

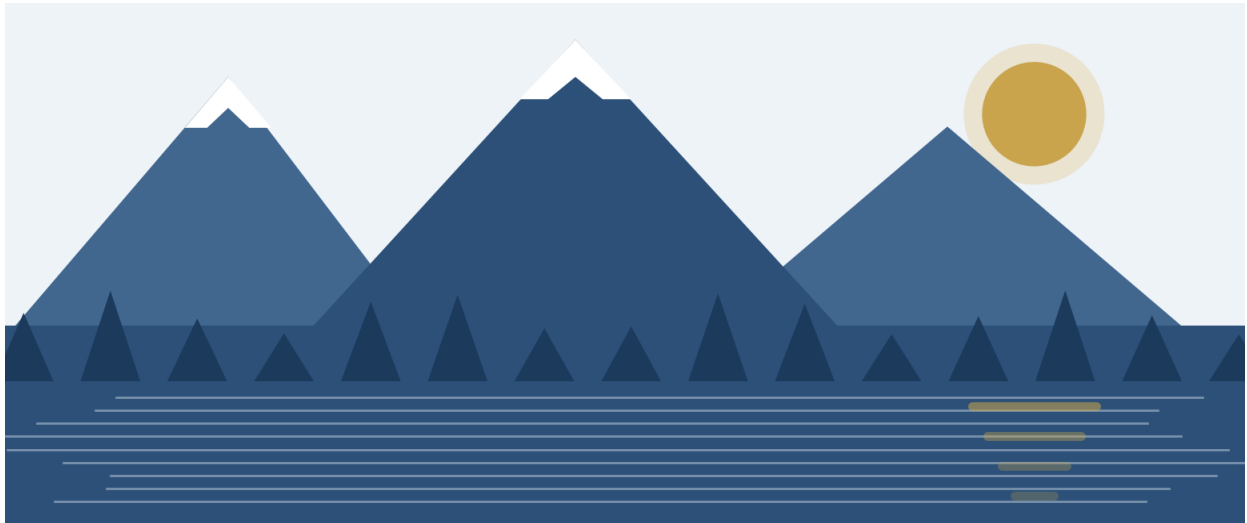
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Canadian Immigration & Refugee Law

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL NOMINEE PROGRAM

Entrepreneur Immigration Base Stream

Requirements and Process



Client Information Guide

Prepared August 2026

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This guide is for general information only and does not constitute legal advice.

Entrepreneur Immigration – Base Stream

Client Information Guide – Requirements and Process

Prepared by Kabir & Alam Lawyers | August 2026

1. Overview

The Entrepreneur Immigration (EI) – Base stream of the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) is a pathway to Canadian permanent residence for experienced entrepreneurs who are ready to invest in, establish (or acquire and grow), and actively manage a business anywhere in BC, including Metro Vancouver.

The stream operates on an invitation-based registration system: candidates register online, receive a score, and the highest-scoring candidates are periodically invited to apply. Successful applicants first come to BC on a work permit supported by the province, operate their business under a Performance Agreement, and are nominated for permanent residence once they demonstrate they have met the terms of that Agreement. The full cycle, from registration to nomination, commonly takes two years or longer.

\$600,000	\$200,000	3 years	1 job	CLB 4
Minimum personal net worth (CAD)	Minimum eligible personal investment (CAD)	Business owner-manager experience (last 10 yrs)*	New full-time job for a Canadian citizen or PR	Minimum language proficiency (Eng/Fr)

Figure 1: Core requirements at a glance.

2. Eligibility and Requirements

To qualify under the Base stream, you must meet all of the following criteria. It is your responsibility to demonstrate, with documentation, that each requirement is satisfied. An eligible post-secondary credential may be accepted in place of the business experience requirement.

Requirement	Details
Personal net worth	Minimum CAD \$600,000, legally obtained and verifiable. Full net worth must be disclosed and will be independently verified by a BC PNP-authorized accounting firm after an invitation to apply.

Requirement	Details
Business experience	Minimum 3 years of experience as a business owner-manager within the last 10 years. Applicants who do not meet the business experience requirement may instead submit proof of an eligible post-secondary education credential for consideration.
Personal investment	Minimum eligible personal investment of CAD \$200,000 in the business. Note: \$200,000 is a program minimum; the actual capital required to establish and operate the business may be higher. Property purchases generally do not count as eligible investment.
Business type	Establish an eligible new business, or take over and grow an existing one. The business may be located anywhere in British Columbia, including Metro Vancouver. It must not fall within the ineligible business list (see Section 3).
Job creation	Create at least one new full-time job for a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.
Language	Minimum Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) level 4 in English or French, demonstrated through an approved language test.
Immigration status	Must have, or be eligible for, legal immigration status in Canada, and be admissible under Canadian immigration law.
Community referral	Not required for the Base stream (unlike the Regional stream).
Exploratory visit	Recommended but not required. A visit strengthens market research and the credibility of the business concept.

Note: exceptions and additional detail apply to the criteria above. The authoritative source is the BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration Program Guide published on WelcomeBC.ca; requirements are assessed under the Provincial Immigration Programs Act and Regulation.

2.1 Net worth: what to expect

- You must disclose your complete personal net worth, not merely enough assets to meet the \$600,000 floor.
- After an invitation to apply, your net worth and the accumulation of your funds must be reviewed by a BC PNP-authorized accounting firm before you submit your application. A list of authorized firms is provided with the invitation.
- Supporting documentation typically includes bank statements, business financial statements, tax records, property ownership documents, shareholding records, business or property sale agreements, gift or inheritance records, loan documents, and explanations for major financial transactions.
- Funds must be legally obtained, and the source of every significant asset must be traceable. Unexplained accumulation of funds is a common reason files fail.

- The \$200,000 investment should be planned as a distinct tranche of capital. It is prudent to maintain reserves well beyond the minimum figures, as the minimum investment may not be sufficient to purchase, establish, and operate the business.

2.2 Registration scoring

Registrations are scored on human capital factors (business experience, education, language proficiency, adaptability) and economic factors (the commercial viability of the business concept, its economic benefit to the province, and its location – businesses outside major urban centres typically attract additional points). The business concept section is scored separately by BC PNP staff within approximately six weeks of receipt. Invitation cut-off scores vary between draws, and registration does not guarantee an invitation.

3. Ineligible Businesses

The following types of businesses are not eligible under the program:

- Immigration-linked investment schemes, investments with a redemption option, or passive investments (as defined in the federal Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations, s. 87)
- Bed and breakfasts, hobby farms, and home-based businesses
- Payday loan, cheque cashing, money changing, and cash machine businesses; pawnbrokers
- Tanning salons, DVD rental stores, coin-operated laundries, and automated car wash operations
- Scrap metal recycling and businesses selling used goods (unless value-added services such as repair, refurbishing, or recycling are provided)
- Real estate development, real estate brokerage, insurance brokerage, or business brokerage
- Goods trading businesses (e.g., import/export), unless value-add is demonstrated

4. The Application Process, Step by Step

BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration – Base Stream: Process Overview

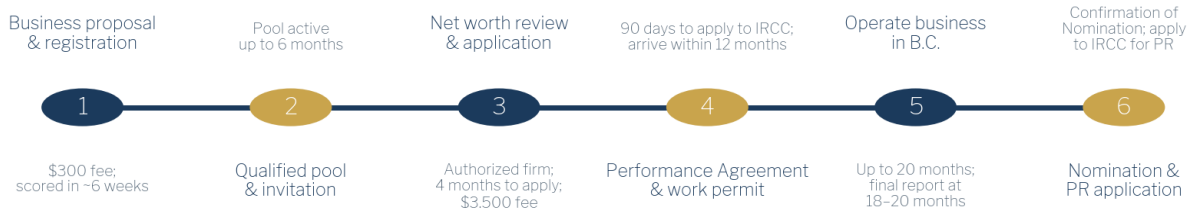


Figure 2: Process overview.

1. **Develop a business proposal:** Prepare a comprehensive business proposal demonstrating your experience, the commercial viability of the concept, the proposed location, and how the business supports B.C.'s economic development priorities. An exploratory visit and serious market research at this stage materially strengthen the file.
2. **Register online:** Create a profile and submit a registration through the BC PNP Online User Portal (\$300 fee). Your registration receives a score; the business concept is assessed separately by program staff within approximately six weeks. Eligible registrations enter a qualified pool for up to six months.
3. **Invitation to apply:** The BC PNP periodically holds draws and invites the highest-scoring registrants. If invited, you must arrange a net worth verification report from a BC PNP-authorized accounting firm before applying.
4. **Submit the BC PNP application:** Submit a complete application through the portal within four months of the invitation, including the verification report, a detailed business plan, and the \$3,500 application fee. You may be interviewed about your experience and business plan.
5. **Performance Agreement and work permit:** If approved, you sign a Performance Agreement with the Province, tailored to your specific business plan, and receive a Letter of Support for a two-year work permit. You must apply to IRCC for the work permit within 90 days and arrive in B.C. within 12 months of the permit being issued.
6. **Operate the business:** After arrival, you have up to 20 months to implement your plan, make the required investment, create the required employment, and actively manage the business day-to-day. You must submit a final report between 18 and 20 months after arrival demonstrating you have met the Agreement's terms.
7. **Nomination and permanent residence:** If the BC PNP is satisfied that the Performance Agreement has been fulfilled, you sign a Conditions of Nomination Declaration and receive

a Confirmation of Nomination, which supports a permanent residence application to IRCC under the Provincial Nominee Class for you and your dependent family members.

4.1 Residency and management conditions

- You must actively manage the business on a day-to-day basis from within British Columbia; passive ownership does not qualify.
- You are expected to reside near the business and be physically present in B.C. for the substantial majority of the work permit period.
- Accompanying spouses/partners and dependent children may apply for their own work or study permits alongside your application.

4.2 Key deadlines

- Registration remains in the qualified pool for up to 6 months (or until invited).
- Submit the complete application within 4 months of the invitation date.
- Submit the work permit application to IRCC within 90 days of the Letter of Support, and arrive in B.C. within 12 months of the permit being issued.
- Implement the business plan and meet the Performance Agreement terms within 20 months of arrival; submit the final report 18 to 20 months after arrival.

5. Fees and Costs

Item	Cost
Registration	\$300
Application	\$3,500
Request for review	\$500 (non-refundable)
Net worth verification (authorized firm)	Applicant's cost
IRCC fees (work permit; permanent residence)	Federal fees apply

Fees are refunded only if the application is withdrawn before assessment begins, and are paid exclusively through the BC PNP Online User Portal. Published processing estimates: registration score in about 6 weeks; application decisions in about 4 months at each of the work permit and final report stages; requests for review in about 6 months. Approximately 80% of cases are processed within these published timelines.

6. How This Compares to Other Streams

For reference against the other provincial entrepreneur programs:

Criteria	BC PNP Base	NS Entrepreneur	NL Intl Entrepreneur
Net worth	\$600K	\$600K HRM / \$400K outside	\$600K (transferable)

Criteria	BC PNP Base	NS Entrepreneur	NL Intl Entrepreneur
Minimum investment	\$200K	\$150K HRM / \$100K outside	\$200K (or \$1M equity)
Language	CLB 4	CLB 5	CLB 5
Age	No limit	21+, no cap	21–59
Provincial fees	\$300 + \$3,500	\$2,000 (from Sept 1, 2026)	None
Operating period	18–20 months	At least 1 year	At least 1 year
Exploratory visit	Recommended only	Required for purchases	Mandatory (if outside NL)

7. Practical Considerations

- Draws are competitive and invitation volumes are modest – recent Base stream draws have issued invitations in the range of roughly 10–15 candidates at a time. A strong registration score, a credible and well-researched business concept, and clean net worth documentation are all essential.
- Register only after completing serious market research. Registering with an underdeveloped concept, or targeting a business that is ineligible, financially weak, or inconsistent with your experience, is a common cause of failure.
- Budget realistically: beyond the \$200,000 minimum investment, you should have working capital for operating losses in the start-up phase and settlement funds for your family.
- The net worth figure documented at registration must hold through the application stage; plan the investment tranche so that your verified financial position remains consistent.
- Nothing is guaranteed at any stage: registration does not guarantee invitation, and an approved application leads to nomination only if the Performance Agreement is fulfilled.

Important Notice

This guide is provided for general information only and does not constitute legal advice for any specific case. It summarizes the requirements of the BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration – Base stream as published by the Province of British Columbia (WelcomeBC.ca) as of August 2026. Program criteria, invitation score thresholds, fees, and processing times change from time to time and should be verified against the current Entrepreneur Immigration Program Guide before any step is taken. Please contact our office to discuss how these requirements apply to your circumstances.

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