



# **British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program**

## **Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot Program Guide**

**This guide is designed to help you understand and navigate the Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot, including the registration and application processes. If you require more information, we are here to help:**

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In the event of a discrepancy between the BC PNP website and the Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot Program Guide, the information in the program guide shall be considered correct. Please check our [website](#) regularly to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the applicable program guide.

### **Beware of Immigration Fraud**

We encourage you to protect yourself from immigration fraud.

Learn more about [protecting yourself from fraud](#).

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## Updates to this Edition

To clarify information presented in previous editions of the Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot Program Guide, there have been updates to the information within the guide. The following list outlines the updates made to this edition of the Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot Program Guide:

### **August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020:**

1. Page 52: Request for Review fees updated.

## Part 1: Introduction & Overview

### Sections:

- 1.1. About the EI – Regional Pilot Program Guide
- 1.2. Categories at a glance
- 1.3. Process at a glance

**The BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration stream is for experienced entrepreneurs who are ready to invest in and actively manage a business in B.C.**

This guide will help you understand and get started on a path towards permanent residency. If approved as a provincial nominee, you and your dependent family members can apply to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to become permanent residents of Canada in the Provincial Nominee class. Read this guide carefully before you register and apply online.

You may choose from the following categories of the Entrepreneur Immigration stream:

- **Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot:** working with regional communities, this pilot is intended to attract entrepreneurs to participating regional communities to establish new businesses that align with the communities' economic development priorities.
- **Entrepreneur Immigration – Base Category:** intended for experienced entrepreneurs who intend to establish new businesses or take over and grow existing businesses in B.C. For more information, refer to the Entrepreneur Immigration – Base Category Program Guide available on the [BC PNP website](#).
- **Strategic Projects:** for foreign corporations that intend to establish a subsidiary or branch office in B.C. that strategically aligns with their core business. For more information, refer to the [BC PNP website](#).

## 1.1. About the EI – Regional Pilot Program Guide

The BC PNP **Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot Program Guide** is designed to help you understand and navigate the EI – Regional Pilot including the registration and application processes. It provides complete and comprehensive information about the EI – Regional Pilot eligibility requirements.

This guide also provides details on how to register with the [BCPNP Online](#) system and outlines the information you will need to provide. For more information on required documents for the application, please refer to the Entrepreneur Immigration Application Guide available on the [BC PNP website](#).

Please check our [website](#) regularly to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot Program Guide. If you require more information, please contact us at [en.imm@gov.bc.ca](mailto:en.imm@gov.bc.ca).

If you have already registered or applied to the Entrepreneur Immigration stream, your registration or your application will be scored or assessed against criteria outlined in the Entrepreneur Immigration Program Guide that was in effect during the time of registration.

Application process graphics are used throughout this guide. They are intended to highlight which stages of the process are relevant to the section in the guide.

All dollar figures in this guide are expressed in [Canadian dollars](#).



## 1.2. Categories at a Glance

	EI – Base Category	EI – Regional Pilot
<b>Experience</b>	<b>Within last 10 years:</b> At least either 3+ years of experience as a business owner-manager, OR, 4+ years of experience as a senior manager, OR, a combination of 1+ year of experience as a business owner-manager and 2+ years of experience as a senior manager.	<b>Within last 5 years:</b>
<b>Net worth</b>	At least \$600,000	At least \$300,000
<b>Education</b>	Obtained a post-secondary credential, OR, experience as an active business owner-manager for at least 3 of the last 5 years with 100% ownership in the business.	
<b>Business proposal</b>	You must submit a business proposal to establish a new business or purchase of an existing business in B.C.	You must submit a business proposal to establish a new business in B.C. and be referred by an enrolled community.
<b>Ownership percentage</b>	At least one-third (33.33%)	At least 51%
<b>Investment</b>	Minimum \$200,000	Minimum \$100,000
<b>Job creation</b>	Must create at least one full-time equivalent job for a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada	
<b>Location</b>	Anywhere in British Columbia	Participating communities
<b>Exploratory visit required?</b>	No	Yes. You must engage and visit an enrolled community for support before registering.
<b>Language requirement?</b>	Minimum of CLB 4 equivalent in English or French. Must submit a copy of valid language proficiency test results at final report (if not previously submitted).	Minimum of CLB 4 equivalent in English or French. Must submit copy of valid language proficiency test at registration.
<b>Partner with BC PNP co-registrant allowed?</b>	Yes	No
<b>Partner with a local business/person allowed?</b>	Yes	
<b>Registration scores</b>	Total 200 points (120 points for self-declared section; 80 points for business concept). Must score minimum of 32 points in business concept section.	Total 200 points (140 points for self-declared section; 60 points for business concept). No minimum business concept score.
<b>Registration timeframe</b>	Registrations are scored within 6 weeks	Registrations are scored within 4 weeks
<b>Net worth verification</b>	Yes, you must obtain a net worth verification report if you are invited to apply.	
<b>Application timeframe</b>	Application decisions are typically made within 4 months.	
<b>Interview required for approval?</b>	Yes	
<b>Minimum amount of time to submit a final report</b>	18 months after issuance of a work permit	12 months after issuance of a work permit
<b>Fees</b>	Registration: \$300 Application: \$3,500	Registration: \$300 Application: \$3,500

## 1.3. EI – Regional Pilot Process at a Glance

The process at a glance section provides a simple overview of the general process to apply under the Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot. Complete details of the process are described in [Part 3 of this Guide](#). For other categories, refer to the applicable program guide.

- 1. Preparation before you register:** in order to apply to the EI – Regional Pilot, you must first determine your eligibility based on the category requirements. You may also wish to [conduct a self-assessment](#). Then, you must identify a participating community listed on the [BC PNP website](#). You must conduct an exploratory visit to the community in order to learn more about the community and to discuss your business proposal with the designated community contact. After your visit, you may request a referral from the community in order to register under the EI – Regional Pilot. You must also have a valid language test results that meets the minimum language requirement of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) Level 4.
- 2. Registration to the BC PNP:** after you receive your referral, you complete and submit an online registration to the BC PNP. The registration includes details about your work and/or business experience, education, language ability, your net worth, and information about your proposed business in British Columbia. After your registration is scored, the BC PNP will invite the highest-scoring registrants to submit full applications to the BC PNP. Registrations are typically scored within four weeks. If invited to apply, you will then have four months from the date of your invitation to submit your application.
- 3. Application to the BC PNP:** submit a complete application to the BC PNP. You may be invited to attend an in-person interview in Vancouver to discuss details of your application. If your application is approved, you must sign a performance agreement that outlines all of the requirements you must meet in order to be nominated. Applications are typically assessed within four months. If your application is approved, the BC PNP will issue you a letter of confirmation (i.e. a work permit support letter) so you may apply for a work permit to IRCC and come to B.C. to implement your business plan.
- 4. Business establishment (work permit) period:** after obtaining a work permit, you can begin to implement your business plan, make your investments, and create jobs. Your spouse or common-law partner may apply for an open work permit.
- 5. Nomination:** after you meet the terms and conditions of your performance agreement, you must submit a final report to the BC PNP. If the BC PNP determines you have met all of the criteria from your performance agreement, you will be nominated for permanent residence. Final Reports are typically assessed within four months.
- 6. Application for permanent residence:** you, including your spouse or common-law partner and dependent children (if applicable), may then apply to IRCC to become permanent residents of Canada under the Provincial Nominee class. For permanent residence application processing times, please refer to the [IRCC website](#) (Economic Immigration → Provincial Nominees).





## Part 2: EI – Regional Pilot Requirements

### Sections:

#### 2.1. General Nominations Requirements

- 2.1 (A) Active Management
- 2.1 (B) Residency

#### 2.2. Personal Requirements

- 2.2 (A) Immigration Eligibility
- 2.2 (B) Personal Net Worth
- 2.2 (C) Business Owner-Manager and/or Senior Manager Experience
- 2.2 (D) Education
- 2.2 (E) Language Proficiency

#### 2.3. Business Requirements

- 2.3 (A) Eligible Businesses
- 2.3 (B) Percent Ownership
- 2.3 (C) Franchises
- 2.3 (D) Seasonal Businesses
- 2.3 (E) Agricultural Businesses
- 2.3 (F) Ineligible Businesses
- 2.3 (G) Businesses in Regulated Industries

#### 2.4. Minimum Investment Requirements

- 2.4 (A) Eligible Personal Investment
- 2.4 (B) Ineligible Investments
- 2.4 (C) Timing of your Investment
- 2.4 (D) External Financing

#### 2.5. Job Requirements

- 2.5 (A) Minimum Job Creation Requirements
- 2.5 (B) Determining the Skill Level of Positions
- 2.5 (C) Requirements at Nomination Stage

You must meet all of the **Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot** requirements to be nominated by the BC PNP. Note that meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee that you will be invited to apply or that your application will be approved.

- Carefully review the requirements in the sections below for complete details.
- **It is your responsibility to demonstrate that you meet the program requirements.**
- For more information on how registrants will be invited to apply, please refer to the [process section of this guide](#).
- For complete information on how registrations are scored, please refer to the [EI – Regional Pilot Registration Scoring Guide](#).

## 2.1. EI – Regional Pilot: General Nomination Requirements

### 2.1 (A) Active Management

### 2.1 (B) Residency



These factors will be assessed from the application stage through to the nomination stage.

### 2.1 (A) Active Management

At the application stage, you must demonstrate your intention to actively manage the business. In order to be approved for nomination, you must demonstrate that you have been actively managing the business in B.C.

Active management means you are accountable for the day-to-day operations of the business. Active management must occur at the place of business in B.C.

### 2.1 (B) Residency

At the [application stage](#), you must demonstrate that you intend to **reside within the boundaries of the community** that has supported your EI – Regional Pilot registration and application, and you must demonstrate your intention to reside in B.C. for at least 75 per cent of the time while on a work permit.

In order to be approved for [nomination](#):

- you must demonstrate that you have been living in the community as described in your [performance agreement](#).
- you must also demonstrate that you have been physically present in B.C. for at least 75 per cent of the time while on a work permit. For example, if you submit your final report 366 days (approximately 12 months) after arriving in B.C. with your valid work permit, you must demonstrate that you have been physically present in B.C. for at least 275 days (approximately 9 months) while operating your business.

## 2.2. EI – Regional Pilot: Personal Requirements

### 2.2 (A) Immigration Eligibility

### 2.2 (B) Personal Net Worth

### 2.2 (C) Business Owner-Manager and/or Senior Manager Experience

### 2.2 (D) Education

### 2.2 (E) Language Proficiency



At the registration stage, points will be awarded for personal net worth, business and/or work experience, and education. For detailed information on how points are calculated, please refer to the [scoring section of this Guide](#). These factors will also be assessed during the application stage.

### 2.2 (A) Immigration Eligibility

Please note that your application will not be approved if you are in Canada and do not have valid immigration status, or if you are working without authorization. The BC PNP will not nominate someone who:

- is prohibited from entering Canada
- has not been lawfully admitted in the country of current residence
- is in Canada and is out of status
  - an individual whose status has expired, and who has not applied for restoration of status within the 90-day eligibility period, will be considered out of status
- is working in Canada without authorization
- has an unresolved refugee claim in Canada
- is under a removal order in or outside of Canada

### 2.2 (B) Personal Net Worth

You must have a **minimum of \$300,000 in personal net worth**, which includes your spouse or common-law partner, and your dependent children, if applicable. Your personal net worth must be legally obtained and verifiable.

You must disclose all of your personal net worth, including all your assets and those of your spouse or common-law partner, and your dependent children, less any liabilities including mortgages and personal debts:

- cash
- assets in bank accounts (e.g., personal chequing and savings accounts)
- fixed (term) deposits (redeemable/cashable within one year)
- real property (e.g., real estate, personal and commercial property ownership)
- investments in bonds, stocks and mutual funds
- investments in one or more businesses (current value of your percentage ownership in business(es), excluding stocks held in investment portfolios that have been included under liquid investments above)
- pensions and other assets (i.e. jewelry, collectables, etc.)
- liabilities such as real property mortgage(s) or other debts (e.g., personal loans, credit card debt)

Future inheritances cannot be included in your personal net worth. The share of business or property ownership must be supported by legal documents, such as deeds, shareholder agreements, etc.

The [IRCC form Schedule 4A – Personal Net Worth](#) includes details about how to calculate personal net worth.

### **If you receive an invitation to apply:**

You must obtain a net worth verification report from a BC PNP-authorized accounting firm. For more information, please refer to [net worth review section of this Guide](#).

The verification report will be used as part of the BC PNP application assessment process. Notwithstanding the conclusions of the net worth verification report, the BC PNP has sole discretion and responsibility to assess your BC PNP application and may request additional information, supporting documentation or clarification.

### **Failure to declare your total personal net worth may result in the refusal of your application.**

Failure to provide satisfactory evidence to verify your personal net worth and source of funds may result in the refusal of your application.

For information on what documents you must provide for a net worth verification report, please refer to the Entrepreneur Immigration Application Guide available on our [BC PNP website](#).

## 2.2 (C) Business Owner-Manager and/or Senior Manager Experience

You must have a minimum of:

- more than **three years of experience as an active business owner-manager**  
If you have performed an active role in the management and operations of a company for which you have held 10 per cent or more ownership during the **past five years**. An active role means that you are personally involved in the day-to-day operations of the company and have direct involvement in decision-making.

or

- more than **four years of experience as a senior manager**  
If you have worked during the **past five years** for a company/organization as an active senior manager (with no business ownership, or business ownership of less than 10 per cent) supervising at least three full-time employees, and your [National Occupation Classification \(NOC\)](#) is [Skill Type 0 or Skill Level A](#).

or

- a combination of at least one year of experience as an active business owner-manager and at least two years of experience as a senior manager

In general, to be considered as an active owner-manager *or* a senior manager, you primarily:

- manage the organization, a department, subdivision, or component of the organization; or an essential function within the organization
- supervise and control the work of:
  - other managers or supervisors
  - professional employees
- have the authority to hire and fire, or recommend these and other personnel actions, such as promotion and leave authorization
- exercise discretion over the day-to-day operations of the activity or function for which the employee has the authority

An active role means that you are personally involved in the day-to-day operations of the company and have direct involvement in decision-making. For example, if you were a shareholder in a corporation and your only responsibility was to attend shareholder meetings, this would not be considered as being an active business owner-manager as you are not involved in the day-to-day operations of the company.

## 2.2 (D) Education

You must have one of the following:

- a post-secondary credential (such as a degree, diploma or certificate from a licensed post-secondary institution).

**or**

- experience as an active business owner-manager with 100 per cent ownership of the business for at least three of the past five years. The 100 per cent ownership of the business may be shared between you, your spouse or common-law partner, and/or your dependent child(ren).

If you are invited to apply, you will be required to provide evidence of your education, and you may be required to provide an [educational credential assessment](#).

Language training such as English as a second language will not be considered towards meeting the post-secondary requirement.

## 2.2 (E) Language Proficiency

You must possess basic English or French language proficiency equivalent to [Canadian Language Benchmark \(CLB\)](#) level 4 or higher in each of the four competencies: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

A benchmark score of 4 is considered basic proficiency and means that you can:

- communicate basic needs and personal experience
- follow, with considerable effort, simple formal and informal conversations
- read a simple set of instructions in plain language
- write short messages, postcards, notes or directions

The valid language test results must be from one of the following language proficiency tests administered by a designated testing agency:

- the [International English Language Testing System \(IELTS\) General Training](#)
- the [Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program \(CELP-IP-General\)](#)
- the [Test d'évaluation de français \(TEF\)](#)
- the [Test de connaissance du français pour le Canada \(TCF Canada\)](#)

Test results will be considered valid for the two years from the date of issuance. Test results must be valid at the time of registration.

You are required to upload a valid language test result showing you meet the minimum requirement in your registration.

The following table shows the minimum scores required in each of the designated tests to meet CLB 4:

<b>Minimum Language Test Scores Required</b>				
	<b>Listening</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Speaking</b>
<b>IELTS</b>	4.5	3.5	4.0	4.0
<b>CELPIP</b>	4	4	4	4
<b>TEF</b>	145	121	181	181
<b>TCF Canada</b>	342-374	4-5	331-368	4-5

## 2.3. EI – Regional Pilot: Business Requirements

- 2.3 (A) Eligible Businesses
- 2.3 (B) Ineligible Businesses
- 2.3 (C) Percent Ownership
- 2.3 (D) Franchises
- 2.3 (E) Seasonal Businesses
- 2.3 (F) Agricultural Businesses
- 2.3 (G) Businesses in Regulated Industries



At the registration stage, you must answer questions related to your business concept to describe your proposed business. Points will be awarded for your business concept, including potential for commercial viability, percentage ownership, and economic benefits. These factors will be assessed starting at the application stage and through to the nomination stage. For detailed information on how points are calculated, please refer to the [scoring section of this Guide](#).

**In order to qualify under the EI – Regional Pilot, you must propose to establish a new business in a participating community in British Columbia that aligns with one of the economic development priorities identified by the community.**

If you are invited to submit an application, you must submit a comprehensive business plan that provides detailed information about your proposed business in B.C. For more information on required documents for an application, please refer to the Entrepreneur Immigration Application Guide available on the [BC PNP website](#).

### 2.3 (A) Eligible Businesses

The BC PNP will only consider registrations to establish a new business in a participating community that aligns with one of the economic development priorities identified by the community.

Participating communities are listed on the [EI Regional Pilot – Community Profiles](#) page of the BC PNP website.



The economic development priorities for each community, determined by industry type are defined by at least a three-digit [North American Industry Classification System](#) (NAICS) code, are also listed on the [EI Regional Pilot – Community Profiles](#) page of the BC PNP website.

The proposed business, identified by at least four-digit NAICS code, must be operated for the primary purpose of earning profits by providing products and/or services. Additionally, the business must have strong potential for sustained commercial success.

The BC PNP does not pre-approve or endorse business proposals.

**You cannot change or modify your business concept after you submit your registration.** You must decide on the specific type of business you intend to establish in B.C. before you register. The business structure must be clearly defined.

### 2.3 (B) Ineligible Businesses

Your registration will be disqualified if you propose an ineligible business. The following types of businesses are ineligible under the BC PNP:

- an immigration-linked investment scheme pursuant to [Provincial Immigration Programs Regulation section 6\(e\)](#) and the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations \(IRPR\) section 87\(5\)\(b\)](#) and as defined in IRPR 87(9)
- any business where the terms of investment include a redemption option pursuant to IRPR 87(6)(d)
- any business that may be a passive investment pursuant to IRPR 87(6)(c)
- bed and breakfasts, hobby farms and home-based businesses
- payday loan, cheque cashing, money changing and cash machine businesses
- pawnbrokers
- tanning salons
- DVD rental stores
- coin-operated laundries
- automated car wash operations
- scrap metal recycling
- businesses selling used goods (excluding businesses that provide value-added services such as repairs, refurbishing or recycling)
- real estate brokerage, insurance brokerage or business brokerage
- real estate development activities
- goods trading businesses (e.g. import/export), unless value-add is demonstrated
- businesses involved in producing, distributing or selling pornography or sexually explicit products or services, or providing sexually oriented services
- any other type of business that by association would tend to bring the BC PNP or the Government of British Columbia into disrepute.

### 2.3 (C) Percent Ownership

You must demonstrate that you will own at least 51 per cent of the business in B.C.

### 2.3 (D) Franchises

Franchises may be considered as eligible businesses if you can demonstrate that the proposed franchise is well-established (i.e. ability to expand, sound financial track record, and in operation for at least 5 years). If you are invited to apply, your application must include evidence that you have received support from the franchisor to set up and operate a new franchise location.

If you are proposing to establish a new franchise location, ensure that you obtain a **disclosure document** from the franchisor before you make a decision to invest. The BC PNP may request a copy of the disclosure document at the application stage. Section 5(4) of [The Franchises Act](#) describes the requirements that the disclosure document must fulfil:

- a) prescribed financial statements;
- b) copies of all proposed franchise agreements, and other agreements relating to the franchise, to be signed by a prospective franchisee;
- c) prescribed statements that have the purpose of assisting a prospective franchisee to make informed investment decisions;
- d) other prescribed information;
- e) copies of other prescribed documents.

Please visit [Starting A Franchise Business in B.C.](#) for more information.

### 2.3 (E) Seasonal Businesses

The BC PNP will not consider a business proposal for a seasonal business unless the proposed business operates for at least eight months per year. You must meet all other requirements outlined in this guide.

### 2.3 (F) Agricultural Businesses

If you are proposing to establish a new farm/agricultural business, you must provide copies of the following documents at the time of application:

- An application proposing an agricultural activity should be based on or cover the issues described in the document [Taking Stock: A Farm Business Planning Workbook For The Beginning Farmer](#) prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture. For more information, refer to <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market-development/agrifood-business-management/taking-stock>.

- All applications with proposing agricultural activities must include a feasibility statement showing how the proposed business makes economic sense, prepared by a [Qualified Business Consultant](#) who is eligible to provide services to applicants of the B.C. Agri-Business Planning and B.C. Indigenous Agriculture Development Programs. Consultants on this list were reviewed and pre-qualified based on professional experience and qualifications. For more information, refer to: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agri-business-planning-program>

### 2.3 (G) Businesses in Regulated Industries

Some industries face significant regulatory requirements in Canada. While many of these highly regulated industry sectors remain eligible for the BC PNP, the entrepreneur must demonstrate that they are aware of, and will be able to meet local, provincial and federal regulatory requirements.

It is unlikely that the BC PNP will approve your application if you do not properly address the regulatory requirements of doing business in the proposed industry. Furthermore, failure to adequately research and create a plan to address the industry's regulatory requirements may make it difficult or impossible for you to meet your performance agreement obligations.

Examples of highly regulated industries include, but are not limited to:

- Agriculture, agri-food & aquaculture
- Cannabis, tobacco, and alcohol production, distribution or retailing
- Child care, schools and educational institutions
- Financial services and trading
- Forestry and mining
- Healthcare and life sciences
- Oil and gas
- Passenger transportation
- Pharmacology
- Residential care facilities
- Telecommunications

## 2.4 EI – Regional Pilot: Minimum Investment Requirements

### 2.4 (A) Eligible Personal Investment

### 2.4 (B) Ineligible Investments

### 2.4 (C) Timing of your Investment

### 2.4 (D) External Financing

### 2.4 (E) Requirements at Nomination



At the registration stage, you must provide information about your proposed investments related to your business concept. Points will be awarded for your total proposed investment and eligible investment. These factors will be assessed starting at the application stage and through to the nomination stage. For detailed information on how points are calculated, please refer to the [scoring section of this Guide](#).

### 2.4 (A) Eligible Personal Investment

**You must make an eligible personal investment of at least \$100,000** in the proposed business within 610 days (approximately 20 months) of arriving in B.C. on a BC PNP-supported work permit. The minimum eligible personal investment of \$100,000 must be derived from your personal net worth.

The proposed investment must be directed to one business location.

**Eligible personal investment** is the minimum required investment of eligible business expenditures, which may include:

- new equipment purchases
- leasehold improvements
- marketing costs
- regular operating expenses such as rent, wages, utilities, etc.
- start-up inventory

The **eligibility** of a proposed investment is determined by the BC PNP based on whether the expenditure is **essential** to establish and operate a new business. Consequently, total personal investment may differ from the eligible personal investment under the BC PNP.

Some investment items may not be eligible while others may be eligible with limitations:

**(i) Purchase of a business vehicle:**

The BC PNP will not consider the purchase of a vehicle as an eligible investment unless you can demonstrate that the vehicle is essential to the business. In which case:

- The BC PNP may consider as eligible investment a maximum of \$25,000 for the purchase of a business vehicle.

**(ii) Operating expenses:**

Operating expenses refers to regular, recurring monthly expenses that are essential to business operations such as rent, wages and salaries, utilities, advertising, bookkeeping, etc.

The BC PNP may consider eligible operating expenses in the following circumstances:

- For the establishment of a new business: A maximum of six months of operating expenses.
- For the establishment of a new franchise location: A maximum of three months of operating expenses.

**(iii) Inventory:**

For the establishment of a new business, the BC PNP may consider a reasonable amount of start-up inventory. The reasonableness of the start-up inventory is based on the industry standard, type of products, and size and scope of the proposed business.

A maximum of three months of inventory may be considered eligible.

## **2.4 (B) Ineligible Investments:**

Ineligible investments include, but are not limited to, the following:

- cash and working capital (including reserves and contingency funds)
- wage payments made to yourself and your family members, or other business co-owners
- refundable deposits
- real estate and related fees
- purchase of an existing business or business assets
- fees and costs related to your immigration application, including:
  - immigration representative fees
  - personal net worth verification report fee
  - fees related to the preparation of review engagement financial statements
  - BC PNP application fees

## 2.4 (C) Timing of your Investment

The BC PNP will not consider any investment made prior to the date you are invited to apply as eligible.

The BC PNP strongly discourages registrants and applicants from making any investment or financial commitment prior to signing a [performance agreement](#) with the BC PNP and obtaining a valid work permit from IRCC. Any investment made prior to obtaining approval and a valid work permit is solely at your own risk.

## 2.4 (D) External Financing

The BC PNP requires that you make the minimum eligible personal investment from your personal funds. However, you may also use external financing from a business partner or financial institutions for investments beyond the minimum requirement.

If external financing is a requirement of business operations, you must identify how you will obtain the financing and how it will be applied in your proposed investment.

## 2.4 (E) Requirement at Nomination

In order to submit the final report, you must be able to demonstrate that you have made the investment amount in the signed performance agreement.

## 2.5. EI – Regional Pilot: Job Requirements

### 2.5 (A) Minimum Job Creation Requirements

### 2.5 (B) Determining the Skill Level of Positions

### 2.5 (C) Requirements at Nomination Stage



At the registration stage, points will be awarded for your proposed number of positions you will employ and their corresponding skill levels. These factors will be assessed starting during the application stage and through to the nomination stage. For detailed information on how points are calculated, please refer to the [scoring section of this Guide](#).

### 2.5 (A) Minimum Job Creation Requirements

**You must create at least one new, permanent full-time equivalent (FTE) job for a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada** in the proposed business, within 420 days (approximately 14 months) of arriving in B.C. on a BC PNP-supported work permit.

You must also demonstrate the likelihood of supporting long-term employment of Canadians or permanent residents of Canada in the proposed business.

An FTE job means a position of at least 30 hours per week on average and 1,560 hours per year, worked by one or more employees under continuous employment. FTEs must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

Independent contractors will not be considered as part of your job creation requirement – only direct employees of the proposed business will be considered.

Any shareholder with 10% ownership or more of the business will not be considered as part of your job creation/maintenance requirement. FTEs must work at the primary place of business and not remotely.

Employment in British Columbia is regulated by the Employment Standards Act. For more information, please visit the [Employment Standards website](#).

## **2.5 (B) Determining the Skill Level of Positions**

When determining the position(s) to be created, please refer to the [National Occupational Classification \(NOC\) system](#).

The NOC system is a classification system used by the Government of Canada to identify occupations and associated skill levels. The four-digit NOC codes also outline job duties and employment requirements.

Proposed wages for the employees must be consistent with the skill level of the positions created. For information on average wages, please refer to information on [Work BC](#).

## **2.5 (C) Requirements at Nomination Stage**

In order to be approved for nomination, you must demonstrate that you have consistently employed the required number of full-time equivalent jobs, continuously, for at least 180 days (six months) before submitting your [final report](#).



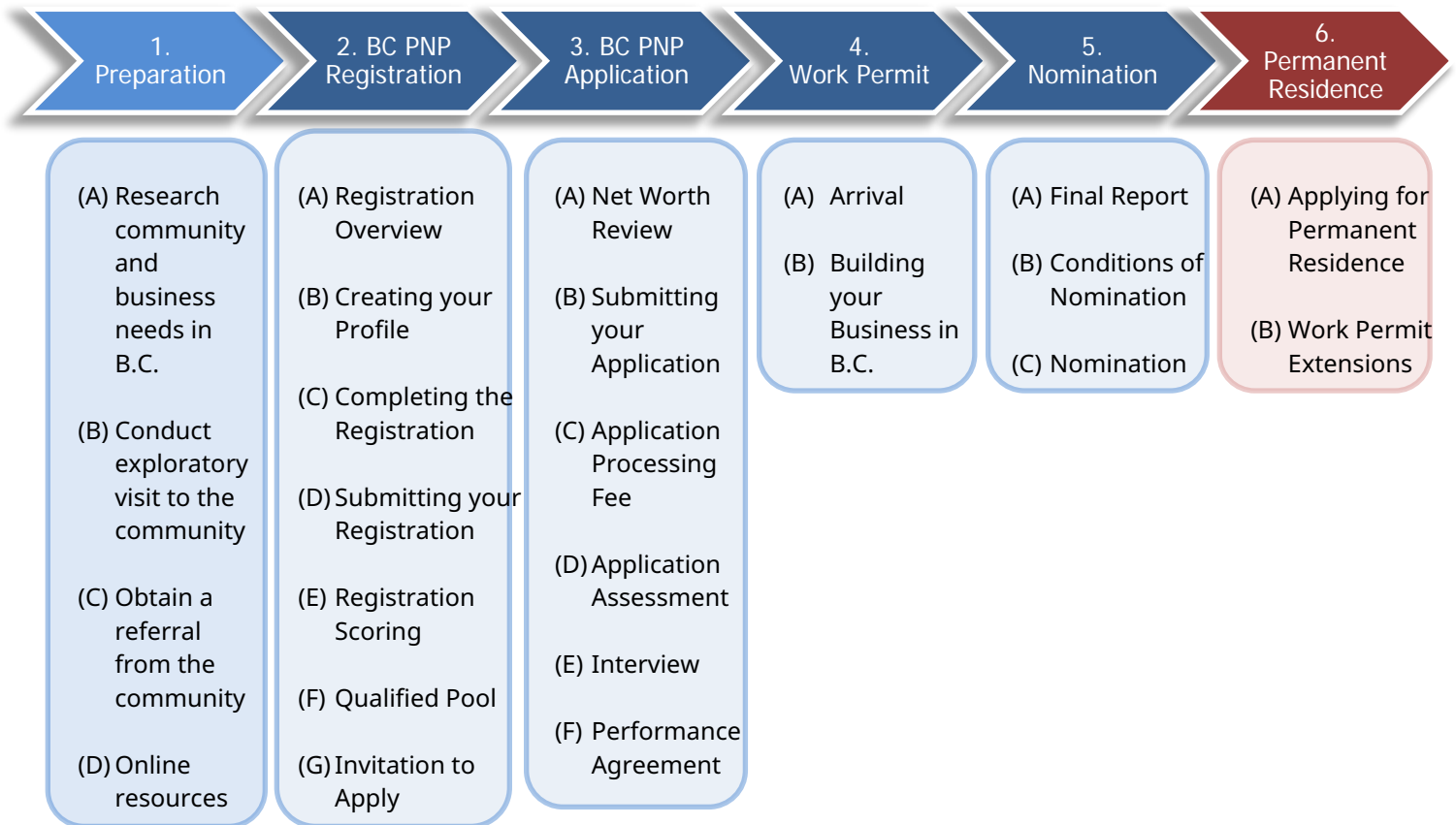


## Part 3: EI – Regional Pilot: Step-by-Step Process

### Sections:

- 3.1. Preparation Before You Register
- 3.2. Registering with the BC PNP
- 3.3. Applying to the BC PNP
- 3.4. Work Permit
- 3.5. Nomination
- 3.6. After Nomination: Permanent Residency

This section provides detailed information for the general process to immigrate under the BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot.

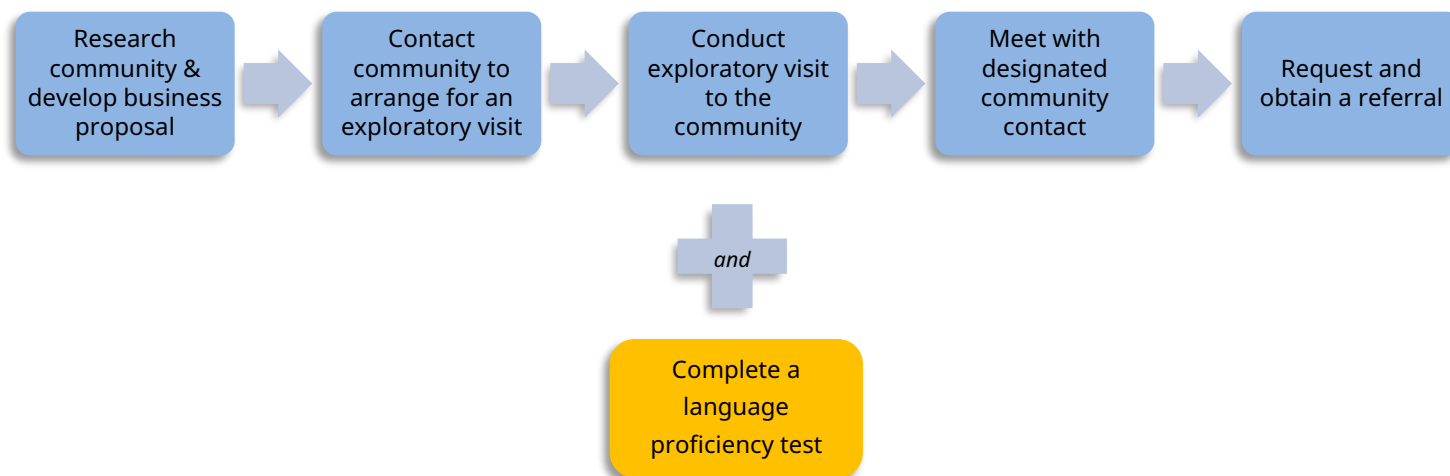


## 3.1. EI – Regional Pilot: Preparation Before You Register

- 3.1 (A) Identify participating community and research business needs
- 3.1 (B) Conduct exploratory visit to the community
- 3.1 (C) Obtain a referral from the community
- 3.1 (D) Online resources



This section provides information on the necessary steps **you must take before you can register** under the EI – Regional Pilot. As a general outline:



### 3.1 (A) Identify participating community and research business needs

Carefully review the [EI – Regional Pilot requirements](#) detailed in this guide.

The [EI – Regional Pilot - Community Profiles page](#) on the BC PNP website lists the enrolled communities eligible under the EI – Regional pilot. Each community profile will include information about its:

- community population
- geographic location
- contact information for the designated contact person
- list of up to three economic development priorities (based on [three-digit NAICS codes](#))
- community description
- website and/or other information

You are also encouraged to learn more about each community's unique economic development priorities and how your business plans may align with their needs:

- B.C.'s communities [www.britishcolumbia.ca/invest/communities/](http://www.britishcolumbia.ca/invest/communities/)
- B.C.'s regions [www.welcomebc.ca/Choose-B-C/Explore-British-Columbia/Regions-in-B-C](http://www.welcomebc.ca/Choose-B-C/Explore-British-Columbia/Regions-in-B-C)
- Regional profiles [www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Industry/Regional-Profiles.aspx](http://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Industry/Regional-Profiles.aspx)
- Industry sectors [www.britishcolumbia.ca/invest/industry-sectors/](http://www.britishcolumbia.ca/invest/industry-sectors/)

# BRITISH COLUMBIA'S DEVELOPMENT REGIONS >>

- Vancouver Island Coast
- Mainland/Southwest
- Thompson Okanagan
- Kootenay
- Cariboo
- North Coast
- Nechako
- Northeast

## B.C. Cities

- (BY POPULATION)
- Over 500,000
  - ◆ 100,000-500,000
  - ▲ 50,000-100,000
  - Under 50,000



This map is for information purposes only. Communities shown on map may not be enrolled in the EI – Regional Pilot. Refer to the [BC PNP website](#) for list of participating communities.

Click [here](#) to view detailed reference maps.

### 3.1 (B) Conduct exploratory visit to the community

After you have identified a community and developed a business proposal that aligns with one of the economic development priorities of the community, you must contact the community (as listed on the [BC PNP website](#)) to express your interest in the EI – Regional Pilot and community.

You must make an exploratory visit to the community in which you intend to establish a business in B.C. before you can request for a *referral* from the community. You must obtain a referral in order to submit a registration to the BC PNP under the EI – Regional Pilot.

Each community may have its own conditions and processes. You are encouraged to learn more by contacting the community.

#### Tips and information: Self-assessment

A community may inquire about your background and likelihood of obtaining an invitation to apply. You may fill out the self-declared portion of your registration to obtain an estimated score, which you may provide to a community should they inquire.

You would have to fill out all sections of the registration form and then return to *My Dashboard* where you can print out the results. You may update and make changes to your registration including your business concept before you select *Submit this registration form*.

For information about creating a profile and filling out a registration, refer to the [registration section](#). For detailed information about how points are calculated, refer to the [EI – Regional Pilot Registration Scoring Guide](#).

During your exploratory visit, you can also:

- investigate and evaluate potential business opportunities
- update and/or refine your business proposal
- conduct market research
- make local business contacts
- connect with relevant economic development officers of the community
- learn more about living and doing business in the community, and gain a better understanding of the health care and education programs, housing, culture, recreation opportunities, and lifestyle

In order to register under the Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot, during your exploratory visit, you must meet with designated community contact person to discuss your business proposal, including your suitability. You are encouraged to develop a preliminary investment breakdown, job creation plan, and gather additional information on how to establish a commercially viable business under your management.

If you require a visitor visa (Temporary Resident Visa) to travel to Canada, you [must apply online](#) or to a Canadian visa office.

The BC PNP and participating communities will not provide a letter of support for you to obtain a Temporary Resident Visa to conduct an exploratory visit to B.C.

### **3.1 (C) Obtain a referral from the community**

In order to be able to register under the Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot, you must obtain a *referral* from the supporting community.

A referral from the supporting community is a form that describes information about your proposed business in the community, including details about your exploratory visit to the community. A referral is valid for 90 days from the date of issue.

Your business proposal must be identified as a [four-digit NAICS code](#) that aligns with one of the three-digit NAICS codes selected by the community as a priority sector.

Communities may limit the number of referrals they issue. BC PNP reserves the right to limit the number of referrals from a specific community.

You may request a referral only **after** you have conducted an exploratory visit to the community and met with the designated community contact person. You may be required to meet any conditions or requirements set by the community in order to obtain a referral. If the designated community contact person determines you are a suitable candidate, the designated community contact person will fill out a referral form and provide a copy to you and to the BC PNP.

You must upload a copy of your valid referral form when you submit your [online registration](#). If you do not upload your valid referral form in your registration, your registration will be disqualified.

### **3.1 (D) Online resources**

You may also want to explore the following online resources to learn more about our province:

- [Welcome BC](#): Learn about living, working and studying in B.C. as an immigrant to Canada.
- [Small Business BC](#): This resource centre has information, products, services and support for entrepreneurs at every stage of business development.
- [Trade and Invest BC](#): Learn about the many opportunities to invest in high-growth businesses, discover B.C.'s innovation clusters, connect with B.C.'s businesses and communities, and explore B.C.'s unique lifestyle.
- [Doing Business in British Columbia](#): A detailed guide on how to establish a business in B.C. as well as information you may want to consider before you develop your business concept.

- [Hello BC](#): British Columbia's official tourist website, with suggestions on things to see and do, places to stay and information on how to get around.
- [BC Economic Development Association \(BCEDA\)](#): Learn more about the role of economic development in the regions. You may refer to the directory of BCEDA members for specific industry information for a particular B.C. community.
- You may also refer to the [Business Improvement Association of BC](#) website, and the [BC Chamber of Commerce website](#).

## 3.2. EI – Regional Pilot: Registering with the BC PNP

- 3.2 (A) Registration Overview
- 3.2 (B) Creating your Profile
- 3.2 (C) Completing the Registration
- 3.2 (D) Submitting your Registration
- 3.2 (E) Registration Scoring
- 3.2 (F) Qualified Pool
- 3.2 (G) Invitation to Apply



The [BCPNP Online](#) registration system is an online registration process that is the first step to immigrating to British Columbia as an immigrant entrepreneur. As it is a points-based system, you will receive a score based on the information you provide.

Your score will determine whether you will receive an [invitation to apply](#) under the **Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot**.

The BC PNP reserves the right to make changes to the BCPNP Online registration system without prior notice, including changes to the score grids, the minimum total required in each section, the expiry of registrations in the qualified pool, and the number and frequency of registrants invited to apply.

Please check our [website](#) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of this guide.

### 3.2 (A) Registration Overview

Please carefully review the [EI – Regional Pilot requirements](#) before completing your registration.

A non-refundable **registration fee of \$300** will be charged at the time of registration submission.

Obtaining a referral or submitting a registration is not a guarantee that you will be invited to submit an application.

Registrants may only have one active BC PNP registration or application at any given time.

The BC PNP will accept a maximum of 200 Entrepreneur Immigration registrations per month.

Registrations are typically scored within **four weeks** of submission.



### 3.2 (B) Creating your Profile

In order to register, you must create a profile with BCPNP Online. This includes your personal email and home address, telephone number and passport information as well as security questions and password. You will receive an email from the BC PNP asking you to confirm your email address and password.

The BC PNP can only provide specific information about your registration and/or application if your email address was authorized in your BCPNP Online profile.

You are responsible for updating your contact information in your profile and ensuring that it is current and up to date.

Once you have completed your profile, click on the *Entrepreneur Immigration stream* button to continue the registration process and then click on the *EI – Regional Pilot* button.

**The BC PNP requires that the email address in your BCPNP Online Profile be your personal email address. This is to ensure you receive all correspondence relevant to your file.**

### 3.2 (C) Completing the Registration

When you select the *EI – Regional Pilot*, you will be directed to *My Dashboard*, where you can complete your registration.

The registration requires you provide information in all sections, which are listed as tabs across the top of *My Dashboard*.

You are able to copy and paste from another program into text fields. Tables requiring numbers will automatically calculate totals.

The system will save your information when you click on any tab and when you click the Next or Previous buttons.

#### Tips and information

You do not need to complete the registration in one session. You may return to your registration as often as needed. Inactive profiles and registrations will be deleted after 30 days.

If you do not meet the minimum eligibility score, you will be directed to *My Dashboard*. Any sections where you did not meet the minimum score or sections where there was an error will be highlighted in red. You may return to the section and correct any errors.

To avoid lost data due to system time-out or network connection issues, the BC PNP recommends that you compose your business concept in local word processing software and then paste the text into the browser field.

Once you have paid the fee and submitted your registration, you will not be able to make changes or modify any information in your registration.

### 3.2 (D) Submitting your Registration

Before you can submit your registration, you **must** upload clear scanned copies of:

- your valid referral form
- your valid [language test result](#)
- biographical page (and signature page) of your current passport
- current photograph
- [use of a representative form](#), if applicable

**Valid language test result:** Submit a clear, scanned copy of the IELTS test results form, the CELPIP official score report or TEF as a PDF file. Note that the BC PNP may request an original copy of the test results if needed.

**Biographical page of passport:** You must provide a clear, scanned copy of the biographical page of your current passport, as a PDF file. The biographical page is the page in the passport with the name, photo, passport/travel document number, issue date, expiration date, and signature.

**Current photograph:** You must provide one passport style photograph taken within the last six months. Please attach the photograph as a PDF or JPG file. Spouses/common-law partners and dependants do not need to submit photographs. A guarantor is not required.

**Use of a representative form:** if you are using the services of an immigration representative, you must upload a scanned copy of the use of a representative form available on our [website](#). The form must be current and signed by both you and the representative within six months before you submit your registration. For more information about using a representative, please refer to the [Use of a Representative section](#).

After you have uploaded the required documents, you must complete the submit tab, which contains the declaration and confirmation for you and your spouse. When you select *Submit this registration form*, the system will calculate your section scores, based on the information you provided. The business concept section will be scored separately by the BC PNP within four weeks.

If your scores in each section meet the minimum eligibility scores, you will be directed to the electronic payment system to pay the \$300 non-refundable registration fee.

Your registration will only be submitted to the BC PNP after you have paid the registration fee. You will receive a fee payment receipt and acknowledgment.

After you complete your registration, please ensure that you have received a confirmation email that includes your BC PNP registration number. If you do not receive this email within 24 hours, please email the BC PNP at [en.imm@gov.bc.ca](mailto:en.imm@gov.bc.ca) for further instructions.

The declaration in the online registration and application requires your consent and is the legal equivalent to your signature. As the registrant, you must ensure that you have read and understood the declaration.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your email correspondence was successfully received by the BC PNP. The BC PNP recommends that you enable “delivery receipts” in your email program.

It is your responsibility to check your spam or junk folders for email correspondence from the BC PNP.

### **3.2 (E) Registration Scoring**

The BC PNP will verify the information you provide in your registration and may adjust your self-declared score if necessary. The score grids in the [EI – Regional Pilot Registration Scoring Guide](#) provide details of how your score will be calculated.

Your registration will be assessed according to the program requirements applicable at the time of submitting your registration.

The business concept section will be scored by the BC PNP, typically within four weeks of submission. The BC PNP will verify the scoring in all sections to finalize your registration score.

Certain sections of the registration have minimum eligibility scores. You must meet the minimum scores in each section to be entered into the qualified pool.

<b>EI – Regional Pilot Scoring Overview</b>		
<b>Scoring Sections</b>		<b>Points</b>
<b>Self-declared</b>	Experience & Ownership	24
	Net Worth	6
	Total Personal Investment	10
	Jobs	15
	Community Population	6
	B.C.'s Regions	12
	Adaptability	67
<b>Self-declared SUBTOTAL score</b>		<b>140</b>
<b>Business concept</b>	Commercial Viability	30
	Transferability of Skills	15
	Economic Benefits	15
<b>Business concept SUBTOTAL score</b>		<b>60</b>
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>		<b>200</b>

### 3.2 (F) Qualified Pool

Upon completion of the registration scoring, you will receive an email from the BC PNP indicating your total score and whether you have met minimum requirements to be entered in the qualified pool. You will be able to view your registration score, including scores for each section, in *My Dashboard*.

Registrations that meet the total minimum points in every section will be entered into the qualified pool. Registrations in the qualified pool are valid for 180 days (approximately 6 months). If you are not invited to apply to the BC PNP within 180 days of qualifying, your registration will expire.

## 3.2 (G) Invitation to Apply

### (i) Ranking

If you have entered the qualified pool, your final registration score will be ranked along with other registrants in the EI – Regional Pilot. Periodically, the BC PNP will invite the highest-scoring registrants to apply.

In the event of a tie, registrants will be ranked according to the scores in the individual sections in the following order:

1. business concept
2. job creation
3. business/work experience

### (ii) Invitation to apply

If you are invited to apply under the EI – Regional Pilot, you will receive an email notification including:

- instructions on how to complete an EI – Regional Pilot application
- list of authorized accounting firms for the verification of your net worth
- timelines for application submission

You will have up to 120 days (approximately four months) from the date of invitation to submit a complete application. This allows you time to finalize your business plan and obtain a [verification report of your net worth](#) from a BC PNP-authorized accounting firm.

If you receive an invitation to apply, your registration will be removed from the qualified pool.

If you select the 'decline' button in *My Dashboard*, your invitation to apply will be declined and your registration and invitation will be cancelled. Your profile will remain active. You may submit a new registration at any time, however, re-registration does not guarantee another invitation to apply. Registration fees will not be refunded for users who decline an invitation to apply.

The number and frequency of invitations to apply is based on annual nomination allocations and the BC PNP's processing capacity to ensure timely processing of applications.

The BC PNP may refuse your application if the information in your application is materially different from your registration.

Information about invitations to apply, including date, number of invitations issued and minimum scores, are posted on the [invitations to apply page of our website](#).

**(iii) What if I am not invited to apply?**

Registering does not guarantee that you will be invited to apply. The BC PNP will only invite the highest-scoring registrants from the qualified pool of each respective category.

You may wish to improve your score by developing a new business concept, conducting more research into the business environment in B.C., or improving your adaptability and submitting a new registration.

You can only have one active registration at any one time. If you are submitting a new registration, you must first withdraw any registration currently in process.

## 3.3. EI – Regional Pilot: Applying to the BC PNP

- 3.3 (A) Net Worth Review
- 3.3 (B) Submitting your Application
- 3.3 (C) Application Processing Fee
- 3.3 (D) Application Assessment
- 3.3 (E) Interview
- 3.3 (F) Performance Agreement



### 3.3 (A) Net Worth Review

In order to submit an application, you must submit a **verification report of your personal net worth** from a BC PNP-authorized accounting firm.

#### (i) What is an “authorized accounting firm”?

You must engage a BC PNP-authorized professional accounting firm to verify your total personal net worth and accumulation of funds before you submit an application to the BC PNP.

An authorized accounting firm is a professional chartered accounting services supplier, who is qualified by the BC PNP, that will complete a verification report of your total personal net worth.

#### (ii) Where can I find the list of “authorized accounting firms”?

The list of authorized accounting firms and instructions is included with the invitation to apply.

#### (iii) How does it work?

- (a) You must have received an invitation to apply before you engage an authorized accounting firm.
- (b) You must enter into an agreement with an authorized accounting firm as soon as possible to complete a review of your total personal net worth. You are responsible for all costs associated with this service.

- (c) You must declare all of your personal net worth and provide supporting documents to the authorized accounting firm. Your personal net worth includes your spouse or common-law partner, and dependent children, if applicable.
- (d) The authorized accounting firm will review your net worth claims and your accumulation of funds through an analysis of your supporting financial documentation. The authorized accounting firm will produce a verification report of your total personal net worth and its legal accumulation. The report will outline the amount that is verifiable, and whether there are any issues that may require further investigation by the BC PNP. The authorized accounting firm may contact you to request additional information.
- (e) When the review is complete, the authorized accounting firm will send you and the BC PNP a copy of the net worth verification report.

**(iv) What will I need to provide?**

You must provide the authorized accounting firm with:

- a completed [IRCC Schedule 4A Personal Net Worth form](#), and
- the Section J - Accumulation of Wealth Narrative from the Schedule 4A form
- all supporting documentation identified in the Entrepreneur Immigration Application Guide available on the BC PNP [website](#)

You are responsible to provide a complete account of your personal net worth and source of funds.

All documents not in English must include copies of certified translations. The copy of the document in the original language and the translation must both be notarized.

Failure to declare your total personal net worth may result in the refusal of your application.

Failure to provide satisfactory evidence to verify your net worth and source of funds may result in the refusal of your application.

**(v) What are the details?**

The cost of obtaining a verification report will depend on which authorized accounting firm you choose, and the extent and complexity of your net worth.

The amount of time it takes to evaluate your financial documentation and prepare a verification report will vary. However, the authorized accounting firm may take up to 60 days to complete a verification report. Factors such as the volume of financial



documentation you provide, and the processing capacity of the authorized accounting firm can impact the timing.

The net worth verification report is valid for one year from the date of issuance by the authorized accounting firm.

The verification report will be used as part of the BC PNP application assessment process.

Notwithstanding the conclusions of the net worth verification report, the BC PNP has sole discretion and responsibility to assess your BC PNP application and may request additional information, supporting documentation or clarification.

Do not engage an authorized accounting firm until you have received your invitation to apply from the BC PNP.

### 3.3 (B) Submitting your Application

You will have up to 120 days (approximately four months) from the date you are invited apply to submit a complete application including a verification report of your net worth, all supporting documents and a comprehensive business plan.

Your application must be submitted through *My Dashboard* (refer to your Invitation to Apply and *My Dashboard* for instructions). A **maximum of 50 attachments** can be uploaded to your application. **Attachments cannot exceed 3MB each**; reduce your file sizes and merge files according to type of document.

For more information on submitting your application, including a Business Plan Guide, refer to the Entrepreneur Immigration Application Guide available on the BC PNP [website](#).

Your business plan must demonstrate:

- the proposed business is consistent with your registration business concept; and
- potential for commercial viability under your ownership, including a market entry strategy to show how your proposed business will be successful in British Columbia.

The BC PNP may refuse your application if the information in your application is materially different from what you submitted in your registration.

### 3.3 (C) Application Processing Fee

You must pay a **\$3,500 non-refundable processing fee**.

### 3.3 (D) Application Assessment

As per section 6 of the [Provincial Immigration Programs Regulation](#), the BC PNP may approve or decline your application after taking into consideration the following, provided you have met program requirements as described in part 2 of this guide:

- whether your entry will be of benefit to the economic development of B.C.
- your ability and intention to permanently settle and become economically established in B.C.
- whether you have entered, or intend to enter into, an immigration-linked investment scheme
- whether the information provided in relation to your application is accurate, complete and reliable
- whether you will provide active and ongoing management of the eligible business from within B.C.

After a review of your application, the BC PNP may either:

- offer you an opportunity to respond to any concerns regarding your application
- contact you to attend an in-person interview at our office in Vancouver

If concerns are not satisfactorily addressed, your application will be refused.

Your application may be refused if the BC PNP determines you made a [misrepresentation](#), which can include providing false or misleading information or concealing relevant information about your application including during your interview.

### 3.3 (E) Interview

If requested by the BC PNP, you will be required to attend an in-person interview at the BC PNP office in Vancouver. In the interview, you will be expected to describe your business/work experience and answer in-depth questions about your application.

The interview will also be your opportunity to address any concerns that are raised.

A decision on your application will be based on the information you provide up to and during your interview. Any additional or new information after your interview may not be considered, unless requested by the BC PNP.

**Interviews are conducted in English only.** If you are unable to communicate in English, you must obtain the services of a certified court interpreter. This is to ensure you will be able to clearly communicate to BC PNP program staff. You must submit a [Use of an Interpreter form](#) with a copy of the interpreter's certification a minimum of ten days prior to your scheduled interview.

A certified court interpreter is a member of the [Society of Translators and Interpreters of BC \(STIBC\)](#) or a society belonging to the [Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council \(CTTIC\)](#); or a graduate from the Court Interpreting Certificate Program from Vancouver Community College (VCC).

The interpreter provides direct interpretation during the interview and will not assist you to respond to questions in any way other than direct interpretation of questions and answers.

Your spouse or common-law partner and/or your authorized immigration representative, if applicable, may attend the interview in an observer capacity.

No one else is permitted to be present during the interview.

If you require a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) to attend the in-person interview, the interview invitation email may be used in support for your TRV application. At its discretion, the BC PNP may issue a maximum of two interview invitation emails. If you are unable to attend your in-person interview, your application will be refused.

### **3.3 (F) Performance Agreement**

You will be required to sign a **performance agreement** before your application is approved. The performance agreement outlines the terms and conditions you must meet in order to be considered for nomination.

Performance agreements are unique to each applicant and are based on the information provided in the application, business plan, and during the interview.

The performance agreement typically includes:

- type of business and location
- eligible investment amounts
- the number and type of positions to be created for Canadians or permanent residents
- active management requirement
- residency requirements
- timeframes within which you must meet these requirements

**Important:** Failure to meet the terms and conditions of your signed performance agreement within the timeframes may result in a refusal at the [nomination stage](#).

## 3.4. EI – Regional Pilot: Work Permit

### 3.4 (A) Arrival

### 3.4 (B) Building your Business in B.C.

### 3.4 (C) Work Permit Extensions



After signing a performance agreement, the BC PNP will issue you a **letter of confirmation** (i.e. work permit support letter), which will allow you to [apply to IRCC](#) for a work permit. This will enable you and your dependants to move to B.C. so you can start implementing your business plan. The letter of confirmation is valid for 90 days (approximately three months).

A work permit is the official document issued by the Government of Canada that allows a foreign national to work legally on a temporary basis in Canada. It does not confer status on Canada. The length of the temporary work permit may vary at the discretion of IRCC, but is usually two years.

You must apply for your work permit prior to the expiry date on your letter of confirmation. Your spouse or common-law partner will be eligible to apply for an open work permit, and your dependent child(ren) will be eligible for study permits to attend elementary or secondary school (if applicable).

At its discretion, the BC PNP may issue a maximum of two letters of confirmation.

### 3.4 (A) Arrival

After you sign your performance agreement, you must arrive in B.C. with your valid work permit within 365 days (12 months) from the date of your letter of confirmation.

If you do not arrive in B.C. within the 365-day period from the date of your letter of confirmation, your BC PNP application may be closed and no further immigration support from the province will be provided.

You must submit an **arrival report** to the BC PNP within 60 days of arriving in B.C. with your valid work permit, or, from the date your performance agreement was signed, whichever is later. The arrival report provides basic information about your updated contact information in B.C., your work permit, and whether you transferred the requisite funds into a financial institution in B.C. Your arrival report must be submitted through *My Dashboard*.

After you arrive in B.C. with your valid work permit, you are encouraged to meet with the designated community contact person to:

- discuss your progress in establishing your business
- settlement issues such as housing, schooling for your dependent child(ren), if applicable, obtaining language training or securing business support services

Refer to the Entrepreneur Immigration Post-Arrival Guide available on the BC PNP [website](#) for more information.

### **3.4 (B) Building your Business in B.C.**

Once you arrive in B.C. with your valid work permit, you will have up to 610 days (approximately 20 months) to implement your business plan, actively manage your business, and satisfy the terms and conditions of your signed performance agreement.

You are not permitted to vary any terms of the performance agreement. If you are not able to meet the terms of the performance agreement, you must contact our office within 180 days (6 months) of your arrival in B.C. with your valid work permit.

### **3.4 (C) Work Permit Extensions**

If your work permit is due to expire within 120 days (approximately four months), you must contact [en.imm@gov.bc.ca](mailto:en.imm@gov.bc.ca) to request a work permit support letter, which will allow you to apply to IRCC to extend your work permit. The BC PNP may request evidence to confirm you are meeting the terms of your signed performance agreement.

For information on the process for extending your work permit, refer to IRCC's website.

## 3.5. EI – Regional Pilot: Nomination

### 3.5 (A) Final Report

### 3.5 (B) Conditions of Nomination

### 3.5 (C) Nomination



In order to be approved for nomination, you must demonstrate you have met the terms and conditions of your [performance agreement](#) by submitting a **final report** to the BC PNP.

### 3.5 (A) Final Report

You must submit a final report to the BC PNP between 366 to 610 days (approximately 12 to 20 months) after the issuance date of your valid work permit.

The final report is the form and supporting documents that you must submit in order to apply for nomination. Your final report must be submitted through *My Dashboard*. A maximum of 50 attachments can be uploaded to your application. Attachments cannot exceed 3MB each. Reduce your file sizes and merge files according to type of document.

In your final report, it is your responsibility to demonstrate to that you have met the terms and conditions described in your signed performance agreement. You must submit all required supporting documents, as outlined in the Entrepreneur Immigration Post-Arrival Guide available on the BC PNP website. This includes one full year of financial statements for the business that have undergone review engagement by a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA). The CPA cannot have any real or perceived conflict of interest.

The BC PNP will review and evaluate your final report, and may at its discretion, request additional information, conduct a site visit at your B.C. business, and/or request an in-person interview at the BC PNP office in order to assess eligibility for nomination.

If you fail to meet the terms and conditions of the performance agreement during the mandatory timeframes, your application may be refused at the nomination stage and your file will be closed.

Your application may be refused if the BC PNP determines you made a [misrepresentation](#), which can include providing false or misleading information or concealing relevant information about your application in your final report.

You may only submit one final report.

**The BC PNP may support the extension of your work permit based on the assessment of your final report.**

Please refer to the Entrepreneur Immigration Post-Arrival Guide available on the BC PNP [website](#) for more information.

### **3.5 (B) Conditions of Nomination**

When the BC PNP is satisfied that you have met your performance agreement terms, you will be required to sign a Conditions of Nomination declaration. This document sets out **the conditions you must continue to meet while your federal application for permanent residence is in process.**

You must sign and submit the Conditions of Nomination in order to receive a nomination by the BC PNP. Failure to maintain these conditions may result in the BC PNP cancelling your nomination.

It is a condition of your nomination that you are not at any time:

- prohibited from entering Canada
- under a removal order in or outside of Canada
- working in Canada without authorization

It is a condition of your nomination that you must:

- continue to meet the terms outlined in the signed performance agreement, including the agreed upon nature of business operations, business location, ownership percentage, job creation and/or job maintenance, location of residence, as well as your ongoing and active management of the business
- operate the business in a manner consistent with any required permit, licence, approval or other legal or regulatory requirements
- maintain legal authorization to work in Canada, or if status has expired, be able to demonstrate that an application for restoration of status within the 90-day eligibility period has been submitted
- comply with the requirements of Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations section 87, and Provincial Immigration Programs Regulation subsection 6(g).

You must inform the BC PNP if there is a change in your circumstances, including but not limited to:

- change in business operations including ownership percentage change
- change in business location
- change in residential address
- change in marital status or number of dependants
- change in immigration status
- refusal of a Work Permit and/or refusal of a Temporary Resident Visa
- absent from B. C. for more than 3 weeks

You must provide any information requested by the BC PNP to verify that conditions of nomination continue to be met. Failure to abide by the conditions of nomination, including failure to provide requested information, may result in the cancellation of your nomination.

If the BC PNP determines that you provided false or misleading information to the BC PNP, before or after nomination, your nomination may be cancelled.

### **3.5 (C) Nomination**

Once your signed Conditions of Nomination declaration has been received by the BC PNP, you will be issued a confirmation of nomination as a provincial nominee.

The nomination will allow you and your eligible dependent family members to [apply for permanent residence to IRCC](#) under the Provincial Nominee Class.

Please note that the age(s) of your dependent children, if any, are locked in for the purpose of federal immigration requirements at the time you submit your registration to the BC PNP. For more information on federal requirements regarding the age of dependent children, please see [IRCC's website](#).





## 3.6. EI – Regional Pilot: After Nomination

### 3.6 (A) Applying for Permanent Residence

### 3.6 (B) Work Permit Extensions



### 3.6 (A) Applying for Permanent Residence

After you have been approved as a provincial nominee, you may then apply for permanent residence to IRCC under the Provincial Nominee Class. The [confirmation of nomination](#) is valid for 180 days (approximately six months). You must apply for permanent residence prior to the expiry date on your confirmation of nomination.

IRCC will assess your application for permanent residence to ensure you meet the security and admissibility requirements, including medical and security checks, and that you continue to meet the requirements of the Provincial Nominee class.

If IRCC approves your application, you will be issued a permanent resident visa.

For more information on applying for permanent residence and processing times, please visit [IRCC's website](#).

**IMPORTANT:** The BC PNP has no jurisdiction over whether or not IRCC will grant you permanent residence status in Canada. IRCC is the final decision-making authority on whether to issue you a permanent resident visa.

IRCC may request additional information related to your application to ensure you continue to meet the conditions of nomination.

### 3.6 (B) Work Permit Extensions

If you have already applied for permanent residence and your work permit is due to expire within 120 days (approximately four months), you may be eligible to apply for a Bridging open work permit from IRCC. For eligibility requirements, refer to [IRCC's website](#).

IRCC and/or the BC PNP may request evidence to confirm you continue to meet the conditions of your nomination.

For more information about processing times for applying for a work permit, please visit [IRCC's website](#).

## Part 4: General Program Information

### Sections:

- 4.1. Withdrawing your Registration or Application
- 4.2. BC PNP Cancellation of your Nomination
- 4.3. Request for Review
- 4.4. Misrepresentation
- 4.5. Refusal to Accept an Application or Registration
- 4.6. Use of a Representative
- 4.7. Definitions

### 4.1. Withdrawing your Registration or Application

You may withdraw your registration through *My Dashboard*. Registration fees are non-refundable.

You may request a withdrawal of your application at any time by contacting the BC PNP at [en.imm@gov.bc.ca](mailto:en.imm@gov.bc.ca). Application fees are non-refundable.

### 4.2. BC PNP Cancellation of your Nomination

If you have been nominated by the BC PNP, your nomination may be cancelled under section 6 of the Provincial Immigration Programs Act if you have:

- failed to comply with your [conditions of nomination](#)
- failed to [inform the BC PNP of a material change](#)
- obstructed or [interfered with an inspection](#)
- retained a [paid representative who is not qualified](#) under the Act
- provided [false or misleading information](#)

The decision to cancel your nomination is not subject to review under [section 7 of the Act](#).

Examples where an approval or nomination may be cancelled include, but are not limited to:

- information provided in your application to the BC PNP was [false or misleading](#)
- the [conditions of nomination](#) under which you were nominated are no longer being met:
  - for example, you have not maintained the terms and conditions of your performance agreement, including but not limited to: business type, business location, ownership percentage, job creation, investment, as well as the ongoing and active management of the business
- you are no longer residing in B.C.
- you are in Canada and are out of status
  - if your status has expired, and you cannot demonstrate you have applied for restoration of status within the 90-day eligibility period, you will be considered out of status
- you are working in Canada without authorization
- you are under a removal order in or outside of Canada

### 4.3. Request for Review

If the BC PNP refuses an application (i.e. declined under [section 4\(1\)\(b\) of the Act](#)), that person has a right to request a review of the decision.

The purpose of a review is to determine whether the original decision was based on a fair process, and was within the range of decisions that could be reasonably supported by the evidence before the decision maker on the basis of the program criteria at the time of the decision.

An applicant may only submit a request to review a decision issued by the BC PNP (i.e. not decisions issued by IRCC). The review process is limited to the following types of BC PNP decisions:

- Entrepreneur Immigration registration disqualifications
- Entrepreneur Immigration - stage 1 - application refusals
- Entrepreneur Immigration - stage 2 - nomination refusals

All requests for a review of a decision must be made within 30 calendar days of the date of the decision notice if the applicant is a resident in Canada, or 60 calendar days of the date of the decision notice if the applicant is not a resident in Canada.

A person whose approval has been withdrawn under section 6 of the Act is not entitled to have that decision reviewed by the BC PNP under the internal review process set out in section 7 of the Act.

The request for review must:

- be in writing and must be submitted through [BCPNP Online](#)
- identify the grounds for the request
- provide any information the BC PNP requests
- pay the \$500 non-refundable request for review fee

A review is not a chance to submit new evidence or re-argue the evidence submitted in your application. Being unsatisfied with the final decision or a component of the decision is not sufficient grounds to vary or reverse a decision.

Important information for those who choose to submit a request for review:

- Only the applicant named on the decision notice may request a review.
- The residential address provided in the online request for review form must be the applicant's current residential address. Forms that list the authorized representative's address will be considered incomplete and will not be processed.
- The applicant is responsible for outlining how the decision was unreasonable or procedurally unfair. The review will be based on the information provided by the applicant.
- The review will be conducted on the basis of the program criteria and evidence available at the time the application was declined.
- You will receive an e-mail confirming your request has been received.

### **Request for Review: Decision**

As soon after receiving a review request as it is practical to do so, the BC PNP must either:

- confirm the original decision, or
- re-evaluate the application based on the review request

Reviewed decisions are final decisions under the Act and Regulation. Subsequent requests for review, or requests for review submitted outside of the applicable 30- or 60-day periods, cannot be accepted.

## 4.4. Misrepresentation

Your application may be refused if you are found to have misrepresented or withheld information relevant to the decision.

Misrepresentation can include any of the following:

- submitting false or misleading information in an application or registration;
- failing to disclose information relevant to an application or registration;
- communicating directly or indirectly, by any means, false or misleading information, or concealing relevant information, in any communication with the BC PNP or otherwise during the application and evaluation process

If you have been found to have misrepresented information in your application, the BC PNP may refuse to accept a future application from you for up to two years.

## 4.5. Refusal to Accept an Application or Registration

The BC PNP may refuse to accept a new application or registration if:

- an [invitation for an application does not apply to that person](#)
- the person has retained a representative who does not meet the prescribed requirements, as described in [section 4 of the Provincial Immigration Programs Regulation](#)
- the applicant has had a [previous approval cancelled by the BC PNP](#)
- the applicant has, in the two years immediately before the date of the application, been found by the BC PNP to have [made a misrepresentation in a previous application](#)
- the [applicant has another active application with the BC PNP or registration with the BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration](#).

## 4.6. Use of a Representative

- 4.6 (A) Declaration and Consent
- 4.6 (B) Authorized Paid Representatives
- 4.6 (C) Unpaid Representatives
- 4.6 (D) Changing Representatives
- 4.6 (E) Complaints Against a Representative

You are not required to use a paid or unpaid representative – such as an immigration consultant or lawyer – to register and/or apply to the BC PNP. The program is designed for you to be able to complete the process on your own if you choose to do so.

The BC PNP scores all registrations for each category under their respective criteria, and, if invited to apply, the BC PNP assesses all applications equally, regardless of whether they were prepared with the assistance of a representative. Your registration or application will not receive special attention, faster processing, or a more favourable outcome if it is submitted using the services of a representative.

Some applicants choose to use a representative to provide immigration advice or to assist with the process.

You must disclose if you have received assistance in preparing your registration and/or application from a person who is compensated or receives a benefit as a result of such assistance. Failure to declare such assistance may result in the refusal of the application or disqualification of the registration.

A representative is authorized to act on your behalf with the BC PNP. If you pay someone to act as your representative, they must meet the requirements for authorized representatives stated below.

### 4.6 (A) Declaration and Consent

By completing the BC PNP [use of a representative form](#), you have authorized the individual named on the form to represent you and act on your behalf with the BC PNP. This may include representation throughout the registration, application and assessment processes, and communication with program staff as required, including disclosure of personal or confidential information to your representative.

The legal declaration in the online registration or application is your legal signature. If your representative enters the registration or application on your behalf, you should review the information provided as **you will be legally responsible for the accuracy of the form contents.**

BCPNP Online uses your personal email as the unique personal identifier for your profile. The email and contact information provided in your profile will be associated with the application in the system and will be used by BC PNP staff for communication of final decisions.

At its discretion, the BC PNP may contact you directly to request additional evidence or information to verify information in your registration and/or application, and to determine if you meet or continue to meet all program requirements.

#### **4.6 (B) Authorized Paid Representatives**

In selecting a paid immigration representative, the BC PNP highly recommends that applicants confirm with their potential representative that they are members in good standing with their professional organization.

The Act and Regulation restricts payment for representation to groups defined by section 91(2) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*:

- immigration consultants who are full members in good standing of the [Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council \(ICCRC\)](#)
- lawyers who are members in good standing of the [Law Society of BC](#) or another [Canadian Law Society, the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society, or the Chambre des notaires du Quebec](#).

#### **4.6 (C) Unpaid Representatives**

You may use the services of an unpaid representative to act on your behalf. Unpaid representatives may include persons authorized under the Act and Regulation (see above), family members, friends, and members of non-governmental or religious organizations.

The BC PNP only considers third-party representatives as unpaid if they do not charge fees or receive any other compensation or benefit for providing immigration advice or related services.

If your unpaid representative is found by the Province to have charged fees for, or otherwise benefited from, acting as your representative, the Province will revoke such person's eligibility to serve as your representative and may decline/cancel your application/approval to the BC PNP.

In selecting an unpaid representative, the BC PNP highly recommends that applicants confirm with their potential representative that they are members in good standing and have not been found to have made a misrepresentation by the BC PNP within the last two years.

## 4.6 (D) Changing Representatives

If you change representatives or decide to no longer be represented, you must provide notification to the BC PNP. Failure to declare a change in representative may result in the refusal of your application.

The BC PNP will communicate with the representative indicated in your profile. If you decide to change or remove your authorized representative, you must update this information in the *My Representative* tab in *My Dashboard*.

You are responsible for ensuring your profile is updated to reflect changes in representatives.

You may only have one representative at any given time.

If you wish to change your representative during the BC PNP registration and/or application process, you must update the information in the *My Representative* tab in *My Dashboard* and submit another [use of a representative form](#) allowing your new representative to represent you and allow the BC PNP to disclose information to them.

Filing a new use of a representative form will automatically cancel any previously appointed representative.

You may remove your representative, without replacement, by contacting the BC PNP in writing and requesting the removal of that representative.

## 4.6 (E) Complaints Against a Representative

If you have a complaint about your representative, whether paid or unpaid, you may submit a complaint to the appropriate regulatory body:

- If your authorized representative is a member of [ICCRC](#)
- If your authorized representative is a member of the [Law Society of British Columbia](#)
- If your authorized representative is a member of another [Canadian Law Society, the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society, or the Chambre des notaires du Quebec](#), contact the applicable professional organization.

You may wish to refer to the [IRCC website](#), which contains a lot of information about using immigration representatives.



## 4.7. Definitions

**“Act”** means the [Provincial Immigration Programs Act](#).

**“certified court interpreter”** means:

- a. A certified court interpreter who holds a current and valid membership to the [Society of Translators and Interpreters of BC \(STIBC\)](#);
- b. A certified court interpreter who holds a current and valid membership to a society belonging to the [Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council \(CTTIC\)](#);  
or,
- c. A graduate from the Court Interpreting Certificate Program from Vancouver Community College (VCC).

**“Director”** means the Director of Provincial Immigration Programs, or persons acting for the Director.

**“paid representative”** means:

- a. A lawyer who is a member in good standing of the [Law Society of BC](#) or any [other Canadian Law Society](#), the Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society, or the Chambre des notaires du Quebec; or,
- b. An immigration consultant who is a full member in good standing of the [Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council](#).

**Regulation”** means the [Provincial Immigration Programs Regulation](#)



## Part 5: EI – Regional Pilot Registration Scoring Guide

### Sections:

#### 5.1. Self-declared scores (140 points)

- 5.1 (A) Experience and Business Ownership
- 5.1 (B) Net Worth
- 5.1 (C) Total Personal Investment
- 5.1 (D) Job Creation
- 5.1 (E) Community Population
- 5.1 (F) B.C.'s Regions
- 5.1 (G) Adaptability Factors

#### 5.2. Business Concept Scoring (60 points)

- 5.2 (A) General Information
- 5.2 (B) Commercial Viability
- 5.2 (C) Transferability of Skills
- 5.2 (D) Economic Benefits

This section provides detailed information about the **EI – Regional Pilot** registration scoring, including complete point tables and useful information on how to fill out your registration.

Many sections of the registration have minimum eligibility scores. You must meet the minimum eligibility scores in each section to be entered into the qualified pool.

	Scoring Sections	Points
<b>Self-declared</b>	Experience & Ownership	24
	Net Worth	6
	Total Personal Investment	10
	Jobs	15
	Community Population	6
	B.C.'s Regions	12
	Adaptability	67
<b>Self-declared SUBTOTAL score</b>		<b>140</b>
<b>Business concept</b>	Commercial Viability	30
	Transferability of Skills	15
	Economic Benefits	15
<b>Business concept SUBTOTAL score</b>		<b>60</b>
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>		<b>200</b>

Your registration will be disqualified if:

- you propose an [ineligible business](#)
- you do not submit a valid referral form
- you do not submit a valid language test result
- you propose to purchase an existing business
- **you do not meet the minimum point requirements for any section**

You may have to provide evidence of any and all claims if you receive an invitation to apply. For information on documents required at the application stage, please refer to the Entrepreneur Immigration Application Guide available on the BC PNP [website](#).

## 5.1. EI – Regional Pilot: Self-declared scores

The [BCPNP Online](#) system will automatically assign points based on the information you provide. The BC PNP will verify this information and may adjust your score if necessary.

### 5.1 (A) Experience and Business Ownership

The [EI – Regional Pilot requirements section of this Guide](#) provides detailed information on business and work experience requirements.

You will receive points based on your business ownership and/or senior management work experience **for the last 5 years**.

Please list all of your active business ownership and/or senior management work experience for the last 5 years. You will be assigned points in the experience section **for periods that are not duplicated or overlaps in time**.

You may not claim senior management experience if you worked at the same business of which you owned more than 10 per cent during the same period of time.

You must indicate the industry sector code(s) based on the four-digit [NAICS code](#) and four-digit occupation code(s) from the [NOC](#) that best relate to your experience.

You must score at least 8 points to meet the minimum requirements for this section.

Experience	Total Duration	Points
Business owner-manager experience	Less than 12 months	0
	12 to 24 months	7
	25 to 36 months	12
	37 to 48 months	16
	49 to 59 months	19
	60 months or more	22
Senior manager work experience	Less than 24 months	0
	25 to 48 months	4
	49 to 59 months	8
	60 months or more	12
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>		<b>22</b>

In addition, you will be awarded points if you have owned 100 per cent of a business for **at least three of the most recent five years**. The 100 per cent ownership of the business may be shared between you, your spouse or common-law partner, and/or your dependent child(ren).

Ownership	Amount	Points
Business ownership	Less than three years of 100% business ownership in the past five years	0
	100% ownership of a business for at least three of the last five years	2
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>		<b>2</b>

## 5.1 (B) Net Worth

The [EI – Regional Pilot requirements section of this Guide](#) provides detailed information on personal net worth requirements.

You will receive points based on your total personal net worth including that of your spouse or common-law partner, and/or your dependent children, if applicable.

You will have to provide information on the following:

- current assets:
  - bank deposits (e.g. personal chequing and savings accounts)
  - liquid investments (e.g. stocks, bonds, term deposits redeemable within one year)
  - other liquid assets (you must specify)
- other assets:
  - real property (e.g. real estate, personal and commercial property ownership)
  - business ownership (i.e. current book value of the per cent ownership of your business(es))
  - pension funds and other assets (you must specify)
- liabilities:
  - real property mortgage
  - other debts (e.g. personal loans, credit card debt)

**You must score at least 2 points in the *total personal net worth* section.**

Personal Net Worth		Points
Your total <i>current assets</i> (cash and liquid funds)	Less than \$10,000	0
	\$10,000 to \$49,999	1
	\$50,000 to \$199,999	2
	\$200,000 or more	3
Your <i>total personal net worth</i>	Less than \$300,000	0
	\$300,000 to \$999,999	2
	\$1,000,000 or more	3
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>		<b>6</b>

## 5.1 (C) Total Personal Investment

The [EI – Regional Pilot requirements section of this Guide](#) provides detailed information on minimum investment requirements.

You will receive points based on your proposed total personal investment for the business.

The [BCPNP Online](#) registration form includes typical investment items as dropdown items. You may add investment item fields to the table by selecting *other*.

**You must score at least 6 points to meet the minimum requirement for this section.**

Total Personal Investment	Points
Less than \$100,000	0
\$100,000 to \$349,999	6
\$350,000 to \$599,999	8
\$600,000 or more	10
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>10</b>

## 5.1 (D) Job Creation

The [EI – Regional Pilot requirements section of this Guide](#) provides detailed information on job creation requirements.

You will receive points based on your proposed full-time equivalent (FTE) job creation for Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Your position and your spouse's do not qualify as job creation.

You will be disqualified if you do not demonstrate that you will create at least one FTE job.

To identify the occupation and associated skill level, refer to the [NOC](#). The salary field represents the **estimated annual salary** of the position.

**You must score at least 10 points to meet the minimum requirement for this section.**

Total Proposed FTE Job Creation	Points
Less than 1	0
1 job	10
2 to 4 jobs	11
5 to 7 jobs	13
8 jobs or more	15
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>15</b>

## 5.1 (E) Community Population

The BC PNP is focused on attracting investment to regional communities and in the BCPNP Online registration, higher points are awarded for investments proposed in communities with smaller populations.

Community population sizes are identified in the [EI – Regional Pilot – Community Profiles](#) page of the BC PNP website.

There is no minimum required score for this section.

<b>Community population</b>	<b>Points</b>
40,000 – 75,000	1
20,000 – 39,999	2
15,000 – 19,999	3
10,000 – 14,999	4
5,000 – 9,999	5
Less than 5,000	6
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>6</b>

## 5.1 (F) B.C.'s Regions

The BC PNP will assign additional points in your business concept for the location of the proposed business based on B.C.'s Regional Districts and [development regions](#). There is no minimum required score for this section.

B.C.'s Regions	Points
<b>Lower Mainland / Southwest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fraser Valley</li> <li>Greater Vancouver</li> <li>Squamish-Lillooet</li> <li>Sunshine Coast</li> </ul>	1
<b>Vancouver Island and Coast</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alberni-Clayoquot</li> <li>Capital</li> <li>Central Coast</li> <li>Comox Valley</li> <li>Cowichan Valley</li> <li>Mount Waddington</li> <li>Nanaimo</li> <li>Powell River</li> <li>Strathcona</li> </ul>	2
<b>Thompson-Okanagan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Okanagan</li> <li>Columbia-Shuswap</li> <li>North Okanagan</li> <li>Okanagan-Similkameen</li> <li>Thompson-Nicola</li> </ul>	6
<b>Cariboo</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cariboo</li> <li>Fraser-Fort George</li> </ul>	10
<b>Kootenay</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Kootenay</li> <li>East Kootenay</li> <li>Kootenay Boundary</li> </ul>	10
<b>Nechako</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bulkley-Nechako</li> </ul>	12
<b>North Coast</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kitimat-Stikine</li> <li>Skeena-Queen Charlotte</li> </ul>	12
<b>Northeast</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Rockies</li> <li>Peace River</li> </ul>	12
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>12</b>



## 5.1 (G) Adaptability Factors

- (i) **Language Proficiency**
- (ii) **Education**
- (iii) **Age**
- (iv) **Canadian Experience**
- (v) **Family in the Community**

The BC PNP will consider adaptability factors and assign points for these factors as part of the registration score. Most of the factors are not mandatory requirements of the BC PNP but are indicators to support the likelihood of your economic establishment in B.C.

For information on required documents for a complete application, please refer to the Entrepreneur Immigration Application Guide available on the [BC PNP website](#).

There is no minimum required score for the adaptability section.

### (i) Language Proficiency

The [EI – Regional Pilot requirements section of this Guide](#) provides detailed information on language proficiency requirements.

Points are awarded according to the lowest [Canadian Language Benchmark \(CLB\)](#) score obtained in each of the four competencies: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

You must demonstrate that you possess a minimum of CLB level 4. You must upload a scanned copy of your valid language test result with your registration.

**You must score at least 5 points to meet the minimum requirement for this section.**

### (ii) Education

The [EI – Regional Pilot requirements section of this Guide](#) provides detailed information on education.

You will receive points for your highest level of completed education.

If you are invited to apply, you will be required to provide evidence of your education, and you may be required to provide an education credential assessment.

If your score for Education Level is 0, you will not be eligible to register unless you have at least three years of active management experience of a business that you had 100 per cent ownership in the last five years.

### (iii) Age

The BC PNP does not have any age requirements or age limits. However, your age will be assigned points in the BCPNP Online registration.

### (iv) Canadian Experience

The BC PNP will assign points if you possess any of the following experience obtained in Canada **within the last 10 years**:

- Canadian, full-time work experience: You have legally worked in Canada for at least 12 consecutive months in any occupation, which may include the active management of a business under your ownership in Canada. During this time, **you must have had a valid Canadian work permit to claim this experience.**
- Full-time studies in Canada: You have legally studied in Canada under a secondary or post-secondary program for at least 12 consecutive months (including scheduled breaks such as winter and summer breaks and holidays – a minimum of two consecutive semesters). During this time, **you must have had a valid Canadian study permit to claim this experience.**

Points will not be assigned for language training such as English as a second language.

### (v) Family in the Community

The BC PNP will assign points if you have an immediate family member who lives in the community in which you intend to establish your business. The family member must have been living in the community for at least 12 months prior to your registration.

Immediate family members include your spouse or common-law partner, mother, father, sister(s), brother(s), child(ren), mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister(s)-in-law, and brother(s)-in-law.

You will be required to provide evidence of their residence in the community at the application stage.

Adaptability Factor		Points
Language proficiency	None or minimal, equivalent to CLB 3 and below	0
	Basic understanding, equivalent to CLB 4	5
	Intermediate understanding, equivalent to CLB 5	10
	Intermediate understanding, equivalent to CLB 6	15
	Advanced to fluent, equivalent to CLB 7 or higher	23
Education level	Secondary school or less	0
	Associate degree	6
	Diploma / certificate (non-trades)	
	Diploma / certificate (trades)	
	Bachelor's degree	14
	Post-graduate diploma / certificate	
	Master's degree	16
Doctorate / PhD		
Age	Less than 25	2
	25 - 29	8
	30 - 44	16
	45 - 54	10
	55 - 64	4
	65 or older	0
Canadian work experience, business experience, or studies from within Canada for at least 12 months (last 10 years)	Less than 12 months	0
	12 to 24 months of work/business or studies in Canada (with authorization)	4
	More than 24 months of work experience or studies in Canada (with authorization)	8
Family member living in the community for at least 12 months	No	0
	Yes	4
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>		<b>67</b>

## 5.2. EI – Regional Pilot: Business Concept Scoring

### 5.2 (A) General information

### 5.2 (B) Commercial Viability

### 5.2 (C) Transferability of Skills

### 5.2 (D) Economic Benefits

You must propose to **establish a new business** in a participating community in B.C. The business concept of the registration is similar to an executive summary that provides high-level information about your proposed business plan.

If you are invited to apply, you will be required to submit a comprehensive business plan as part of your application.

## 5.2 (A) General Information

You must answer questions and provide details of your business concept specific to your proposal. Your proposed business concept will be scored by the BC PNP.

For all registrations, you will be asked to provide details of the following:

- description of the business model and its operations: what will the business do and how will it do it?
- description of the types of goods and/or services the business will provide
- your proposed job title and duties, and how your qualifications relate to the proposed business
- description of how your business will be commercially viable: what is your market entry strategy?
- description and rationale for your staffing requirements

Do not include general market research or statistics in your business concept.

In the business concept section, you will be also required to indicate whether you are proposing any of the following:

- franchise business:  
If you are proposing to establish a new franchise location, you must provide details on the franchisor. In addition, you must identify any franchisor conditions or restrictions on approving you as a franchisee, and describe the franchisor response to your request for a proposed new location. For more information on franchise businesses, please refer to the [business requirements section](#).

- partnership with local partner(s):  
If you are proposing to partner with a local businessperson, you must provide a rationale for the business partnership and describe your business relationship with each partner. You must identify the partner(s), their proposed ownership percentage, whether the local partner(s) will make any investment into the business, and what role, if any, the partner(s) will have in the business.

For complete information on business requirements, including detailed explanations of factors within the business concept, please refer to the [business requirements section of this Guide](#).

**There is no minimum score requirement for the business concept section.**

Your business concept will be scored on the following factors:

<b>Business Concept Factors</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Commercial viability:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Business model</li> <li>(b) Market and products/services</li> <li>(c) Eligible personal investment</li> <li>(d) Assessment of proposed personal investment</li> <li>(e) Ownership percentage</li> </ul>	30
<b>Transferability of skills:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Business owner-manager experience only</li> <li>(b) Senior manager work experience only</li> </ul>	15
<b>Economic benefits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Significant economic benefits</li> <li>(b) Jobs assessment</li> </ul>	15
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>60</b>

## 5.2 (B) Commercial Viability

- 5.2 (B)(a) **Business model**
- 5.2 (B)(b) **Market and products/services**
- 5.2 (B)(c) **Eligible personal investment**
- 5.2 (B)(d) **Assessment of proposed personal investment**
- 5.2 (B)(e) **Ownership percentage**

The BC PNP will assess your business concept and assign points based on the commercial viability of your proposed business.

<b>Overall Commercial Viability</b>	<b>Points</b>
Business model	12
Market & products/services	4
Eligible personal investment	4
Assessment of proposed personal investment	8
Ownership percentage	2
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>30</b>

### 5.2 (B)(a) Business model

You must describe how your proposed business will generate revenue and profit, and how the business will have the potential for sustained commercial success under your management.

You will receive points for your business model based on the following table:

<b>Business Model</b>	<b>Points</b>
Unsatisfactory / Unclear	1
Fair / Good	8
Excellent	12
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>12</b>

The business model is assessed based on the following criteria:

- An unsatisfactory/unclear business model (1 point) will be determined **if any of the following are identified:**
  - business model does not clearly identify and/or describe the business operation from start to finish
  - business model does not clearly identify the products and/or services being offered
  - proposed scale of business is not consistent with industry/regional norms
  - business concept does not provide details of applicant's proposed role
  - business concept does not provide substantive information on local business partner (if applicable)
  - business concept is materially inconsistent with the community referral
  
- A fair/good business model (8 points) will be determined **if all of the following are met:**
  - business model is clearly identified and describes the business operation from start to finish
  - business model clearly identifies the products and/or services being offered
  - proposed scale of business is consistent with industry/regional norms
  - business concept provides substantive information on local business partner (if applicable)
  - business concept is materially consistent with the community referral
  
- An excellent business model (10 points) will be determined if, in addition to core requirements for fair/good, the business concept **also meets at least 3 of the following factors:**
  - proposed investment and jobs plan are consistent with the business model (must score 8 points for assessment of investment and score 10 points for jobs assessment)
  - business model identifies a clear strategy to become commercially viable
  - business model's operational plan is internally consistent
  - applicant's proposed duties with the business are consistent with applicant's experience

## 5.2 (B)(b) Market and products/services:

You must provide an effective market entry strategy to show how your proposed business will be successful in British Columbia.

You must describe the types of products and/or services that will be offered. Describe the uniqueness of the product(s) and/or service(s).

You will receive points for your market and products/services based on the following table:

Market & Product	Points
Does not satisfactorily address any of the market/product factors	1
Addresses at least one of the market/product factors, and is consistent with business model	4
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>4</b>

Scoring will be based on whether the registrant demonstrates **at least 1 of 4 critical factors**, which are consistent with the business model:

- **Competitive edge:** the product/service offers distinction from its potential competitors. If local competitors offer the same or similar product/service, then it does not offer substantive distinction.
- **High-value:** the proposed product/service will be a specialized product/service that is differentiated from generic, mid to low-value products/services.
- **New product/service:** the product/service is “new to the market” or “new to the world”. The business concept should demonstrate that the product/service is not locally available.
- **Competitive analysis / market entry strategy:** business concept provides a competitive analysis that identifies current/potential competitors, how to make the product/service unique or distinguishable, how to attract the target market, strengths and weaknesses of current and potential competitors, and how the proposed business’s competitive advantage and how it will effectively enter the market.

## 5.2 (B)(c) Eligible personal investment

The BC PNP will determine the eligibility of your proposed investment and assign you points. For detailed information on eligible and ineligible investments, refer to the [investment requirements section of the Guide](#).

This proposed investment must be made from your own personal funds. External financing, including mortgages and loans, will not be considered toward your personal investment.

**You must score at least 1 point to meet the minimum requirement for this section.**



You will receive points for your proposed eligible personal investment based on the following table:

Eligible Personal Investment	Points
Less than \$100,000	0
\$100,000 to \$299,999	1
\$300,000 to \$499,999	2
\$500,000 to \$799,999	3
\$800,000 or more	4
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>4</b>

## 5.2 (B)(d) Assessment of proposed personal investment

You must describe your proposed investments. The BC PNP will assess your proposed investments and assign you a score in your business concept based on whether the expenditure is deemed essential to establish and operate a new business. Your proposed personal investment will also be considered against the type and scope of the proposed business, the market, the products/services, the business model, and the industry and/or local standards.

Assessment of Proposed Personal Investment	Points
Investment proposal does not correspond to the type or scale of the business	0
Investment proposal corresponds to the type and scale of the business	5
Investment proposal corresponds to the type and scale of the business, the market, the proposed products and/or services, the business model, and the industry standard.	8
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>8</b>

The assessment of proposed personal investment is based on the following criteria:

- Unsubstantiated (0 points): the proposed investments are not substantiated, or appear overstated and/or unreasonable based on the type and scale of the business.
- Substantiated (5 points): the investment appears to correspond to the type and scale of the business given the information provided.
- Well-substantiated and researched (8 points): the proposed investments are detailed and substantiated in the business concept, which demonstrates that the registrant has conducted a significant amount of due diligence. The investment appears to correspond to the type and scale of the business as well as the market, the proposed products and/or services, the business model, and the industry standard.

## 5.2 (B)(e) Ownership percentage

You must demonstrate you will own at least [51 per cent](#) of the business in B.C.

**You must score at least 1 point to meet the minimum requirement for this section.**

You will receive points for ownership percentage based on the following table:

Ownership percentage	Points
100% ownership	2
Between 51% and 99.99%	1
Less than 51%	0
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>2</b>

## 5.2 (C) Transferability of Skills

### 5.2 (C)(a) Business owner-manager experience only

### 5.2 (C)(b) Senior manager work experience only

Transferable skills are assessed by considering the similarity of the industry of your business/work experience to that of your proposed business in B.C.

You will be assigned points for your transferable skills at the registration stage, and if you are invited to apply, the BC PNP will assess your transferable skills at the application stage.

You will receive points based on your **direct experience** and/or **experience in related industries for the last 60 months (5 years)**.

- **Direct experience** is defined as experience gained in the same industry and sector corresponding to the **first three digits** of the proposed [NAICS](#) code.
- **Related experience** is defined as experience gained in a similar industry operating in a related business line as the proposed business based on the proposed [NAICS](#) code.

To identify the industry sector, please refer to the [NAICS](#).

The BC PNP will confirm the registrant's entered NAICS code corresponds to the registrant's industry experience.

Definitions of **active business owner-manager** and **senior manager** are described in the [personal requirements section of this Guide](#).

You will be assigned points in the transferable skills section **for periods that are not duplicated in time**.

Transferability of Skills	Points
Business owner-manager experience only	15
Senior manager work experience only	10
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>15</b>

If you have both business owner-manager *and* senior manager work experience during the most recent 60-month period, **points will be assigned for the most relevant experience that is not duplicated or overlaps in time with other experience claimed**. The BC PNP will assign you the highest points available based the BC PNP's assessment of the information you provide.

## 5.2 (C)(a) Business owner-manager experience only

<b>Business Owner-Manager Experience</b>	<b>Points</b>
Less than 12 months	0
12 to 35 months (related experience)	2
12 to 35 months (direct experience)	5
36 to 59 months (related experience)	6
36 to 59 months (direct experience)	10
60 months (related experience)	12
60 months (direct experience)	15
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>15</b>

## 5.2 (C)(b) Senior manager work experience only

<b>Senior Manager Work Experience Only</b>	<b>Points</b>
Less than 12 months	0
12 to 35 months (related experience)	1
12 to 35 months (direct experience)	4
36 to 59 months (related experience)	5
36 to 59 months (direct experience)	6
60 months (related experience)	8
60 months (direct experience)	10
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>10</b>

## 5.1 (D) Economic Benefits

### 5.2 (D)(a) Significant economic benefits

### 5.2 (D)(b) Jobs assessment

You will receive points based on the potential to add economic benefits to British Columbia. The BC PNP will review your registration and assign points for the following factors used to demonstrate the economic benefits of the proposed business in B.C. You must substantiate your proposed economic benefit factors.

Overall Economic Benefit Points	Points
Significant economic benefits	5
Jobs assessment	10
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>15</b>

### 5.2 (D)(a) Significant economic benefits

The following **significant economic benefits** that the proposed business may demonstrate:

- Adopting new technology: the new technology must not already be in regular use in similar businesses
- Developing new products & services
- Developing innovative approaches to traditional businesses: innovative approaches are considered high-value (technology-based) and not already in regular use by similar businesses
- Increasing exports: primary businesses that will/may increase exports. This does not include businesses that facilitate exports/trade such as trading companies or agencies
- Increasing research and development, and technology commercialization
- Indigenous Peoples and First Nations: partnering with or receiving support from First Nations communities for businesses that affect the First Nation community, and/or largely benefit First Nations communities and/or Indigenous peoples
- Providing products or services to an under-served local or regional market
- Transferring technology and specialized knowledge to B.C.: facilitates and/or supports the high technology industry, and/or provides opportunities to develop technology products/services in B.C.

Significant Economic Benefit Scoring	Points
Does not identify or substantiate any significant economic benefit	0
Substantiates at least one significant economic benefit	5
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>5</b>

## 5.2 (D)(b) Jobs assessment

The BC PNP will assess your jobs plan based on the type and scope of the proposed business, the market, the proposed products and/or services, the business model, and the industry standard.

**You must score at least 1 point to meet the minimum requirement for this section.**

Jobs Assessment Scoring	Points
The business concept does not support the creation of at least 1 FTE position	0
Jobs plan does not correspond to the type and scale of the business	1
Jobs plan corresponds to the type and scale of the business	10
<b>Maximum Score Available</b>	<b>10</b>

The jobs assessment is based on the following criteria:

- Does not support minimum eligibility criteria (0 points): the jobs plan provides insufficient or incomplete information where the BC PNP cannot determine whether the business concept supports the creation of the minimum FTE requirement. Or, the jobs plan only proposes the creation of occupations that are typically contracted out or do not meet the minimum 30 hours per week (or 1,560 hours per year).
- Unsubstantiated (1 point): the proposed job creation plan is not substantiated, or appears overstated and/or unreasonable based on the type and scale of the business and/or industry norms.
- Substantiated (10 points): the jobs plan appears consistent with the business model and corresponds to the type and scale of the business. Satisfactory information provided.





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