

BC PNP Archived News Items

2010-2014

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Update

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 apologize 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](#)
-

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.