

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **Q. What is the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program Entrepreneur Category?**

- A. The Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program, Entrepreneur Category is a component of an existing immigration program that was created through an agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan. The purpose of this program is to attract experienced business persons who wish to live in our province and are able and willing to invest in a new or existing business or partnership in which they will assume an active management role.

### **Q. How much net worth must I have to qualify as a business immigrant?**

- A. Entrepreneur 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 an investment of at least \$150,000 (CDN) into a self-identified business opportunity within any economic sector and in which they will be actively involved.

### **Q. Must I make an exploratory visit to Saskatchewan before submitting my application?**

- A. Applicants must make a mandatory exploratory visit having a duration of at least 5 days prior to submitting their application. This fact-finding visit will allow you to identify and assess potential business opportunities by meeting with business partners, economic development authorities and the Immigration Branch as well as experiencing Saskatchewan's quality of life. For more information on exploratory visits, contact the SINP Immigration Branch at Telephone: (Canada 001) 306-798-SINP (7467), Facsimile: (Canada 001) 306-798-0713 or E-mail: [www.immigration@gr.gov.sk.ca](mailto:www.immigration@gr.gov.sk.ca)

### **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 demonstrate either business or senior management experience. This may include a combination of financial or marketing knowledge 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. A lawyer, consultant or representative may be of assistance with completing your application if you have difficulty understanding the forms. 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. To be considered for nomination, an applicant must first meet the eligibility requirements with respect to financial resources and business experience/knowledge.

Once these criteria are met any business in any sector will qualify providing the business proposal provides a reasonable expectation of success.

**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 nor will proposals where the applicant invests in the business for a period of time with a return of investment under specified conditions, or where there is no on-going management role for the applicant.

**Q. Are partnership or group applications permitted?**

A. Applicants must also either own at least 33.3% of their business in Saskatchewan or invest at least \$500,000 into the business. Please note that each individual must qualify for the SINP Business Category on their own merits. For more information, contact the Saskatchewan Immigration Branch at Telephone: (Canada 001) 306-798-SINP (7467), Facsimile: (Canada 001) 306-798-0713 and E-mail: [www.immigration@gr.gov.sk.ca](mailto:www.immigration@gr.gov.sk.ca)

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

A. The \$75,000 Deposit is required of the successful provincial nominee entrepreneur applicant to ensure that the commitment to establish a business is undertaken as planned in Saskatchewan.

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

A. Once you have received notification that your application has been accepted, you will be sent a letter with further instructions on depositing your \$75,000 CDN with a trustee in the province of Saskatchewan. When the funds are received, a letter of Nomination will be forwarded to the appropriate Canadian Visa Office, and your completed application will be sent back to you.

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

A. You have 2 years from the date of landing to fulfill the requirements of the Performance Agreement. Once you have demonstrated that you have met the terms of the Performance Agreement, your \$75,000 deposit and any interest earned will be returned to you. Changes to the Performance Agreement must be discussed and approved by the Immigration Branch before proceeding with your business.

**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 Immigration 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 Saskatchewan?**

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

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

A. If the business plan or project does not go ahead, or another approved project by the Province involving minimum levels of investment and employment is not undertaken, the province of Saskatchewan will retain the \$75,000 and any interest earned.

**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.**