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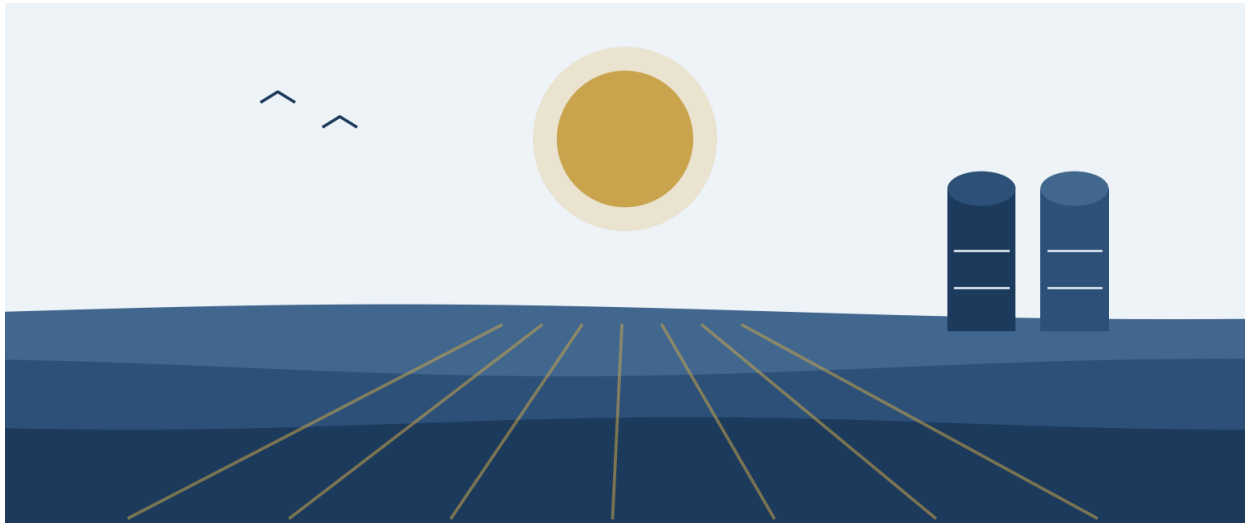
Canadian Immigration & Refugee Law

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## SASKATCHEWAN IMMIGRANT NOMINEE PROGRAM

# Farm Owner and Operator Category

*Requirements and Process*



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### Client Information Guide

Prepared August 2026

25 Dalhousie Street, Toronto, ON | [kabiralam.com](http://kabiralam.com) | [info@kabiralam.com](mailto:info@kabiralam.com)

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

Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP)

# Farm Owner and Operator Category

## Client Information Guide – Requirements and Process

Prepared by Kabir & Alam Lawyers | August 2026

### 1. Overview

The Farm Owner and Operator category of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) offers Canadian permanent residence to experienced farmers with the capital and genuine intention to purchase and operate a farming business in Saskatchewan – one of the world's premier grain and oilseed producing regions. The category is restricted to primary agricultural production: crop and livestock operations, not agri-services or processing.

Two features distinguish it. First, a mandatory exploratory visit of at least five business days must be completed before applying, including a meeting with an SINP representative and documented research with local professionals. Second, commitment is secured financially: successful candidates sign a Performance Agreement and place a refundable good-faith deposit of \$75,000 in trust with the province, returned once the farm is genuinely established and operating. Note that while Saskatchewan's general entrepreneur category has been suspended in recent years, the farm category has remained the province's active business immigration pathway – confirm current intake status before planning an application.

A Young Farmer sub-category offers reduced thresholds for applicants under 40 with strong farming credentials who intend to build long-term farming careers in the province.

|                                                            |                                                                 |                                                      |                                                                     |                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>\$500,000</b>                                           | <b>\$75,000</b>                                                 | <b>Farm exp.</b>                                     | <b>5 days</b>                                                       | <b>Primary ag</b>                                |
| Minimum net worth<br>(\$300K Young Farmer<br>sub-category) | Refundable good-faith<br>deposit under Performance<br>Agreement | Documented farm ownership<br>or operation experience | Mandatory exploratory visit<br>to Saskatchewan with<br>SINP meeting | Crops and livestock –<br>primary production only |

Figure 1: Core requirements at a glance.

### 2. Eligibility and Requirements

To qualify under the Farm Owner and Operator category, you must meet all of the following criteria:

| Requirement                              | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Net worth</b>                         | Minimum CAD \$500,000 in available equity (\$300,000 under the Young Farmer sub-category), accumulated legally. Net worth – including a spouse's – must be verified by an SINP-approved professional third party before the application is submitted.                                                                                                |
| <b>Farming experience</b>                | Documented knowledge and experience in farm ownership and/or operation, supported by education, training, work history, and the financial documentation of an existing farm business, with skills transferable to Saskatchewan production.                                                                                                           |
| <b>Exploratory visit</b>                 | A mandatory visit to Saskatchewan of at least five business days, completed within the year before applying, including comprehensive research meetings with relevant professionals and a meeting with an SINP representative to discuss the proposed operation. Findings are compiled in an Exploratory Visit Report submitted with the application. |
| <b>Farm establishment plan</b>           | A viable, detailed proposal for the Saskatchewan farm operation – the commodity, land, capital plan, and financial projections.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Performance Agreement and deposit</b> | On approval, sign a Performance Agreement committing to purchase and actively operate the farm, and place a CAD \$75,000 good-faith deposit in trust, refundable when the Agreement's terms are met.                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Business type</b>                     | Primary agricultural production only – crops and livestock consistent with Saskatchewan's farming industry.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Active operation</b>                  | A genuine intention to reside in Saskatchewan and actively operate the farm; passive ownership does not qualify.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

*The authoritative source is the SINP Farm Owner and Operator materials at [saskatchewan.ca](https://saskatchewan.ca). The category is not Express Entry-aligned; permanent residence applications proceed as base Provincial Nominee Class applications. Verify current intake status, fees, and the approved third-party verifier list before any step is taken.*

## 2.1 The Young Farmer sub-category

Applicants under 40 who intend to establish a long-term farming career in Saskatchewan may qualify with a reduced minimum net worth of \$300,000. The sub-category expects stronger operational credentials in exchange – documented farming education or experience suited to running the proposed operation, and typically employability factors (for the applicant or spouse) that support the household while the farm is built up. It is designed for working farmers early in their careers rather than established investors.

## 2.2 The exploratory visit is evidentiary

Unlike provinces where a visit is merely recommended, Saskatchewan treats the visit as evidence: the Exploratory Visit Report should document who you met (realtors, agrologists, lenders, equipment dealers, accountants, producer groups), what you learned about land and

input markets in the target region, and how the visit shaped the farm plan. A thin report undermines the credibility of the entire application.

### **3. Ineligible Businesses**

Notable exclusions include:

- Non-primary-production ventures: agri-retail, custom services, food processing without production, and passive farmland investment
- Proposals inconsistent with Saskatchewan's farming industry or without a credible operating plan
- Applicants unable to verify the legal accumulation of net worth (including a spouse's net worth) through an approved third party

## 4. The Application Process, Step by Step

### SINP Farm Owner and Operator: Process Overview

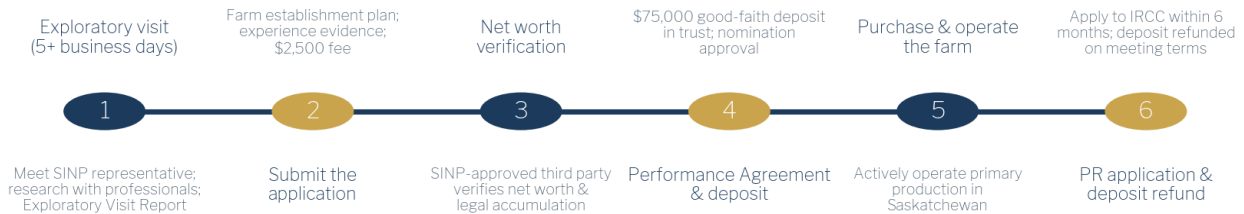


Figure 2: Process overview.

1. **Complete the exploratory visit:** Spend at least five business days in Saskatchewan within the year before applying: research the target region, meet local professionals, meet an SINP representative, and compile the Exploratory Visit Report.
2. **Engage the third-party verifier:** Retain an SINP-approved financial services provider to verify your (and your spouse's) net worth and its legal accumulation – required before submission.
3. **Submit the application:** File the complete application with the farm establishment plan, experience evidence, verification report, Exploratory Visit Report, and the \$2,500 non-refundable processing fee.
4. **Nomination approval, Performance Agreement, and deposit:** On approval, sign the Performance Agreement and place the \$75,000 good-faith deposit in trust with the province; the nomination is then issued.
5. **Apply for permanent residence:** Submit the permanent residence application to IRCC under the Provincial Nominee Class within six months of nomination, including the SINP nomination materials, for you and your dependent family members.
6. **Establish the farm and recover the deposit:** Move to Saskatchewan, purchase and actively operate the farm in accordance with the Performance Agreement; once its terms are met, the \$75,000 deposit is refunded.

## 5. Fees and Costs

| Item                | Cost                        |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| SINP processing fee | \$2,500 CAD, non-refundable |

| Item                               | Cost                                                        |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Good-faith deposit (refundable)    | \$75,000 CAD, held in trust under the Performance Agreement |
| Third-party net worth verification | Applicant's cost                                            |
| Exploratory visit travel           | Applicant's cost                                            |
| IRCC fees (permanent residence)    | Federal fees apply                                          |

*Deposit mechanics and payment staging are set out in the Performance Agreement; confirm the current fee schedule and deposit process on [saskatchewan.ca](http://saskatchewan.ca) before applying.*

## 6. How This Compares to Other Farm Immigration Pathways

The Prairie provinces each operate a farm-focused business immigration pathway. The key differences:

| Criteria                   | SK Farm Owner/Operator               | Alberta Farm Stream         | MB Farm Investor Pathway       |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Net worth</b>           | \$500K (\$300K Young Farmer)         | \$500K (or access to funds) | \$500K                         |
| <b>Investment</b>          | No fixed minimum; scaled to the plan | \$500K equity minimum       | \$300K in tangible farm assets |
| <b>Deposit</b>             | \$75K refundable good-faith deposit  | None                        | None fixed; BPA terms apply    |
| <b>Exploratory visit</b>   | Mandatory, 5+ business days          | Not required                | Mandatory research visit       |
| <b>Young farmer option</b> | Yes – reduced \$300K net worth       | No                          | No                             |
| <b>Selection</b>           | Direct application                   | Direct application; no grid | EOI and BIS ranking            |

## 7. Practical Considerations

- Saskatchewan farmland ownership is regulated: the Saskatchewan Farm Land Security Board restricts non-Canadian ownership of farmland, which shapes how and when land can be acquired relative to permanent residence – structure the purchase timeline with this in mind.
- The deposit changes the economics of commitment: \$75,000 sits in trust until the farm is genuinely established, so the operating plan must be one you will actually execute, on a realistic timeline.
- Land and equipment capital requirements in Saskatchewan typically far exceed the program's minimum thresholds; a credible grain operation is a multi-million-dollar undertaking, and the plan's financing structure will be scrutinized accordingly.

- The Young Farmer sub-category is a genuine opening for younger working farmers who would not meet a \$500,000 bar – but it expects hands-on production credentials, not merely capital.
- Because Saskatchewan's general entrepreneur category has been suspended while the farm category continues, confirm current intake and any procedural updates directly against saskatchewan.ca immediately before committing to the exploratory visit.

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### **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 SINP Farm Owner and Operator category as published by the Government of Saskatchewan (saskatchewan.ca) as of August 2026. Program criteria, fees, deposit terms, and intake status 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.

### **Kabir & Alam Lawyers**

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## YOUR LEGAL TEAM

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**Muniza Kabir**

*Managing Partner*



**Sakif Alam**

*Founding Partner*

*We are here to guide you at every stage of your application.*

(437) 299-9952 | [info@kabiralam.com](mailto:info@kabiralam.com) | [kabiralam.com](http://kabiralam.com)

25 Dalhousie Street, Toronto, ON M5B 0B3