

New Nova Scotia Business Immigration Program (NSNP)

Relaxed rules and speedy processing

On June 28th 2002, the Canadian immigration department introduced new business immigration rules and many people find it difficult to qualify under the Federal business immigration regulations.

However, provincial business immigration programs from many provinces can be of great interest to many investors who wish to obtain permanent immigration to Canada under the business class. One of such business immigration programs is the Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP).

The province of Nova Scotia has a vibrant and growing economy that encourages and welcomes newcomers to come, live and invest. Industries, such as offshore oil and gas exploration, aerospace and technology, are in their infant stages and offer great opportunities.

To qualify under the NSNP, an applicant must meet certain criteria and qualifications such as:

1. Applicants who qualify for the Federal Self-Employed, Investor or Entrepreneur categories must apply as such. The NSNP is not allowed to compete with these programs.
2. The applicant should be between 25 and 60 years of age at the time of application.
3. The applicant should have basic skills in English or French (applicant should know English even if French is his first language). These skills would include speaking, reading, and writing, and 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 three 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. **At the time of interview, the applicant must state his intention to settle in the Province of Nova Scotia.**

The main advantage of NSNP is its speed:

- Interviews can be arranged within 30 days (usually two weeks) of receiving a complete application.
- Results are known in 30 days (sometimes two weeks) after interview.
- Supporting documentation required is straightforward and uncomplicated.

The two most important considerations are:

- Firstly, the applicant's commitment to Nova Scotia, and
 - Secondly, NSNP cannot compete with the Federal Self-Employed, Investor or Entrepreneur programs. Therefore, if a candidate qualifies under these programs, the Province of Nova Scotia will not process the application. A manager with a net worth between \$300,000 and \$799,999 would make an ideal candidate for NSNP. Likewise, a business owner who doesn't meet the Entrepreneur test could also qualify under NSNP.
1. Within 30 days of receiving a complete application, an interview can be arranged with officials of the Province of Nova Scotia. This interview date is usually within 90 days or other agreed-upon date.
 2. Citizenship and Immigration Canada is presently issuing visas after 6 to 7 months of federal processing time (medical and background checks).
 3. 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 employment contract with a salary of \$20,000.



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