

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program for Business?

A. The Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program for Business is a component of an existing immigration program that was created through an agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba. The purpose of this program is to attract exceptional business persons who are able and willing to make a capital contribution and be active in a new or existing business in the Province of Manitoba.

Q. How much money must I have to qualify as a business immigrant?

A. Business immigrants are required to have a legally earned or obtained net worth of at least \$250,000 (CDN) and be willing and able to make a capital contribution of at least \$150,000 into a business venture in which they will be actively involved.

Q. Must I make an exploratory visit to Manitoba before submitting my application?

A. Exploratory visits are **required**. This visit will allow you to identify and assess potential business opportunities as well as experience Manitoba's quality of life. For more information on exploratory visits, contact the Business Immigration and Investment Branch at pn-p-b@gov.mb.ca; phone (Canada 001) 204-945-1872; or fax (204) 948-2980.

Q. I have never owned a business. Does this affect my chances of qualifying?

A. While the experience of owning a successful business improves your chances of being selected, it is not essential. You must, however, be able to prove significant general business and management experience. This may include financial, marketing or operations/production management experience, or expertise in the field specific to the intended business.

Q. Do I need to hire a lawyer, consultant, or representative to help me complete or advise me on my application?

A. It is not necessary to hire a lawyer, consultant or representative to assist you with your application. In some cases (for example, if you have difficulty understanding the forms) you may wish to hire someone to help you fill out the forms or give advice. However, if you hire someone, your application will not receive special attention, or be handled differently from other applications.

Q. What kind of businesses will help me to become nominated?

A. Due to the limited number of nomination certificates, applicants will be assessed, first on meeting the minimum requirements, and second, on the economic benefit they intend to bring to Manitoba. Although not an exhaustive list, value-added businesses which provide meaningful and lasting employment in Manitoba, such as:

- Manufacturing
- Food processing
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology)
- Primary Production (example: mining, fishing and farming)
- Life Sciences (example: pharmaceuticals and biotechnology); and
- Energy

are desired. Some communities in Manitoba outside the City of Winnipeg are in need of more basic services. Applicants that identify these needs and propose to meet them will be considered for nomination.

Q. What kind of businesses will not be considered?

A. Although the program offers flexibility in the types of businesses being considered, it is essential that the planned business be an operating entity. Passive investments such as loan companies, property rental and investment and leasing companies will not be considered.

Q. Are partnership or group applications permitted?

A. Only under certain circumstances. Please note that each individual must qualify for the Provincial Nominee Program for Business on their own merits. For more information, contact the Business Immigration and Investment Branch at *pnp-b@gov.mb.ca*; phone (Canada 001) 204-945-2466, or fax (204) 948-2179.

Q. Why is a \$75,000 Deposit required?

A. The **\$75,000 Deposit** is required of the successful provincial nominee business applicant to ensure that the level of investment, creation of employment opportunities and type of business activity are undertaken as planned in Manitoba.

Q. When do I deposit the \$75,000?

A. After you have been nominated, you will be given detailed instructions regarding the deposit of the \$75,000 to the Province of Manitoba.

Q. When is the \$75,000 Deposit released?

A.

- You have 2 years from the date of landing to fulfill the requirements of the Deposit Agreement. Once your investment has been verified in the business area you proposed, your \$75,000 deposit will be returned to you.
- Any changes to the Deposit Agreement **must be discussed and approved** by the Business Immigration and Investment Branch before proceeding with your business.

Q. If I am approved for the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program for Business, what is my next step?

A. If you are approved as a Provincial Nominee, you will receive a letter from the Business Immigration and Investment Branch which will have detailed instructions about the deposit and the forwarding of Federal Immigration forms to the **Business Immigration and Investment Branch**.

Q. How long will it take for me to receive my immigration visa and what are the factors that may delay processing my application?

A. Based on current experiences with the program, applicants may receive their visas between 6 and 12 months after a complete application is received by the Business Immigration and Investment Branch office. There are several things that can delay processing of your application. These may include, but are not limited to: not having completed an exploratory visit; the need for an interview with the Canadian Embassy; incorrectly completed or unsigned application forms and/or cheques; missing documents; unclear photocopies; documents not accompanied by a certified English or French translation; failure to provide an accurate mailing address or change of address; verification of information and documents provided; a medical condition which may require additional tests or consultations; and a criminal or security problem.

Q. May I change my plans for my business venture after I arrive in Manitoba?

A. You may do so **only with the approval of the Province of Manitoba**. You will be required to contact the Business Immigration and Investment Branch for counseling and guidance as soon as you think you may have trouble fulfilling, and/or need to change, your business plans.

Q. What if I am unable to proceed with my business venture in Manitoba?

A. If the business plan or project does not go ahead, or another approved project involving comparable levels of investment and employment is not undertaken, the Province of Manitoba will be in a position to retain the \$75,000 deposit.

Q. What fees will I have to pay?

A. If you are nominated, you will be responsible for all federal immigration processing and the Right of Permanent Residency Fees. You will receive detailed instructions on payment of these fees after you are nominated. Do NOT include payment of any fees with your provincial nominee application package.

NOTE: DO NOT QUIT YOUR JOB OR SELL OR DISPOSE OF YOUR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AND BUSINESS ASSETS UNTIL YOU HAVE OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION FROM CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION CANADA THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE A PERMANENT RESIDENT VISA.