

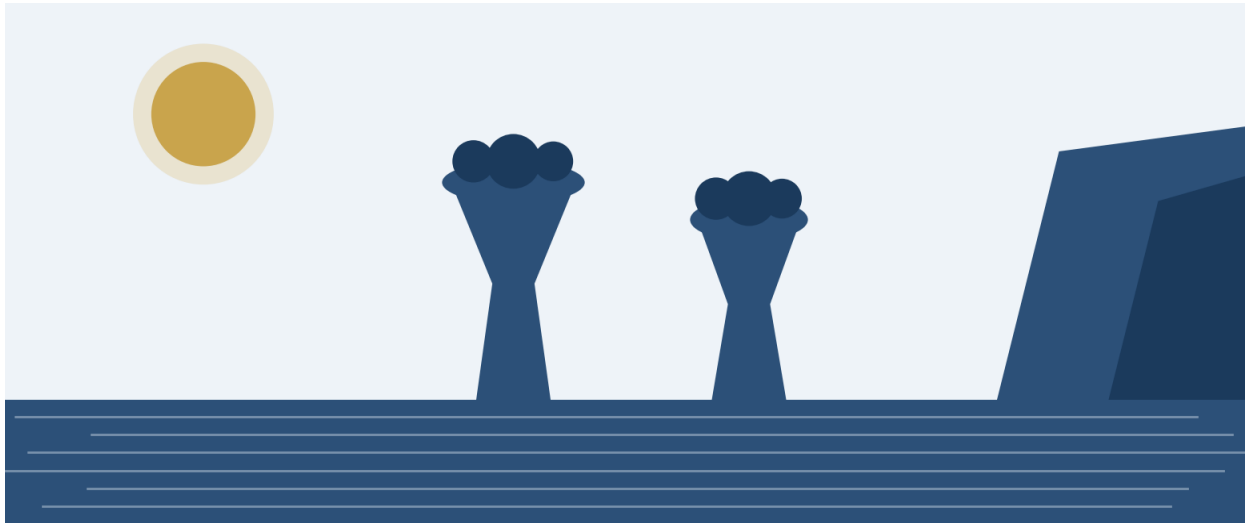
KABIR & ALAM LAWYERS

Canadian Immigration & Refugee Law

NEW BRUNSWICK PROVINCIAL NOMINEE PROGRAM

Business Immigration Stream (NBBIS)

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.

New Brunswick Provincial Nominee Program

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Prepared by Kabir & Alam Lawyers | August 2026

1. Overview

The New Brunswick Business Immigration Stream (NBBIS) is the province's pathway to Canadian permanent residence for experienced business owners and senior managers who establish or purchase a business in New Brunswick and actively manage it while living in the province. It replaced the former Entrepreneurial Stream, which is closed and no longer accepting applications; the NBBIS runs on an Expression of Interest and invitation model with a 100-point selection grid and a minimum qualifying score of 65.

The stream is work-permit-first: successful candidates receive provincial support for a temporary work permit, then complete a Business Establishment Period (BEP) – typically one to two years, depending on the milestones in the business plan – during which they must set up and operate the business and spend at least 75% of their time in New Brunswick, before being nominated for permanent residence. The province actively targets sectors including agri-food, technology, tourism, and manufacturing, and offers a reduced net worth threshold for agricultural business plans.

\$500,000	\$150,000	2 years	65 / 100	CLB 4	1 job
Minimum net worth (\$300K for agriculture plans)	Minimum eligible investment (before tax)	Business ownership or senior management in the last 5 years	Minimum score on the selection grid	Minimum language level by nomination	New full-time job for a Canadian citizen or PR

Figure 1: Core requirements at a glance.

2. Eligibility and Requirements

To qualify under the NBBIS, you must meet all of the following criteria and score at least 65 points on the selection grid:

Requirement	Details
Net worth	A verifiable personal net worth of at least CAD \$500,000 – or CAD \$300,000 for agricultural business plans – legally accumulated and verified by an approved third-party professional accounting service.
Investment	A minimum eligible investment of CAD \$150,000 (before tax) to establish or purchase a New Brunswick business.
Equity and management	Control of at least one-third (33.3%) of the business's equity, with active, ongoing day-to-day management from within New Brunswick.
Business experience	At least 2 years of business ownership or senior management experience in a for-profit business within the past 5 years.
Job creation	Create at least one full-time job for a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (excluding the owner and relatives).
Language	Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB/NCLC) level 4 or higher in English or French, demonstrated through an approved test by the time of nomination.
Age	Within the stream's eligible age range (approximately 19 to 59 under the published framework), with grid points concentrated in mid-career ages – confirm the current grid before submitting.
Business plan	A researched business plan setting out the concept, market analysis, financial projections, and benefit to New Brunswick's economy. Agriculture-based plans require a Letter of Support from the provincial Department of Agriculture.
Exploratory visit	A business exploratory visit to New Brunswick (five days or more, within the 12 months before the EOI) is a priority factor worth meaningful points on the grid rather than a strict precondition – in practice, competitive files almost always include one.

The authoritative source is the New Brunswick Business Immigration Stream Guide published by ImmigrationNB (www2.gnb.ca). Selection factors, priority sectors, and intake volumes change – New Brunswick's 2026 nomination allocation was reduced, sharpening competition – so verify the current guide before any step is taken.

2.1 The 100-point selection grid

EOIs are scored across factors including age, language, education, business experience (ownership scoring above senior management), net worth, investment, the business plan (with the exploratory visit contributing a meaningful share of the plan's points), and adaptability. Adaptability recognises New Brunswick connections: prior study in the province (a one-year

credential or more), six months of high-skilled work in NB (by you or your spouse), and close family in the province. Candidates scoring 65 or better enter the pool; the highest-ranked receive an Invitation to Apply through the INB Portal.

2.2 The Business Establishment Period

After the work permit is issued and you arrive, the BEP is where the commitments are performed: making the qualifying investment, launching or acquiring the business, creating the required employment, and residing in the province – the 75% physical presence expectation is monitored. The BEP's length follows the milestones in your accepted business plan, typically one to two years, and the nomination follows only when ImmigrationNB is satisfied the commitments have been met.

3. Ineligible Businesses

Businesses and proposals that do not fit the stream include:

- Passive investment without active day-to-day management from within New Brunswick
- Businesses inconsistent with the stream's eligible business definitions or that would not deliver genuine economic benefit to the province
- Plans without the required job creation for a non-relative Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Agriculture-based plans lacking the Department of Agriculture's Letter of Support

4. The Application Process, Step by Step

New Brunswick Business Immigration Stream: Process Overview

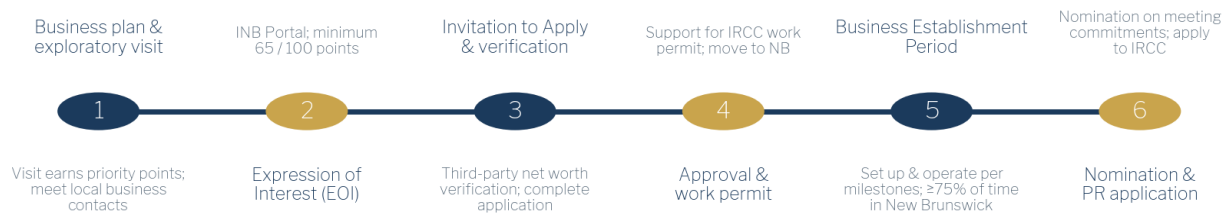


Figure 2: Process overview.

- 1. Research, visit, and build the plan:** Develop the business concept against New Brunswick's priority sectors, complete an exploratory visit of five or more days within the year before your EOI, and meet local business contacts and economic development officers – the visit strengthens both the plan and your grid score.
- 2. Submit an Expression of Interest:** Create an account on the INB Portal and submit the EOI. You must meet the minimum criteria and score at least 65 points to enter the pool.
- 3. Invitation to Apply and verification:** If selected, you receive an ITA in your INB account. Retain the approved third-party verifier for the net worth report and submit the complete application with the business plan and supporting documents.
- 4. Approval and work permit:** On approval, the province supports a temporary work permit application to IRCC so you can move to New Brunswick and begin the Business Establishment Period.
- 5. Complete the Business Establishment Period:** Make the qualifying investment, establish or acquire the business, create the required employment, actively manage day-to-day, and maintain at least 75% physical presence in the province through the BEP.
- 6. Nomination and permanent residence:** Once ImmigrationNB is satisfied the business plan commitments have been met, you are nominated, supporting a permanent residence application to IRCC under the Provincial Nominee Class for you and your dependent family members.

5. Fees and Costs

Item	Cost
Provincial application fee	Confirm the current amount in the NBBIS Guide

Item	Cost
Third-party net worth verification	Applicant's cost (commonly in the \$3,500–\$5,500 range)
Language tests, credential assessments, translations	Applicant's cost
Exploratory visit travel	Applicant's cost
IRCC fees (work permit; permanent residence)	Federal fees apply

ImmigrationNB does not provide letters of support for temporary resident visas or eTAs for the exploratory visit – travel documentation is the applicant's responsibility.

6. How This Compares to Other Atlantic Entrepreneur Streams

For reference against the other Atlantic programs:

Criteria	NB Business Immigration	NS Entrepreneur	NL Intl Entrepreneur
Net worth	\$500K (\$300K agriculture)	\$600K HRM / \$400K outside	\$600K (transferable)
Minimum investment	\$150K	\$150K HRM / \$100K outside	\$200K (or \$1M equity)
Language	CLB 4	CLB 5	CLB 5
Selection	EOI; 65/100 grid minimum	EOI; 8-factor matrix	EOI; 6-factor grid
Exploratory visit	Priority points factor	Required for purchases	Mandatory (if outside NL)
Operating period	BEP, typically 1–2 years	At least 1 year	At least 12 months
Sector incentive	Agriculture: lower net worth	Succession actively promoted	Named priority sectors

7. Practical Considerations

- The agriculture concession is significant: a \$300,000 net worth threshold is among the lowest for any experienced-entrepreneur stream in the country, and the province's agri-food priority means credible farming and food-production plans are actively welcomed – but they require the Department of Agriculture's support letter, so engage that process early.
- Treat the exploratory visit as effectively mandatory: it carries meaningful grid points and grounds the business plan in verified local conditions – a plan written without one reads as such.

- The 65-point floor is a threshold, not a target: with New Brunswick's reduced 2026 nomination allocation, invitations go to the higher-scoring pool, so language, experience depth, and NB connections all matter.
- The 75% physical presence expectation during the BEP shapes family and business logistics – candidates maintaining businesses abroad should plan the transition accordingly.
- Construction and trades businesses, and retail or hospitality in smaller communities, have practical traction given the province's housing and labour needs – but every concept must still clear the economic-benefit assessment on its own evidence.

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 New Brunswick Business Immigration Stream as published by ImmigrationNB (www2.gnb.ca) as of August 2026. The former Entrepreneurial Stream is closed. Program criteria, the selection grid, priority sectors, fees, and intake volumes change from time to time and should be verified against the current NBBIS Guide before any step is taken. Please contact our office to discuss how these requirements apply to your circumstances.

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