

Ontario Pilot Provincial Nominee Program Overview

The Ontario Pilot Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) is Ontario's first-ever nomination program. The PNP is designed to contribute to job creation, job retention and economic development by attracting new investment, and by helping employers in targeted sectors to attract and retain qualified employees for jobs for which there are currently labour shortages and help attract and retain international students. The PNP also supports government priorities by facilitating the immigration of professionals in the health care and education sectors.

Immigration is a cornerstone of Ontario's economic prosperity and social fabric. About half of all newcomers to Canada chose to settle in our province each year. Newcomers bring valuable skills and knowledge to Ontario's labour market, energizing the province's economy and making Ontario a destination of choice around the world. Historically, individuals could immigrate to Ontario only through the federal selection system. The PNP, for the first time, allows Ontario to have a role in the selection of its own newcomers.

Please note that all permanent resident visas for Canada are processed and approved by the Government of Canada by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). The PNP will nominate individuals, who have applied under the PNP, to CIC for permanent resident status. CIC has sole jurisdiction to process and approve all permanent resident visas and work permits, which can also be obtained through nomination.

This document is available in 16 different languages, in addition to English and French. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information, some details regarding Ontario's PNP may have changed since publication. If you wish to find out more about the PNP, you should visit www.OntarioImmigration.ca for up-to-date information regarding eligibility and the application process. The information on the website is only available in English and French.

Basic Facts:

- In the first year, the PNP will nominate 500 individuals, many of whom are expected to be accompanied to Ontario by their family members. Ontario will nominate individuals by issuing a Provincial Nomination Certificate for applicants intending to work and live in Ontario after meeting all PNP requirements.
- The PNP is employer-driven. This means that as an immigrant, you can only apply if your employer is pre-screened, the position is approved, and your employer provides you with a nominee application package from the PNP.

- Applications are processed on a first-come-first-served basis subject to the program criteria; therefore, the earlier that a qualifying employer applies, the greater the likelihood of securing a position.
- The PNP has two Categories as described below.

PNP Categories:

1. The Employer Category

- The **Employer Category** is open to eligible Ontario employers who provide permanent full-time job offers to qualifying nominees. Eligible employers and their positions sought will be pre-screened.
- The PNP allows Ontario employers who require professionals and highly-skilled workers to meet their human resources needs in occupations that face long-term labour market pressures and address provincial objectives. Positions must be in occupations on the PNP's Occupation List to be considered. The most up-to-date list of occupations will be found in the PNP section of www.OntarioImmigration.ca. International Students are not restricted to the Occupation List and may be eligible in any skilled occupation.
- The Occupation List consists of 20 occupations in four sectors: health, education, manufacturing and construction. No other occupations will be considered in the first year of the PNP. They are subject to change in the future, based on labour-market pressures and government objectives.
- Employers may recruit qualified employees to approved positions, whether they are abroad or in Canada with valid status (as temporary foreign workers, international students or visitors). All prospective nominees who are visiting or residing in Canada will be required to provide documentation of their status with their application forms.
- The Employer Category represents 90% of the PNP. Approximately 450 nominations will be reserved for this category in the first year of the PNP.
- Approximately 50% of nominations in the Employer Category are targeted for positions in communities outside the Greater Toronto Area to promote the regional settlement of immigrants.
- The Employer Category has three streams:
 1. The Professional stream consists of eight occupations in health care, and two occupations in the education sector.
 2. The Skilled Worker stream consists of 5 occupations in the manufacturing sector and 5 occupations in the construction sector.

3. The International Student stream targets recent graduates from Canadian colleges and universities. International Students are not restricted to the Occupation List but must have a job offer related to their field of study in Canada. Job offers must be in a managerial, professional or skilled trades occupation.

2. Multinational Investor Category

- The **Multinational Investor Category** offers a new opportunity for companies making a significant investment in Ontario to bring key employees to Ontario to help ensure the success of the investment.
- The Multinational Investor category is intended to support the human resources needs of companies making major investments in Ontario by providing a quick avenue to work permits and permanent residence for key personnel. This category supports the government's economic development priorities by allowing these key employees to contribute to the long-term success of the investment.
- The Multinational Investor Category will be open to companies investing at least \$10 million in Ontario and creating a minimum of 25 full-time permanent jobs. Applications will pre-screened by the Ministry of International Trade and Investment.
- Up to 50 nominations, (10% of all nominations) will be made in this category in the first year of the Pilot. Therefore, interested companies are encouraged to apply early.

The Occupation List

To address labour-market needs and government priorities, the PNP has established an Occupation List for the Professional and Skilled Worker streams of the Employer Category. Employers are only eligible to apply for positions in the 20 occupations listed below. Prospective nominees are only eligible to apply if they have a job offer in, and are qualified in, one of the 20 occupations listed below. All occupations are coded using the 4-digit National Occupational Classification (NOC) code except for high-end researchers which are coded using an Ontario Pilot Provincial Nominee Program (OPPNP) code. International Students are not restricted to the Occupation List.

Occupation	NOC/OPPNP Code
Professional Stream – Health Sector	
Specialist Physicians	3111
General Practitioners and Family Physicians	3112
Pharmacists	3131
Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists	3141
Physiotherapists	3142

Registered Nurses	3152	
Medical Laboratory Technologists		3211
Medical Radiation Technologists	3215	

Professional Stream – Education Sector

University and College Professors		4121
High End Researchers		2100

Skilled Worker Stream – Manufacturing Sector

Machinists and Machining and Tooling Inspectors	7231	
Tool and Die Makers		7232
Industrial Electricians		7242
Construction Millwrights and Industrial Mechanics	7311	
Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics		7312

Skilled Worker Stream – Construction Sector

Carpenters (includes framers and form workers)	7271	
Bricklayers		7281
Cement Finishers	7282	
Tile Setters		7283
Drywallers		7284

No other occupations will be considered in the first year of the PNP.

Note that International Students are eligible to apply in managerial, professional or skilled trades occupations in which they have completed a university degree or college diploma in Canada. During the pre-screen, employers must identify whether they will be recruiting international students.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible to apply to the **Employer Category**, your company must have:

1. been in continuous corporate existence, and have had active operations, for a minimum of three years. The nomination(s) requested must be for position(s) directly related to, and necessary for, the company's core operations;
2. For companies located in the GTA – Have a minimum of \$1,000,000 in gross revenue for the previous fiscal year
For companies located outside the GTA – Have a minimum of \$500,000 in gross revenue for the previous fiscal year;
3. For companies located in the GTA – Have a minimum of five permanent full-time employees
For companies located outside the GTA – Have a minimum of three permanent full-time employees;
 - seasonal, cyclical or part-time employees do not qualify

- subcontractor or agency workers are not considered employees of the company
 - virtual location employees and those working from home offices will not be considered for the first year of the PNP
 - full-time is equal to 1,950 hours of paid employment in a 12 month period or 1,664 hours of paid employment for the construction sector
4. business premises in Ontario where the prospective nominee will work.

To be eligible to apply to the **Multinational Investor Category**, companies must:

1. Be making an investment of at least \$10 million;
2. Create a minimum of 25 full-time permanent positions; and
3. Demonstrate that the position requested will benefit the employer in at least one of the following ways:
 - Advances training of locally hired employees
 - Brings expertise or proprietary knowledge that will significantly contribute to company operations
 - Assists in business development likely to result in recruitment of additional employees
 - Provides other economic benefits

The Application Process:

The application process has two steps: the Pre-screen Application (only for employers) and the Nominee Application (only for individuals).

Pre-screen Application:

- Employers start the application process by submitting a *Pre-screen Application*.
- Employer applicants should submit their completed applications as early as possible.
- The PNP will only accept pre-screen applications by mail, courier or personal delivery.
- The PNP will notify all employer applicants of the status of their applications within 60 days of receipt of their application.

Nominee Application:

- If you plan on applying to the PNP, you should check the www.OntarioImmigration.ca website for all of the specific details and information you will need to complete the application. Information here is

only an introduction to the application process, and should not be considered to be comprehensive.

- The PNP is employer driven. This means that if you are seeking nomination, you can apply only if:
 1. Your prospective employer has first applied for pre-screening of a position;
 2. The position has been approved; and
 3. Your prospective employer has provided you with a copy of the Nominee Application package from the PNP.
- Prospective nominees submit the completed application package to the PNP.
- Prospective nominees in the Employer category must demonstrate that they qualify for the approved position by providing evidence that they can meet the occupational criteria.
- A Provincial Nomination Certificate will be issued for all successful nominees who must then apply to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for permanent residence. A successful provincial nomination replaces selection under other immigration classes (e.g. the federal Skilled Worker Class, the Family Class, etc). Provincial nominees receive priority processing from CIC.
- Individuals nominated by Ontario must still satisfy Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) requirements, including medical and background checks.
- The PNP will support work permit applications for nominees where requested. CIC is responsible for the issuance of work permits. If granted, the work permit will allow the nominee to travel to Ontario to begin working for his/her employer Applicant, while CIC continues permanent residence processing. CIC conducts medical and background checks on principal applicants and all accompanying family members.

Please note that all PNP documents and services are available in English and French only.

How to Contact Us:

Email:

C:\Documents and Settings\gibsonm1\Desktop\Documents for MEDT translation\MG_Ontario_Pilot_Provincial_Nominee_Program_Overview_Feb_27_2008.doc

For more information about the PNP program, including more detailed contact information, eligibility criteria, application information and common questions about the PNP, please visit our website at www.OntarioImmigration.ca

Other Information:

Moving to Ontario

If you are considering moving to Ontario, there are many things you will need to know in order to help you settle once you arrive. This includes information about housing, health care, how to find a job, enter a profession or trade, start a business or go to school. If you want to move to Ontario, the 'Before You Arrive' section of OntarioImmigration.ca provides practical information on the immigration process. This section also suggests things you can do to make your arrival easier.

To visit the 'Before You Arrive' section, go to www.ontarioimmigration.ca/english/before.asp

Studying In Ontario

Ontario welcomes international students because of the diverse perspectives they bring our institutions of higher learning. Coming to Ontario as an international student is a two-step-process. First you must apply to and be accepted by an Ontario college or university. After you have been accepted, you submit your application for a temporary study permit to the Government of Canada.

Permit applications must be filled out and sent to Citizenship and Immigration Canada after students receive their letter of acceptance from an Ontario-based university or college of applied arts and technology.

The 'Studying In Ontario' Section of OntarioImmigration.ca has links to all of the resources you will need to become an international student. To find out about the range of opportunities our colleges and universities have to offer, where to download application forms and other resources, go to www.ontarioimmigration.ca/english/how_study_intl.asp

Both the PNP and other immigration programs facilitate international students' ability to work and live in Ontario.

Living In Ontario

You can find information about different Ontario cities and towns – what they are like and what they have to offer – in the ‘Living in Ontario’ section of OntarioImmigration.ca. Ontario has 445 towns and cities. Major destinations for newcomers are the Greater Toronto Area, Ottawa – the capital of Canada – Hamilton, Windsor, London, and the region around Niagara Falls.

This section tells you about Ontario’s different communities and the unique lifestyles they feature. It also provides information about Ontario’s regions, including northern Ontario cities like Sudbury.

If you have children, you will want to know about Ontario’s schools and other services for children and young people. You can read about all the children and youth programs and services provided by the Ontario government. There are also links to resources on parenting, children’s health, child care, the education system and colleges and universities.

There is also information about daily living, such as getting around by car or public transit, and understanding your rights and responsibilities under Canadian law as well as links to information on cultural groups, banking, housing and personal finances.

Learn English or French

One of the most common barriers immigrants face in Ontario is that their English or French language skills need improvement.

The ‘Learn English’ and ‘Learn French’ sections of OntarioImmigration.ca will take you to information and websites that may help you assess and improve your English or French, find translation services and practice your language skills.

OntarioImmigration.ca also provides a guide in 16 different languages about learning English or French as a second language. Visit the ‘Learn English’ section at www.ontarioimmigration.ca/english/learnenglish.asp or the ‘Learn French’ section at www.ontarioimmigration.ca/french/learnfrench.asp

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