

B.C. Provincial Nominee Program



Information For B.C. Employers

Attracting & Retaining Foreign Workers through the BC Provincial Nominee Program

Economic growth in British Columbia depends on having the qualified people we need to meet labour market demand and ensure the continued prosperity of our province.

About the Program

The BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) is an economic immigration program operated by the Government of British Columbia in partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to help B.C. employers attract and retain qualified foreign workers to meet critical employment needs.

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:

- 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.

How the program works

1. You recruit for the job in the local labour market and/or are unable to hire a suitable Canadian or permanent resident employee.
2. You identify a qualified foreign candidate for an eligible job and agree to support the candidate's application for permanent residence through the PNP.
3. You and the candidate submit a joint application to the PNP. The application must include a letter confirming the job offer, as well as information on your organization and the candidate.
4. If we approve the application, we will nominate the employee for permanent residence. The nominee will then submit his or her application for permanent residence to CIC under the expedited Provincial Nominee Class.
5. 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.

Eligibility

Employers applying to the PNP need to meet eligibility criteria to ensure they can provide full-time employment to workers seeking nomination. The business must be permanently established in B.C., have a history of good workplace and business practices, demonstrate labour market recruitment, and have at least five full-time employees (three full-time employees if located outside of the Vancouver metropolitan area). In addition, the business must have operated in B.C. for at least one year (two years if you are supporting an entry level or semi-skilled worker). Employers must provide an offer of full-time indeterminate employment at a market wage rate for the position.

Full-time employment means that the employee is expected to work year round and, on average, at least 30 hours a week. Foreign workers you support for nomination must be qualified for the job you have offered them, and have or be eligible for legal status in Canada. Refugees and individuals under a removal order in Canada are not eligible.

The PNP is designed to meet labour market needs in high-demand occupations and, as such, not all positions qualify. Along with highly skilled occupations such as managers, professionals or skilled trades, the program also accepts applications in specific entry-level or semi-skilled occupations in the tourism/hospitality, food processing and long-haul truck driving industries.

More Info

To find out more about the PNP, please visit us on-line at www.WelcomeBC.ca/PNP, or contact us via email: pnpinfo@gov.bc.ca or telephone: +1 604.775.2227.



WelcomeBC

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B.C. Provincial Nominee Program



Information for Foreign Workers, International Graduates, and Job Seekers

Immigrating to British Columbia through the Provincial Nominee Program

Economic growth in British Columbia depends on having the qualified people we need to meet labour market demand and ensure the continued prosperity of our province.

If you have the skills, experience, and qualifications needed by employers in B.C. and an offer of permanent employment from a B.C. employer, you may be eligible to immigrate through the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

How the program works

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.
2. After you and your employer review the program criteria, you 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 required, 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 residence to CIC in the expedited 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.

Eligibility

The PNP is designed for individuals who would like to live and work permanently in B.C. The program focuses on skilled workers, recent international graduates from Canadian colleges and universities, and entry level and semi-skilled workers in certain occupations.

Foreign workers with post-secondary education or training and applicable employment experience in a professional, management, technical, trade or other skilled occupations may qualify under the Skilled Worker category. Recent international graduates of a Canadian university or college in the past two years may be eligible to apply in the International Graduates category. Recent master's or doctorate graduates from B.C. post-secondary institutions in the natural, applied or health sciences may qualify for the International Post-Graduate category – the only PNP category that does not require a job offer from a B.C. employer. Entry level or semi-skilled workers may also be eligible if they are employed in B.C. in the tourism/hospitality, food processing and long-haul trucking industries or work and reside within the Northeast region of the province.

Applications are accepted for individuals currently working in B.C. on a temporary work permit or living outside the province. As an employer-driven immigration program, most of the categories require an offer of employment from a B.C. employer prior to submitting an application to our office. You must be qualified for the job you've been offered, and have legal status in the country where you are making your application to the PNP. Refugees and individuals under a removal order in Canada are not eligible.

More info

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