

## **Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP) Frequently Asked Questions - Changes to the NSNP October 16, 2006**

On July 1, 2006, the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration implemented changes to the Nova Scotia Nominee Program. These *Frequently Asked Questions* are to help NSNP partners, potential immigrants, nominees and their representatives understand the changes to the NSNP. For further information, please contact:

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### **Has the Nova Scotia Nominee Program been eliminated or closed?**

No. The Nova Scotia Nominee Program has not been eliminated or closed. Fee reductions and program changes to NSNP streams were announced effective July 1, 2006. However, the overall program continues to operate under the management of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration.

### **Are you eliminating the Economic stream?**

Not at this time. We continue to process applications to the Economic stream received on or before June 30, 2006. We will also maintain the employment and business mentoring component for all those nominated under this stream. However, the Office of Immigration will **not accept** any new applications to the Economic stream for the remainder of 2006. We have met our nomination targets with those applications already approved and those in process. The Office of Immigration is taking this opportunity to assess and redesign this stream.

**I haven't yet submitted an application under the Economic stream. Can I submit now?**

Unfortunately no. Effective July 1, 2006, the Office of Immigration is not accepting any new applications under the Economic stream for the remainder of this calendar year.

**Why are you not accepting new applications to the Economic stream?**

Under our current agreement with the federal government on the nominee program, we are allowed to issue 200 Certificates of Nomination annually. We have been successful in working with the federal government to raise that cap to 400 certificates. With the number of applicants having already received their certificates and the number which are in process, we have reached our nomination target for this calendar year. This provides the Office of Immigration with the opportunity to assess and redesign this stream.

**What will the redesigned Economic stream look like?**

At this point, it is too early to determine what the redesigned Economic stream will look like.

**Should I wait and submit my Economic application in January 2007?**

The redesigned Economic stream will likely contain different eligibility criteria. Therefore, individuals who may have been eligible under the existing Economic stream may not qualify under the redesigned stream.

**If I initiated but did not complete my application with Cornwallis Financial Corporation on or before June 30, will my application be processed?**

The Office of Immigration will process and assess applications which were formally initiated at Cornwallis Financial Corporation on or before June 30, 2006 (proof or confirmation required) provided that the application was not subsequently withdrawn and that a completed application containing all supporting documentation was received by the Office of Immigration no later than **September 30, 2006, 4:00 p.m.** Atlantic Daylight Savings time. Applicants must include a confirmation of a minimum non-refundable payment of \$1,700 CDN if they applied before May 9, 2006 and \$1,200 if they applied on or after May 9, 2006.

**What about scheduled interviews for Economic stream candidates?**

The Office of Immigration will issue letters of appointment for Economic stream applicants after completed files have been received and a preliminary staff assessment indicates that the files meet minimum requirements. The letter of

appointment will be sent directly to the applicant and/or their representative. No letter will be sent directly to the visa post as was the past practice.

**Please note:** All mandatory exploratory visits in the province and the interviews must take place on or before **February 28, 2007**. If applicants are unable to meet this visit and interview deadline, their application will be considered withdrawn and their files will be closed.

**What are the current NSNP fees?**

For applications received on or after July 1, 2006, the fees are as follows:

<b>NSNP Stream</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Skilled Worker	No fee	Reduction from \$5000
Community Identified	No fee	Reduction from \$1700
Economic	Not applicable  Effective July 1, 2006, no new applications will be accepted in this stream.	Applicants who applied before July 1, 2006 will pay as follows:  \$130,500 for applications received on or before May 8, 2006.  \$130,000 for applications received from May 9 to June 30, 2006

**When and where do I pay my Economic fees?**

Effective July 1, 2006, please forward your fees to the Office of Immigration. You can pay by sending a certified cheque or money order payable to 'Minister of Finance in trust' or by a wire transfer of funds.

For further instructions on the wire transfer, please contact the Office of Immigration. If a wire transfer is made, you must send proof of transfer to the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration by fax at (902) 424-7936 or by e-mail at [nsnp@gov.ns.ca](mailto:nsnp@gov.ns.ca). Please ensure that your name, address and NSNP ID number is included in your correspondence to both the bank and the Office of Immigration.

### **If I wish to withdraw, can I have my Economic fees refunded?**

For applications received before May 9, 2006, there is a \$1700 non-refundable portion. For applications received between May 9, 2006 to June 30, 2006, there is a \$1200 non-refundable portion.

The remaining fees will be refunded, without interest, if the applicant is refused by the province for nomination or by Citizenship and Immigration Canada for permanent residency, or if the applicant provides written proof that he/she has withdrawn or closed his/her application prior to permanent residency being issued. Once permanent residency has been granted by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), all fees are non-refundable.

The Refund Policy and Refund Form can be obtained on our website at [www.novascotiaimmigration.com](http://www.novascotiaimmigration.com).

### **Has the target of 400 been met for 2006?**

Yes. Under our current agreement with the federal government on the nominee program, the Office of Immigration is allowed to issue 200 Certificates of Nomination annually. We have been successful in working with the federal government to raise that cap to 400 certificates.

We will now defer nominations until January 2007. We will continue to process all applications, but the nominations will not be issued until January 2007. Successful applicants who have not yet been nominated will have their nominations deferred until that time. This means that successful applicants will be notified that they will be nominated but will not receive their letters of nomination until January 2007. In addition, the Certificate of Nomination in the applicant's name will only be issued in January 2007 to the appropriate visa office.

### **I'm an authorized paid representative, will I get my commission for the Economic stream?**

Please refer to the policy on our website at: [www.novascotiaimmigration.com](http://www.novascotiaimmigration.com). Commissions of \$20,000 CAD will be paid to immigration representatives for all Nova Scotia Nominee Program Economic stream applications submitted to Cornwallis Financial Corporation on or before June 30, 2006 which result in a nomination by the Province of Nova Scotia and in the issuance of a permanent resident visa by the federal government.

The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration is responsible for the payment of commissions to authorized representatives whose clients were nominated (i.e. received a letter of nomination) after July 1, 2006.

The full commission of \$20,000 will be paid in one payment installment **after** the nominee is issued the permanent residency visa. No advance payments on the commission will be made after nomination.

**Are you accepting new Skilled Worker and Community Identified applications?**

Yes. However, given that 400 nominations have now been issued in the 2006 calendar year, no further nominations will be made until January 2007. Applicants who are favourably assessed in the remainder of 2006 by the Office of Immigration will have their nomination deferred until 2007.

**Where do I get new Skilled Worker and Community Identified application materials?**

The Office of Immigration is currently developing new application materials for the Community Identified streams which will be posted on our website shortly. The Skilled Worker application package is already posted on our website. Contact information is provided at the top of this document.

**Where do I submit new Skilled Worker and Community Identified applications?**

All new applications and documents requested by the Office of Immigration should be sent directly to the Office of Immigration. Contact information is provided at the top of this document.

**Once I arrive in Nova Scotia, who should I contact to confirm my landing?**

Nova Scotia nominees who have been issued a permanent resident visa by Citizenship and Immigration Canada are required to contact the Office of Immigration within 30 days of landing in Canada to provide contact information (i.e. mailing address, phone, e-mail, etc.), as well as documentation confirming permanent residency.

**Once I arrive in Nova Scotia, who should I contact to initiate my employment contract under the Economic stream?**

Economic nominees must also contact the Office of Immigration to initiate the matching process for the employment contract.

Economic nominees are required to enter into a six month employment contract with an approved business mentor company within twelve (12) months of landing in Canada. If the applicant fails to do so, he/she will lose their right to be offered an opportunity for employment with an approved business mentor. The time limit

may only be extended with the written permission of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration.

**Will the NSNP offer new categories, such as the Family business stream?**

Yes, the Office of Immigration intends to eventually add new categories to the NSNP. The additional streams may be introduced in January 2007. Please check our website for updates and announcements of new streams.

**Is the Business Mentor program of the Economic stream still operating?**

Yes. The Business Mentor program of the Economic stream continues to operate under the management of the Office of Immigration to serve the Economic nominees who have already landed and those who we anticipate will arrive in Nova Scotia over the next few years. The Office of Immigration anticipates actively promoting this component in the future to encourage more businesses to apply.

**Can businesses still apply to be a Business Mentor?**

Yes. The Office of Immigration continues to accept new Business Mentor applications from Nova Scotia companies wishing to offer a six month employment contract, at a middle management level, to nominees approved under the Economic stream.

**Where do I apply to become a Business Mentor?**

All new Business Mentor applications must be submitted directly to the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration. The application guide and form is posted on our website.