

Nova Scotia Nominee Program

Criteria and Qualifications

The Canada/Nova Scotia Nominee Program Agreement was signed in August 2002, and provides Nova Scotia with an active role in selecting newcomers who wish to settle in the province. The agreement will be managed and administered by the Office of Economic Development for Nova Scotia. The goal of this agreement is to locate and encourage immigrants who will settle and work in Nova Scotia. The desired candidates are those who meet the program qualifications, and who intend to reside in the province, making a positive contribution to the economy and quality of life in Nova Scotia.

To qualify under the Nominee Program, an applicant must meet certain qualifications and conditions. The criteria below is a guideline, and the province may, in some instances, make allowances or exceptions depending on the applicant's overall suitability and commitment to Nova Scotia, as well as his or her willingness to locate outside the Halifax metropolitan area. The Province of Nova Scotia will secure, from a commercial enterprise in the province, a 6-month, middle management employment contract for the nominee.

Upon confirmation of the issuance of a Nominee Certificate, the applicant will file an immigration application at a designated Canadian Embassy or High Commission abroad, in order to secure his or her medical and security clearances. Under normal circumstances, a second interview will not be required, and the whole process should take only six to nine months. The visas issued under the program are unconditional and non-restricted.

The proposed qualifications of Nominees may be summarized as follows:

1. Applicants who qualify for the federal investor or entrepreneur categories are encouraged to apply as such. The NSNP is not designed to compete with these programs.
2. The applicant should have reached the minimum age of 25 years, and be no more than 60 years of age at the time of his application.
3. The applicant should have basic skills in English, or French and English. These skills would include speaking, reading, and writing, and would be sufficient for the applicant to be understood or function in a job situation.
4. The applicant should have a minimum education of grade 12 (or equivalent).
5. The applicant should have owned (wholly or in partnership) and operated a business. OR, the applicant should have two years (in the previous 5 years) of management experience. This experience may be in a business, governmental, institutional, or other organizational unit, either for profit or not for profit.
6. The applicant must have legally accumulated, by his or her own endeavors, a minimum net worth of Canadian \$300,000. Documentation is required, supporting the applicant's net worth and method of accumulation.
7. The applicant must make a one-time, non-refundable economic contribution of \$128,800. This amount will be held in trust and returned, without deduction or interest, if the applicant is refused a Canadian residence visa.
8. Upon visa issuance and subsequent landing in Canada, the nominee will be able to select, from a list of companies approved by the Province of Nova Scotia, a six month middle management employment contract with a salary of \$20,000.
9. At the time of interview, the applicant must state his intention of settling in the Province of Nova Scotia.