to wages, rent and other normal operating expenses (excluding any payments to yourself or family members) during the first six months of operations if you are establishing a new business, or three months if you are buying a franchise or an existing business.

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Important Information

Immigrate > The BC PNP > Business Immigration > Regional Business Succession

Regional Business Succession Option

With many B.C. business owners retiring, there are an increasing number of opportunities to purchase and take over an existing business in the province. The Regional Business Succession Option is available to applicants in all categories if the business is located outside of the Vancouver or Abbotsford metropolitan areas. These applications receive priority processing and may have fewer job creation requirements.

Am I eligible?

To apply to the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) in the Regional Business Succession Option:

- You must meet the criteria for one of the Business Immigration categories including the [investment requirements](#).
- There must be a complete change in ownership of the business.
- The business you are purchasing must meet the specific eligibility criteria described below.

Is the business I want to purchase eligible?

To qualify, the B.C. business you intend to purchase must:

- Be located outside of the [Vancouver](#) or [Abbotsford metropolitan areas](#).
- Have been operated by the current owner for at least five years.
- Have at least one full-time employee other than the owner's family members.
- Be actively in operation and not in receivership.
- Be an [eligible business](#).

What are the job creation requirements?

- If you are applying through the Regional Entrepreneur category, there are no additional job creation requirements if you commit to maintain the existing positions for Canadian citizens or permanent residents.
- If you are applying through the Entrepreneur category, the minimum number of full-time equivalent jobs a business must provide are three, which can be reduced for each job maintained. For example, in the case where one existing full-time job is maintained then only two new full-time equivalent jobs need to be created. On the other hand, if three or more full-time equivalent jobs are maintained then no new jobs need to be created. Only jobs provided to employees who are either Canadian citizens or permanent residents are

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eligible for consideration.

- If you are applying through the Strategic Projects category, the job creation requirements remain the same. You must create at least three new jobs for Canadians or permanent residents for **each** key staff member proposed.

Can I bring a key staff member to B.C.?

If you wish to propose a key staff member to accompany you, you must apply under the [Entrepreneur](#) or [Strategic Projects](#) categories. You cannot propose a key staff member if you are applying as a [Regional Entrepreneur](#).

Under the Entrepreneur category, your application can propose one foreign key staff member whose expertise is essential to the success of your business. Under the Strategic Projects category, the application can propose up to five key staff members. Typically, a key staff member will have worked with you in a senior position over a number of years and have a unique skill set.

We will only provide a work permit support letter for a key staff member for a temporary two-year work permit if you can demonstrate that a Canadian or permanent resident would not be able to take on the proposed role.

The staff member will also be eligible to be nominated for permanent residence if your business meets the terms and conditions of your Performance Agreement.

What are the requirements?

You are required to:

- Make an exploratory visit to see the business location, meet with the retiring owners and, where feasible, the local economic development representative.
- Establish a fair market value for the target business.
- Complete the full purchase of the business.
- Operate the business for a minimum of one full year before BC PNP will consider nominating you for permanent residence.
- Demonstrate that you have long-term intentions of continuing to operate the business.

Learn more

Read more about the [application process](#) and [processing times](#).

Learn about the [next steps](#) if we approve your application.

Watch videos and read some [success stories](#) of PNP entrepreneurs who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.

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Regional Entrepreneur

If you are applying under the Regional Entrepreneur category, you can establish a business anywhere in BC outside of the Vancouver and Abbotsford metropolitan areas.

Am I eligible?

To apply to the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) in the Regional Entrepreneur category, you must have the following:

- Business experience as a senior manager or business owner.
- A viable business proposal that will bring significant economic benefits to the province.
- The financial ability to invest in a business.
 - You, and, if applicable, your spouse, must have a personal or combined net worth of at least \$400,000 obtained from legal sources. **You must provide supporting documentation to support the net worth reported in your application.**
- Have or be eligible for legal immigration status in Canada.
 - We will not accept your application if:
 - you are prohibited from entering Canada,
 - you have not been lawfully admitted in the country where you currently reside,
 - you are in Canada illegally,
 - you have an unresolved refugee claim in Canada, or
 - you are under a removal order in Canada.

What are the requirements?

If we approve your application, you will be required to:

- Make a minimum investment of \$200,000 to establish, or purchase and expand an eligible business anywhere in B.C. outside the **Vancouver** or **Abbotsford metropolitan areas**.
- Hold at least one-third ownership in the proposed business in B.C.
- Sign a Performance Agreement with the province.
- Create at least one new jobs for Canadians or permanent residents.
- Be actively involved in the daily management and direction of the proposed business in B.C.
- Farming Businesses only - Applications proposing agricultural activities must include a feasibility assessment of the proposed business prepared by a consultant from the List of Eligible Consultants approved by the Ministry of Agriculture under its **B.C. Farm Business Advisory Services Program**.

Can I bring a key staff member to B.C.?

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No. If you are applying to the PNP in the Regional Entrepreneur category you cannot include a key staff member in your application.

Learn more

- Read more about the [application process](#) and [processing times](#).
- Learn about the [next steps](#) if we approve your application.
- Read about the [Regional Business Succession](#) Option for purchasing and expanding an existing business.
- Watch [videos](#) and [read success stories](#) of BC PNP entrepreneurs who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.

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Important Information

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Strategic Projects

My company wants to establish operations in B.C.

The Strategic Projects category enables foreign-controlled companies to set up a B.C.-based operation (such as a branch office or operating facility). This category allows you to propose up to five key foreign managerial, professional or technical staff who intend to become permanent residents of Canada and settle in the province.

Is my company eligible?

To apply to the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) in the Strategic Projects category, your company must:

- Provide evidence of good business practices and successful business operations outside of Canada that are relevant to the proposed business.
- Demonstrate that the key staff members proposed are qualified senior personnel who are essential to establishing and operating the proposed business in B.C.

The key staff members must have or be eligible for immigration status in Canada. We will not accept applications of key staff members who:

- are prohibited from entering Canada,
- you have not been lawfully admitted in the country where you currently reside,
- are in Canada illegally,
- have an unresolved refugee claim in Canada, or
- are under a removal order in Canada.

What are the requirements?

If we approve your company's application, your company will be required to:

- Sign a Performance Agreement with the province.
- Make a minimum equity investment of at least \$500,000 to establish or purchase and expand an eligible business.
- Create at least three new jobs for Canadians or permanent residents for **each** key staff member proposed.
- Establish or purchase and expand a company in B.C. that is incorporated or federally incorporated and registered extra-provincially in B.C.

What is the application process?

1. We encourage you to make an exploratory visit to the province to learn more about

Business Immigration

- ▶ [Eligible Businesses](#)
- ▶ [Investment Requirements](#)
- ▶ [Exploratory Visits](#)
- ▶ [Trade and Invest BC](#)
- ▶ [Learn about B.C.'s Regions](#)
- ▶ [Opportunities BC](#)
- ▶ [Business Seminars](#)
- ▶ [Business Immigration FAQs](#)
- ▶ [Contact the BC PNP](#)

[PNP Application Forms](#)

[Business Immigration Guide](#)

opportunities and the local business environment.

2. To apply for the Strategic Projects category, you must [contact our office](#) to discuss your proposal. The proposal should include company information (e.g. the year established, a description of business activities, sales revenue, number of employees, etc.), a description of the business you intend to establish or purchase and expand in B.C., a detailed investment breakdown, the estimated annual revenue, and the types of jobs you will create for Canadians and permanent residents.
3. If your proposal fits the requirements of the Strategy Projects category, we will email you an application package. You and your key staff must submit all the required forms and supporting documentation, and pay the processing fee of \$3,000 plus a \$1,000 application fee for each key staff member in the application.
4. We will screen your application for completeness. We may ask you clarifying questions and request additional documentation.
5. If your application passes our initial assessment, we will ask all key staff members to attend an in-person interview.
6. If we approve the application, the designated signing authority for the company signs a Performance Agreement. The PNP will issue a work permit support letter to all key staff members so they can apply for a two-year work permit from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).

If the application is approved, what are the next steps?

1. Key staff members arrive in B.C. with a valid work permit and submit an Arrival Report Form to the PNP.
2. When the company meets the terms and conditions of the Performance Agreement, it submits the Final Report to the PNP.
3. We review the Final Report and may conduct site visits or interviews to verify information. If the company meets the terms and conditions of the Performance Agreement, we will nominate the key staff members for permanent residence.
4. The key staff members apply to CIC for a permanent resident visa. They will have six months from the date of nomination to apply to CIC.

Learn more

Read more about the average [processing times](#).

Learn about the [next steps](#) if we approve your application.

Read about the [Business Succession Option](#) for purchasing an existing business.

Watch videos and read some [success stories](#) of PNP entrepreneurs who are making significant economic contributions to B.C.

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Important Information

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For B.C. employers

Skills Immigration category of the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) is an employer-driven immigration program designed to help B.C. businesses attract and retain skilled international workers and students to meet their human resources needs.

Is the PNP the right choice for your organization?

The PNP may be a good choice if you have already tried to hire – but are unable to find – a Canadian worker to fill a permanent position. You can consider the PNP if you are interested in:

- The new Express Entry British Columbia stream under the BC PNP will help BC meet the need for skilled workers. Applications supported by BC employers that are eligible for one of the PNP's [Express Entry British Columbia categories](#) will receive priority processing of their PNP application, and if nominated, permanent residency application.
- hiring a foreign worker from outside of Canada,
- retaining a temporary foreign worker who is already on your staff, or
- hiring an international student who has recently graduated from a Canadian post-secondary institution.

If you and your prospective employee meet specific eligibility criteria, you can submit a joint application to the PNP. If the application you are supporting is approved, your employee can then apply for a permanent resident visa from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) in the higher-priority Provincial Nominee Class.

The PNP is only one option for hiring a foreign worker. For example, if you are only offering a temporary position or do not want to retain the worker permanently, you may want to consider the [Temporary Foreign Worker Program](#).

What are the eligibility criteria?

Your company must meet specific requirements to be eligible for the PNP. As an employer, you will need to meet [basic eligibility criteria](#) and offer the employee a full-time position of indeterminate length (that is, a position without an end date). Your employee will also need to meet [specific eligibility criteria](#) of the program category.

How does the program work?

- You recruit for the job in the local labour market and are unable to hire a suitable Canadian or permanent resident employee.
- You identify a qualified foreign candidate for an eligible job and agree to support the candidate's application for permanent residence through the PNP.
- You and the candidate submit a joint application to the PNP. The application must include

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- ▶ [Using the PNP](#)
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- ▶ [Categories at a glance](#)
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a letter documenting the job you have offered or are offering your employee, as well as information on your organization and the candidate.

- If we approve the application, we will nominate your current or prospective employee for permanent residence. The nominee will then submit his or her application for permanent residence to [CIC](#) under the Provincial Nominee Class.
- If the nominee does not have a work permit, we will provide him or her with a [work permit support letter](#) so that he/she can apply for a work permit from CIC and start working as soon as possible. You will not need to apply to Service Canada for a Labour Market Opinion.

We're here to help

We are available to answer any questions you may have about the program. If you would like to learn more about any aspect of the PNP or have specific questions, please [email or telephone us](#).

Learn more

[Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) has information on the federal programs available for hiring foreign workers, including the [Temporary Foreign Worker Program](#) and programs for [hiring international students](#).

The [Provincial government](#) has many employer resources, including fact sheets on a range of employment issues.

Other useful sources of information about your responsibilities as an employer include [WorkSafeBC](#) and the [Canada Revenue Agency](#).

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Important Information

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Eligible Employers

As an employer, you must meet specific requirements to be eligible for the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

Am I an eligible employer?

To be eligible, all private sector, non-profit and public sector organizations must meet the following requirements:

Be established in B.C.

- Your organization must be in good standing and incorporated or extra-provincially registered, registered as a limited liability partnership, in B.C., or be eligible as a public sector and non-profit employer,
- Your organization must be permanently established in B.C., as defined by the federal Income Tax Act.
- If you are applying under the [Northeast Development Region Pilot Project](#), the principal location of employment must be within the Northeast Development Region of B.C.
- Your organization must have operated in B.C. for at least one year (two years if you are supporting workers in the entry-level or semi-skilled category).

Have permanent, full-time employees.

- If your organization is **located within the Vancouver metropolitan area**, you must have at least five permanent, full-time employees (or full-time equivalents) in B.C.
- If your organization is **located outside of the Vancouver metropolitan area**, you must have at least three permanent full-time employees (or full-time equivalents) in B.C.
- If the nominee applicant has an ownership stake in the business, their share of ownership should not exceed 10%. Individuals who own 10% or more do not meet the eligibility criteria for the Skills Immigration category of the PNP.
- You must be establishing an employee/employer relationship with your employee.
- Please note that we may consider your application if your business does not meet the minimum requirements. However, you must make a compelling business case that demonstrates how nominating the applicant will generate significant economic benefits.

Have a history of good workplace and business practices.

- Your business must be financially sound and have a history of good workplace and business practices, including complying with all applicable employment, labour, immigration, health and safety laws and regulations.

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- ▶ [B.C. Corporate Registry](#)
- ▶ [Employment Standards Branch](#)
- ▶ [Working in Canada](#)
- ▶ [WorkBC](#)
- ▶ [Work Permit Support](#)
- ▶ [Contact the BC PNP](#)

Meet domestic labour market recruitment requirements.

Subject to verification, the PNP will consider this requirement to be met if:

1. Your employee has obtained a valid work permit from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and is currently working for you,

OR

2. You have provided evidence of a genuine effort to recruit from the domestic labour market and are able to demonstrate the results of your recruitment efforts, including advertisements based on the following minimum requirements:

- **For Skill Level 0 or A jobs (based on the [National Occupational Classification](#))**
 - Recruitment advertisement must be for at least 14 days.
 - Acceptable recruitment advertisement locations include:
 - Recognized job posting websites
 - Professional association websites
 - National newspapers, professional journals or newsletters
 - The 14-day recruitment advertisement requirement may be waived for the recruitment of senior executives or highly specialized senior managers and professionals. In these cases you must demonstrate targeted recruitment actions consistent with industry norms, such as the creation of an executive recruitment team or the hiring of a specialized human resources recruitment agency.
- **For Skill Level B jobs (based on the [National Occupational Classification](#))**
 - Recruitment advertisement must be at least 14 days.
 - Acceptable recruitment advertisement locations include:
 - Recognized job posting websites
 - Professional association websites
 - National newspapers, professional journals or newsletters
- **Advertisements must include:**
 - Company operating name
 - Job title and duties
 - Rate of pay
 - Location of work (local area, city or town)
 - Contact information
 - Skills requirements for the job including:
 - Education and, or, qualifications
 - Work experience

Offer a full-time job of indeterminate length.

- You must offer the applicant a full-time job that does not have an end date. Contract positions are not eligible.

Offer a market wage rate.

- The wages and working conditions outlined in your offer of full-time indeterminate employment must meet the market wage rate and regulatory standards for the position. For more information on wages and working conditions in Canada and B.C. visit the [WorkBC](#) or [WorkinginCanada](#) websites.

The PNP will not nominate an individual if their employment affects the settlement of a labour dispute or the employment of a person involved in such a dispute.

Please note that we may consider your application if your business is unincorporated or if you have fewer employees than the minimum requirements. However, you must make a compelling business case that demonstrates how nominating the applicant will generate significant economic benefits.

For Entry-Level or Semi-Skilled

Employers hiring nominee applicants in the entry-level or semi-skilled category must meet the following additional requirements:

- Have employed the nominee applicant on a work permit for at least nine consecutive months before the employee applies to the PNP and continue to employ the applicant.
- Have been in operation for at least two years.

Public sector and non-profit employers

The PNP accepts applications from the following public sector and non-profit organizations with a permanent establishment in B.C.:

- Provincial and regional health care authorities and agencies.
- Public post-secondary education and training institutions.
- Private non-profit post-secondary institutions that are accredited by, or registered with, the Private Career Training Institutions Agency of BC.
- Institutions supported by the Government of Canada or the Province of B.C. conducting research in natural and applied sciences, engineering, computer and information systems, or health sciences.
- Provincial/federal/municipal government organizations and agencies.
- Other non-profit groups registered as charitable organizations and incorporated under the Society Act (RSBC 1996) or the Canada Corporations Act, Part II, 1970, and in good standing.

Ineligible employers

The PNP does not accept applications from:

- Employers involved in producing, distributing or selling pornographic or sexually explicit products, or providing sexually oriented entertainment or services.
- Employment agencies and similar placement firms unless they are establishing an employer/employee relationship with the applicant.

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Using the PNP

Attracting and retaining workers through the PNP

The BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) is a strategic option for employers to meet their labour market needs by attracting and retaining qualified and skilled permanent full-time employees.

What are my responsibilities as an employer?

As an employer, you must:

- ensure that your organization meets the [eligibility criteria](#),
- prepare a written offer of employment for the employee,
- complete the employer sections of the [application forms](#), and
- [notify the PNP](#) if there are any changes in your employee's status – such as whether they have been promoted, terminated, laid off – or if your business has closed.

You can also help your employee make a successful transition to living and working in B.C. For example, you can provide a welcoming workplace, offer training opportunities, orient your employee to their community and connect them to community resources.

Do nominated workers need work permits?

Yes, nominated workers will need a valid work permit while they wait for Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) decision regarding their permanent residence application.

If they do not have a work permit or need to extend their current one, the PNP can provide the nominee with a [work permit support letter](#) that will make it easier for them to obtain or extend a work permit from CIC for full-time employment in a specific job with a B.C. employer. As an employer supporting a PNP nominee, you do not need to apply to Service Canada for a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) for the position. We will only provide the work permit support letter after the employee has been nominated. See CIC's website for more information on [processing times for work permits](#).

If you are supporting the application of a worker already in B.C. on a temporary work permit and do not wish to apply for another LMIA for the position, please keep in mind the average [PNP processing time](#), the temporary work permit's expiry date, and plan accordingly.

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