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Canadian Immigration & Refugee Law

YUKON NOMINEE PROGRAM

Business Nominee Program

Requirements and Process

Client Information Guide

Prepared August 2026

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Prepared by Kabir & Alam Lawyers | August 2026

1. Overview

The Yukon Business Nominee Program is the territory's pathway to Canadian permanent residence for experienced entrepreneurs who establish or purchase – and personally operate – a business in Yukon. The program scores candidates on an assessment grid (minimum 65 points) covering business experience, the proposed business, education, language, and ties to the territory, and holds eligible candidates in a pool for up to six months from which the strongest are selected.

Financially, the program sits mid-range among Canadian business streams: a $500,000 net worth including at least $300,000 in legally acquired liquid assets, verified by a Yukon accounting firm, and a commitment to invest at least $300,000 of capital into the business within the first two years. The business must fall within Yukon's strategic sectors – areas such as tourism and culture, renewable energy and clean technology, mining services, agriculture, forestry, and trade – and successful candidates operate under a performance agreement on a work permit, typically for two years, before nomination.

Figure 1: Core requirements at a glance.

2. Eligibility and Requirements

To qualify under the Business Nominee Program, you must meet all of the following criteria and score at least 65 points on the assessment grid:

Requirement	Details
Net worth and liquid assets	A minimum personal net worth of CAD $500,000, including at least CAD $300,000 in legally acquired liquid assets, documented and verified by a Yukon accounting firm.
Investment	A commitment to invest at least CAD $300,000 in capital investments in the Yukon business within the first two years – productive assets such as premises and equipment. Investments made before acceptance into the program do not count, nor do personal residences, partly personal vehicles, or routine operating and maintenance expenses.
Business experience	At least 3 years of entrepreneurial or business management experience, and at least 5 years of related work experience. Direct business ownership scores higher on the grid than senior management in someone else's company.
Ownership	At least one-third (33.33%) ownership of the Yukon business.
Education	A minimum of high school completion; if the proposed business requires further credentials (for example, a regulated activity), proof of those credentials is also required.
Language	Demonstrated proficiency in English or French at a minimum of CLB level 4.
Business sector	The business must operate in one of Yukon's strategic sectors and must not fall within an ineligible industry.
Residency and management	A genuine commitment to live in Yukon full-time and manage the business hands-on; absentee ownership does not qualify.

The authoritative source is the Yukon Business Nominee Program material at yukon.ca, administered with Yukon Economic Development. The grid, strategic sector list, and procedures are subject to change and should be verified before applying.

2.1 The pool and the assessment grid

Unlike the direct-review model in the Northwest Territories, Yukon holds eligible applicants in a candidate pool for up to six months and selects the strongest – a ranking dynamic, not merely a compliance check. The grid weighs business experience heavily (ownership above management), evaluates the proposed business on its investment level, type, and fit with Yukon's economic needs, and adds points for education, language above the minimum, and Yukon ties such as prior visits, study, or family in the territory. Meeting the 65-point floor makes you eligible; being selected requires a competitive score.

2.2 What counts as the $300,000 capital investment

The investment must be deployed into the business itself within the first two years – commercial premises, equipment, leasehold improvements, and comparable productive capital. It is not a deposit or reserve fund, and the program excludes pre-acceptance spending, a personal residence, vehicles used only partly for the business, and ordinary operating or maintenance costs. The capital plan in the business proposal should schedule the investment against these definitions from the outset, because performance against it is measured under the agreement.

3. Ineligible Businesses

Businesses and situations outside the program include:

- Businesses outside Yukon's strategic sectors, or within industries the program lists as ineligible
- Passive or absentee investment without full-time residence and hands-on management in Yukon
- Capital plans built on excluded expenditures – pre-acceptance investments, personal-use assets, or operating expenses – rather than productive business capital
- Candidates unable to document the legal accumulation of net worth and liquid assets to the verifying Yukon accounting firm

4. The Application Process, Step by Step

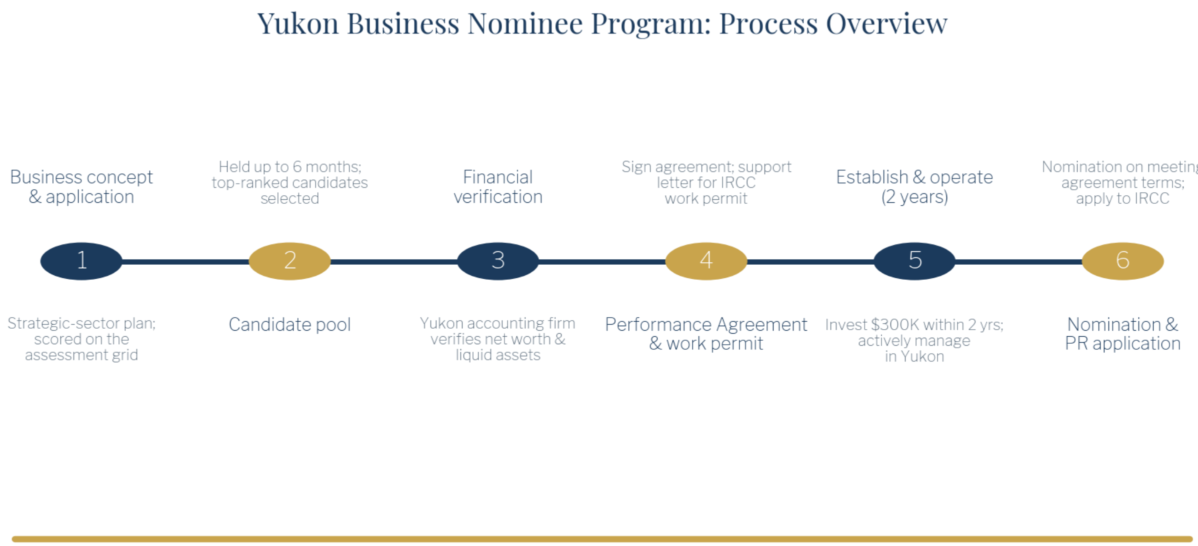

Figure 2: Process overview.

1. **Develop the business concept:** Build a proposal within Yukon's strategic sectors, sized to the territory's small but underserved markets, with a capital plan meeting the $300,000 definition and a credible case on the assessment grid.
2. **Apply and enter the pool:** Submit the application; eligible candidates scoring 65 or more enter the pool, held for up to six months, from which the territory selects the top-ranked.
3. **Financial verification:** Selected candidates document their net worth and liquid assets through a Yukon accounting firm, including the legal source of funds.
4. **Performance agreement and work permit:** Sign the performance agreement recording the investment, operational, and residency commitments, and receive the support letter for a temporary work permit application to IRCC.
5. **Establish and operate the business:** Move to Yukon, deploy the $300,000 capital investment within the first two years, and operate the business hands-on under the agreement – the operating period before nomination typically runs two years.
6. **Nomination and permanent residence:** On satisfying the agreement, 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
Program application fee	Confirm the current amount at yukon.ca
Yukon accounting firm financial verification	Applicant's cost
Language test, credential documents, translations	Applicant's cost

Item	Cost
IRCC fees (work permit; permanent residence)	Federal fees apply

Verify the current fee schedule and any deposit or agreement terms directly with the program before applying.

6. How This Compares to the Northern and Western Streams

For reference against the neighbouring territorial stream and BC's entry-level option:

Criteria	Yukon Business Nominee	NWT Business Stream	BC PNP Regional
Net worth	$500K (incl. $300K liquid)	$500K Yellowknife / $250K outside	$300K
Investment	$300K within 2 years	$200K Yellowknife / $100K outside	$100K
Selection	Pool up to 6 months; 65-pt grid	Direct review; no pool	Referral + registration draw
Ownership	33.33% minimum	33.3% (waived at $1M+)	New business; applicant-led
Language	CLB 4	No fixed CLB floor	CLB 4
Sector restriction	Strategic sectors only	Broad, with exclusions	Community-needs driven

7. Practical Considerations

- Yukon's markets are small and seasonal – Whitehorse holds most of the territory's population – so the winning concepts serve demonstrated local gaps (tourism infrastructure, trades and services, food production) rather than assuming metropolitan demand.
- The liquid-assets requirement ($300,000 within the $500,000 net worth) is stricter than most provincial programs, which accept illiquid wealth; applicants holding net worth mainly in property should plan liquidity well before applying.
- Because pre-acceptance spending doesn't count toward the $300,000, resist deploying capital in Yukon before the program accepts you – sequence the investment after acceptance.
- Ties to Yukon earn real grid points: an exploratory visit, local partnerships, or prior time in the territory strengthen both the score and the plan's credibility.
- The two-year operating period under the performance agreement, on top of pool and processing time, makes this a three-to-four-year path to permanent residence – plan family, schooling, and business transitions on that horizon.

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 Yukon Business Nominee Program as published by the Government of Yukon (yukon.ca) as of August 2026. Program criteria, the assessment grid, strategic sectors, and fees change from time to time and should be verified against the current program materials before any step is taken. Please contact our office to discuss how these requirements apply to your circumstances.

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