

BC Provincial Nominee Program

Skills Immigration & Express Entry BC – Temporary Pause on New Application Intake

The BC PNP receives an allocation of nominations each year from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. For 2015 this allocation is 5,500 nominations. Of these 5,500 nominations, 1,350 are dedicated to the federal Express Entry priority system.

The BC PNP has received more applications for Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC than it has nominations for 2015.

Effective September 1st, 2015, new applications will no longer be accepted for the majority of BC PNP Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC categories.

The BC PNP will **only** continue to accept applications under the following categories:

- [Health Care Professional](#) (Skilled Worker and Express Entry BC)
- [Northeast Pilot Project](#)

*Please note that all new applications must be submitted online via BC PNP Online.

Applications will **not** be accepted under any other Skills Immigration or Express Entry BC categories at this time.

The Entrepreneur Immigration stream will continue to accept registrations for prospective applicants, up to a maximum of 200 per month.

The BC PNP will reopen the Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC categories in early 2016 with a new points-based intake system to prioritize high-impact applicants and ensure occupations and skills are aligned with B.C.'s labour market needs.

To ensure fairness and transparency for those who have already applied to the program, the BC PNP will continue to focus on assessing applications from the existing inventory for the remainder of 2015. B.C. continues to work with the federal government to increase the allocation of provincial nominations for B.C. in 2016.

Frequently Asked Questions - Skills Immigration

1. What will the new BC PNP application process look like? Will the categories be the same?

- Program changes will be released in early 2016.
- Information on those changes will be posted on the website www.welcomebc.ca/pnp.
- BC PNP will continue engage with stakeholders to explain the new application process.

2. Will Express Entry BC applications continue to receive priority processing? Where can I check the processing times for these files?

- Yes.
- Processing times will continue to be available at: www.welcomebc.ca/pnp

3. How can I get answers to questions about my current application or the program requirements?

- BC PNP will not respond to requests for status updates on applications submitted within the posted processing times.
- If you have questions for the [Express Entry British Columbia - Health Care Professional category](#), [Health Care Professional category](#) or the [Northeast Pilot Project](#) under the Skills Immigration stream, please carefully review the website.
- For more information, please visit the [contact page](#).

4. What if I need a work permit support letter?

- If you meet the criteria to request a work permit support letter from the BC PNP, please follow the steps outlined on the [Work Permit Support Letter page](#).
- Please note that you will only receive a work permit support letter if you have been nominated AND you have applied for permanent residency before your confirmation of nomination expired. If you do not meet this criteria, you must [contact CIC for more information](#).

5. How do I submit my application to the BC PNP for the Skills Immigration and EEBC categories?

- Applications are only being accepted at this time for Health Care Professionals and the Northeast Pilot Project.

- All new applications to the BC PNP must be made online using the new BC PNP Online system, available at: www.welcomebc.ca/pnp
- Paper applications will no longer be accepted.

6. *Is the BC PNP still accepting Express Entry BC (EEBC) addendums for those applicants in the Skills Immigration queue?*

- Yes.
- If you applied to the BC PNP under the Skills Immigration stream in a NOC Skill level O, A or B occupation (including applications under the following categories: Skilled Worker, Health Care Professional, International Post Graduate, International Graduate) and a decision has not been made on your application, you may submit an EEBC addendum and change your application to be assessed under one of the EEBC categories. Please note that you must also meet all of the requirements of one of the eligible federal categories in order to be approved under EEBC.
- Please visit www.welcomebc.ca/pnp for more information.