

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**  
**July 2, 2015**

**Program Changes**

**1. *What is new about the BC PNP?***

- The redesigned BC PNP has:
  - Introduced an online application process with an electronic payment system to make it easier and faster for applicants.
  - Streamlined two categories – Business Skills and Regional Business – into one Entrepreneur Immigration stream.
  - Introduced an online Entrepreneur Registration to simplify the intake process and ensure timely processing for high-impact applications.
  - Terminated the Fast Track Option, which has been suspended since October 2012.

**2. *Why are you only opening up the Skills category to 200 new applicants?***

- We will only be accepting 200 new Skills Immigration applicants in 2015:
  - To be fair and transparent to those who are already in the inventory.
  - To make sure that we can improve processing times for new applicants and employers.
- There will be some restrictions on who can apply to those 200 available spots (see below).
- Once we have reached the 200 limit, applications will still be accepted for:
  - Express Entry BC
  - Health Care Professional
  - Northeast Pilot Project

**3. *What are the restrictions for the 200 new Skills Immigration applications?***

- In Metro Vancouver, new applications are restricted to employment offers above the B.C. median wage of \$22.00 per hour.
- For regions outside of Metro Vancouver, new applications will be accepted for all Skills Immigration categories including Entry Level and Semi-Skilled occupations.
- Applicants with employment offers in NOC B occupations must demonstrate minimum official language proficiency requirement (CLB 4).
- For low-skilled applicants in the Entry Level and Semi-Skilled category who do not have an option to extend their work permits due to federal TFW changes, the BC PNP is committed to process applications according to work permit expiry date.
- Processing times for other new applications will be based on operational capacity.

- Once the 200 limit has been reached, new intake will be restricted to Express Entry BC, Health Care Professionals and the Northeast Pilot Project.

#### **4. *How did you arrive at the \$22.00/hour threshold?***

- The \$22.00 threshold is the median wage for B.C. according to the 2014 Labour Force Survey.
- This median wage is also consistent with Service Canada's processing of Labour Market Impact Assessments.

#### **5. *What is the new category – Entrepreneur Immigration?***

The Business Immigration stream has been re-named the Entrepreneur Immigration stream to better reflect the requirement for active, ongoing management of a B.C. business.

- We have introduced an online Entrepreneur registration process.
- Registrations will be scored on a transparent points system based on factors such as business ownership or management experience and proposed business concept in B.C.
- The highest scoring potential registrants will be invited to apply. These new applications will be prioritized with estimated processing times of 3 months from date of receipt.
- New entrepreneur applicants will also require a third party review of personal net worth by a qualified supplier to support program integrity and improve processing efficiency.
- Other changes to the core program criteria for Entrepreneur applicants include minimum residency requirements during work permit phase, increases to minimum personal net worth, and updates to job creation and key staff requirements.

#### **6. *What happens to applicants who applied under the previous Business Immigration stream?***

- Applicants who applied before April 1, 2015 under the Business Immigration stream will still be assessed according to the criteria in place at the time they applied.

#### **7. *Why have you terminated the Fast Track option?***

- The Fast Track option of the BC PNP was originally suspended in October 2012.
- With changes to the federal government's Immigrant Investor program, it was necessary to review the Fast Track to ensure that it was working to support job creation and economic development in B.C.
- With the redesigned BC PNP, it is intended that the Entrepreneur Immigration stream will ensure that applicants are invited to apply based on their ability and intention to establish a successful business in B.C.

**8. *What are the new language requirements?***

- New language requirements have been introduced for Skilled Workers in occupations under the National Occupation Classification (NOC) Level B.
- These applicants must now demonstrate a minimum language proficiency of Canadian Language Benchmark 4.0.
- Language requirements for NOC C and D occupations under remain the same. Applicants in these occupations must demonstrate a minimum language proficiency of Canadian Language Benchmark 4.0.
- The new Entrepreneur Registration system does not have a minimum language requirement, but awards points for self-declared English language proficiency.
- B.C. is committed to support strong integration and settlement outcomes for immigrants and recognizes that language plays an important role for labour market attachment..

## **Applications**

**9. *Can I submit a paper application after July 2, 2015?***

- All new applications must be submitted online.
- EEBC, Health Care Professionals, and Northeast Pilot Applicants will be allowed to submit paper applications until August 31, 2015.
- After August 31, 2015, paper applications will not be accepted.
- A paper based application process will be made available for individuals with a physical or mental disability that inhibits access to the BC PNP's online application process.

**10. *How will I know if the 200 application quota is met?***

- You will not be able to submit an application once the 200 limit for new applications has been reached.

**11. *I submitted an application prior to March 31, 2015. Do the new criteria apply to me?***

- No. Your application will be assessed according to the criteria that was in effect at the time of submission.

**12. *I have a paper application pending, can I also create an online application?***

- If you have already submitted a paper application you can request to withdraw your old application and submit a new online application.

- Your fee will be refunded if your application has not yet been assigned for review.
- Your new application will be assessed using the new program criteria for the stream or category under which you are applying.
- You will be required to pay a new processing fee in order to complete your online application.

**13. If I did not submit an online application, how can I track the status of my application?**

- You can check your current processing time by visiting the processing times page of the BC PNP website.
- Refer to your Acknowledgement of Receipt (AOR) for the date your application was received.

**14. Do I need to do a language test?**

- If you are applying to any of the Express Entry BC categories or have a NOC B, C or D occupation, you must provide proof of language proficiency with your application.
- Please review the program guide for detailed information about the specific criteria for each of the program categories, including language requirements where applicable.

**15. Do I require a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) to apply to the BC PNP?**

- You do not have to submit a Labour Market Impact Assessment to apply to the BC PNP however your employer must meet domestic labour market recruitment requirements.
- Recruitment requirements ensure that the hiring of the foreign worker will not adversely affect employment or development opportunities for local candidates (Canadian citizens and/or permanent residents)
- For detailed information about this requirement, please refer to the Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC Program Guide. .

**16. How do I update additional information to my pending paper application?**

- You can submit new information by mail, in-person or by emailing the BC PNP's email [PNPInfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PNPInfo@gov.bc.ca) .

**17. Do I need to notify the BC PNP of changes in my situation (marital status, change in employment / employer, etc)?**

- You must notify the BC PNP of a material change in your situation. This includes:
  - change in marital or family status
  - change in employment, including promotion, new employment, lay-off or termination of employment.
  - change in immigration status.

- It is also your obligation to ensure that the BC PNP has your most current contact information (address, telephone number, email).
- For paper applications, please notify us of all changes in writing (mail or email) and include your BC PNP file number.

**18. Can you expedite my application?**

- The BC PNP reserves the right to prioritize occupations that are in high demand or that contribute significant economic benefits to British Columbia.
- The BC PNP prioritizes Express Entry BC and Health Care Professionals applications.
- For low-skilled applicants to the Entry Level and Semi Skilled category, who do not have an option to extend their work permits due to federal TFW changes, the BC PNP is committed to a one-time prioritization to process applications according to work permit expiry date.
- Processing times for other new applications will be based on operational capacity.
- Please visit the processing times page of the BC PNP website for detailed information about current processing times.

**19. If I withdraw my application, will my processing fee be refunded?**

- The processing fee is non-refundable unless you withdraw your application before it is assigned for review.

## **BCPNP Online**

**20. How do I access BC PNP Online?**

- You can access BC PNP's new application/registration system at <https://www.pnpapplication.gov.bc.ca>.
- You can find this link which shows as a button on the BC PNP website [www.WelcomeBC.ca/PNP](http://www.WelcomeBC.ca/PNP).

**21. I created a profile, now I want to create another, why won't it accept my email address a second time?**

- Each profile must be associated with a unique email address and passport number.
- Only one application or registration can be associated with each profile.

**22. The system doesn't seem to display properly, what's wrong with it?**

- The system has been designed and tested using Google Chrome as the Internet Browser.

- It also works with Internet Explorer 11 and current versions of Safari and Firefox, but may have differences in display.

**23. I want to abandon my application data and start over (possibly in a new stream or category). Can I delete my profile?**

- If you haven't yet submitted and paid, you can start over from the 'dashboard' by choosing the "Start New" button under "My Registration".
- Your profile can be changed, but not deleted by the user.

**24. I don't want to fill out forms, I have a representative, can they do it for me?**

- By completing the BC PNP's Authorized Representative Form, you have authorized the individual on the form (such as an immigration consultant, lawyer, friend or family member) to represent you and act on your behalf with the BC Provincial Nominee Program.
- The applicant declaration in the online application or registration requires your consent and is the legal equivalent of your signature.
- As the applicant, you must ensure that you have read and understood the declaration.

**25. The stream or category I want to apply to is greyed out, why doesn't the link work?**

- Certain streams and categories have limits on the number applications or registrations. Please visit the BC PNP website for more details.
- If you had a partially completed form and the stream closed, you will receive an error message on your attempt to submit.

**26. What is my registration or application "status" and what does it mean?**

- Only two statuses are currently available:
  - "Initiated" means you have incomplete forms that still require submission and payment;
  - "Submitted" means your forms are complete and you must now await contact from a program advisor.
- Processing times are posted on the BC PNP website.

**27. My scanned files won't upload, I keep getting errors. What are the file requirements?**

- Individual PDF files must not exceed 3MB, which should be enough for most files scanned at 300DPI or lower.

## **After Nomination**

### ***28. My PR application was returned by CIC, can I request an extension to my Confirmation of Nomination?***

- Except in exceptional circumstances, the BC PNP will not issue a new Confirmation of Nomination to extend the six month nomination validity period.
- Requests for extensions for exceptional circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### ***29. How will I be notified of a decision on my application?***

- Paper applications – if you submitted a paper application to the BC PNP, you will receive correspondence sent via Canada Post.
- Online applications – if you submitted an application to Express Entry BC or BCPNP Online, you will receive notification of the decision via the system.
- You must ensure the BC PNP has your most current contact information (address, phone number, email).

### ***30. My work permit is expiring, can I get a work permit support letter?***

- The BC PNP issues a letter to nominees to support an application for a new or renewed work permit so that they can work or continue to work in BC.
- The BC PNP does not issue work permit support letters for Skills Immigration and EEBC applicants who have not been nominated.
- To be eligible for a work permit support letter, you must meet the following conditions:
  - you have been nominated by the BC PNP,
  - you have submitted your application for permanent residence to CIC within the six-month validity period in your Confirmation of Nomination
  - you continue to meet the conditions under which you were nominated, and
  - your current work permit expires within 90 days
- For more information about requesting a work permit support letter, please refer to the work permit page of the BC PNP website.

### ***31. Do I need to notify the BC PNP of changes in my situation (marital status, change in employment / employer, etc)?***

- You must notify the BC PNP of a material change in your situation. This includes:
  - change in marital or family status
  - change in employment, including promotion, new employment, lay-off or termination of employment.
  - change in immigration status.
- It is also your obligation to ensure that the BC PNP has your most current contact information (address, telephone number, email).

- Please notify us of all changes in writing (mail or email) and include your BC PNP file number.

***32. I have been offered and accepted a job with a new company. Can I change my employer?***

- You must notify the BC PNP of any material change in your situation.
- If you submitted a paper application, you must email the BC PNP explaining the change in your situation. Please use your full name as it appears on your application and your BC PNP file number in the subject line and attach all required supporting documents.
- If you submitted an online application, you must update your information in the system. .

***33. I was already nominated through Skills immigration stream and want to apply under Express Entry BC. Can I switch my application?***

- If you have already been nominated, you must reapply to the BC PNP if you wish to be considered under Express Entry BC.
- Your application will be considered a new application and assessed according to the criteria in place at the time of your application.
- You will be required to pay a new application processing fee of \$550 .