BC PNP Tech Pilot

FAQs

What is the BC PNP Tech Pilot?

- The Tech Pilot is an initiative under the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) to support the tech sector in recruiting top international talent.

- The pilot consists of:
    - weekly "tech only" invitations to apply to registrants working in one of 32 tech occupations in B.C.(applicants still need to register with the BC PNP)
    - dedicated concierge service for tech employers
    - priority processing for tech applications
    - targeted outreach and engagement to the tech sector

Why are you doing this pilot for the tech sector?

- We are committed to implementing measures that will facilitate the growth of BC tech companies.

- The B.C. government provided "Sector Labour Market Partnerships" (LMP) funding to the BC Tech Association and the Vancouver Economic Commission to conduct labour market research and developed a range of strategies to better understand and meet the tech sector's workforce needs.

- The resulting 2016 TechTalent BC Report identified access to talent as the biggest issue facing the tech sector, posing the most significant barrier to economic growth.

Why are you using the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP)?

- A BC PNP Tech Pilot will help to attract skilled workers and satisfy the demand for tech talent by expanding the province's technology talent pool.

  We want to develop and attract the highest quality local talent by introducing students to tech earlier, adjusting training and education in post-secondary institutions and creating work experience opportunities.

  Not only do companies need access to local talent - beyond using the skills and talent of B.C. workers - companies need to be able to attract skilled workers from around the world. Tech entrepreneurs and skilled workers from other leading edge countries can have a catalytic effect on B.C.'s technology sector, leading to more jobs for British Columbians.

- The BC PNP provides a permanent immigration pathway for economic, in-demand workers, experienced entrepreneurs and their dependants.

Will you be offering similar pilots for other sectors?

- Results of the pilot will be used to determine if these operational enhancements have a positive impact and if this is the best approach to support other key sectors.

- Applicants and employers from other sectors who meet the criteria may still access the BC PNP. The BC PNP has different categories and requirements based on the applicant's qualifications, experience and the skill level of the job offered.

- More information can be found at our Pathways page.

How does the PNP Tech Pilot process work?

- The 2016 TechTalent BC Report specifically identifies 32 in-demand occupations. Qualified individuals in only those 32 occupations will be invited to apply on a weekly basis. These occupations are identified by their National Occupational Classification (NOC).

- You need to determine if your NOC is one of the 32 listed as eligible. Then select which category would be the best fit for your application. More information regarding full category requirements can be found in our BC PNP Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC Program Guide.

- Once you have determined your category, register online with the BC PNP and you will receive a registration score. Registration is free.

- Every week, (subject to processing capacity), we will conduct a tech draw to invite the highest-scoring technology sector registrants to apply.

- If you are invited to apply, you have up to 30 calendar days from the date of invitation to submit a complete online application. The application requires a $700 processing fee at the time of online submission.

- We will process the application on a priority basis.

- If approved, you will receive a nomination that you can use to apply for permanent residence with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada under the expedited Provincial Nominee Class.

- Individuals who have been nominated and who meet the conditions of their nomination will receive a work permit support letter that allows them to obtain or renew their current work permit allowing them to work throughout the permanent residency process.

Which occupations will be included in the weekly tech draws?

- We will issue weekly invitations to apply for qualified individuals in 32 key technology occupations.

- The 2016 TechTalent BC Report identifies these 32 in-demand occupations, and qualified individuals in only those 32 occupations will be invited to apply on a weekly basis. These occupations are identified by their NOC.

- A full list of the 32 occupations can also be found here on our website. Your application may be impacted if your job duties do not accurately reflect the NOC you have identified in your application.

- In order to be approved, applicants and supporting employers must meet all program requirements.

- More information about draws can be found on our Invitations To Apply page.

What if my occupation isn't included in the list?

- You may still be eligible to apply to the BC PNP under one of our categories if your occupation isn't part of the 32 occupations listed.

- We will continue to conduct regular draws for qualified individuals across many different occupations based on the annual allocation and the program's processing capacity.

- For more information on the process, please visit the Skills Immigration process or Express Entry BC process pages.

How long will it take for my tech application to be processed?

- Most standard applications are processed within two to three months.

- For complete applications under the BC PNP Tech Pilot, we will provide priority processing to meet the fast-paced demands of the sector.

- Processing times for permanency residency applications are the responsibility of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). View current IRCC processing times for more information.

What if my duties meet most, but not all, of the NOC duties?

- We assess each application individually and then determine if your occupation meets the NOC criteria.

What if I have already submitted my application but I have now been promoted to a tech NOC?

- Any changes to your application will need to be assessed to ensure it meets the criteria of the BC PNP Tech Pilot.

- Your change in employment must continue to meet BC PNP program criteria.

- Please contact us as soon as possible to confirm your next steps.

I already submitted my application before this pilot was launched. Can I be fast-tracked?

- If your position met the Tech Pilot criteria at the time of submission, you will be fast-tracked.

I already registered before the Tech Pilot was introduced but have not yet been invited to apply. Since registering, I have been promoted to one of the 32 qualifying tech NOCs. What should I do?

- You will need to withdraw your existing registration and create a new one with your new position.

My current occupation is very technology focused but is not on the list of 32 occupations. Can I be fast-tracked?

- You may still be eligible to apply to the BC PNP under one of our categories if your occupation isn't part of the 32 occupations identified in the 2016 TechTalent BC Report.

- We will continue to conduct regular draws for qualified individuals across many different occupations based on the annual allocation and the program's processing capacity.

How long will the BC PNP Tech Pilot be offered?

- There is currently no end date scheduled for the BC PNP Tech Pilot. Frequency of tech draws may be altered, depending on demand.

- The results of the pilot will be periodically reviewed to determine if the benefits warrant changes.

Where can I find more information?

- If you are an employer in B.C.'s technology sector and have more questions, please contact the BC PNP: PNPTechEmployers@gov.bc.ca

- Download our BC PNP Tech Pilot information sheet for a printable, high-level overview of the information.

- Read our BC PNP Tech Pilot FAQs document for specific answers to questions about the Tech Pilot.

- Refer to our BC PNP Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC Program Guide for information about our program criteria.

- Go to our process page for information about the registration process.

- Go to our invitations page for information about invitations to apply, including draw dates and the number and frequency of invitations.

BRITISH
COLUMBIA