

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program was designed to provide British Columbia with a mechanism for increasing economic benefits of immigration to the province. It is a means by which British Columbia may nominate candidates for immigration that are considered most likely to contribute to the economic development and growth of the province and to successfully establish themselves in the Province.

The **Regional Business** category is intended to assist people from outside Canada, with proven skills and financial resources, to rapidly implement plans for business establishment or expansion contributing to the regional development of British Columbia.

A number of organizations, such as Economic Development Commissions, Chambers of Commerce and Community Futures Development Corporations have a mandate to attract business activity in the various regions of British Columbia. They are good sources of information and applicants are encouraged to contact them to discuss their business plans.

For the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program, priority sectors include high tech, manufacturing/processing, tourism and agriculture/aquaculture. However, we also look at businesses in other sectors based on their merits. All business proposals put forth should add economic value and not be simply transactional in nature.

The qualifying criteria are:

- Proposed business **must be** located outside **Greater Vancouver Area*** (see next column for definition)
- Minimum net worth: CAD\$ 600,000
- Minimum investment: CAD\$300,000, excluding real estate component.
- Applicant must have minimum 50% equity
- Business must create a minimum of 2 new jobs (excluding self and family members)
- Applicant must have an active management role

***The Greater Vancouver Area includes:** Burnaby, Coquitlam, Delta, Langley City, Langley District Municipality, Maple Ridge, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Pitt Meadows, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Richmond, Surrey, Vancouver, West Vancouver and White Rock.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applicant submits a Preliminary Information Form: business background and proposed business summary including proposed new investment or expansion and staff requirements.
- If it appears likely that the applicant meets program requirements, the applicant will be invited to submit a formal application.
- The applicant may also be invited to conduct an exploratory visit to British Columbia.
- Applicant submits formal application and payment of processing fees.
- PNP staff reviews the application and conducts a formal interview of the applicant or company official in Vancouver.
- Selection Committee reviews and makes decision on case.
- A satisfactory Performance Agreement with specific investments activities and timeframes is signed.
- British Columbia issues letter of support for applicant's work permit application to appropriate Canadian Visa Office.
- Applicant and dependents apply for 2-year visas leading to Work or Study Permits.
- Applicant implements investment plan according to Performance Agreement. PNP staff monitors progress.
- When conditions on Performance Agreement are met, the British Columbia Government nominates the applicant and their dependents for permanent residence.
- Applicant applies for permanent residence. The Government of Canada issues immigrant visas after medical, criminality and security requirements are met.

Applicants are advised to retain full control of their investment capital at all times and proceed to investment only after receiving their Work Permit.

The **Business Categories** of the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program also include:

- ❖ The **Business Skills** category is intended to attract applicants who extensive resources and business experience, and who want to be actively involved in implementing a BC business undertaking which will make significant contribution to the economy of the province. Qualifying criteria differs from the Regional Business category. Detailed information can be obtained at:
www.businessimmigration.gov.bc.ca
- ❖ The **Projects** category is designed to assist local or foreign companies with the timely entry of skilled, key managers and technical professionals essential to the success of a business expected to generate significant economic benefits to British Columbia. Detailed information can be obtained at:
www.businessimmigration.gov.bc.ca

Meeting minimum selection criteria does not guarantee approval.

Program targets and process capacity lead to a focus on the candidates best able to bring economic benefits to the Province.

The **Strategic Occupations** categories of the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program are designed to allow British Columbia to select highly skilled immigrants to fill critical shortages in the province. Detailed information can be obtained at:
www.pnp.gov.bc.ca

The nomination process is linked to business performance.

Provincial Nominee candidates receive expedited temporary work permits and can promptly settle in British Columbia with their dependents. After conditions on the Performance Agreement are met, candidates will be confirmed as Provincial Nominees and their immigration process (permanent resident status) will be expedited.

There are three **Business** categories of the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program:

- ❖ Regional Business
- ❖ Business Skills
- ❖ Projects

Detailed information on the **Business** categories can be obtained at:

www.businessimmigration.gov.bc.ca

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit our website or contact our office:

For the **Business** categories contact:

Business Immigration Office
Ministry of Economic Development
Suite #730 – World Trade Centre
999 Canada Place
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V6C 3E1

Tel: 604 775-2227
FAX: 604 660-4092
E-Mail: Bus.Imm@gov.bc.ca

For the **Strategic Occupations** categories contact:

Provincial Nominee Program
Ministry of Economic Development
Suite #730 – World Trade Centre
999 Canada Place
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V6C 3E1

Tel: 604 775-2227
FAX: 604 660-4092
E-Mail: PNPInfo@gov.bc.ca



**Ministry of
Economic Development**
Economic Immigration Programs Branch
Business Immigration Office

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA *Provincial Nominee Program*

REGIONAL BUSINESS Category



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