



Important Information for Bulgarian and Romanian citizens travelling to Canada on or after December 1, 2017



Starting at 4 p.m. EET (9 a.m. ET) on December 1, 2017, Canada intends to lift the visa requirements for all Romanians and Bulgarians. At that point, all citizens of Romania and Bulgaria would no longer need a visa to travel to Canada. However, similar to other visa-exempt travellers, they would need an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to board a flight to Canada. Applying for an eTA is a simple, inexpensive online process that takes minutes to complete. Romanians and Bulgarians who already have a valid Canadian visa can continue to travel to or transit through a Canadian airport with that visa until it expires. You do not need to apply for a new eTA. As well, those who already have an eTA can continue to fly to Canada with that eTA until it expires or they get a new passport.

Note:

- Canadian citizens, including dual citizens, cannot apply for an eTA and need a valid Canadian passport to fly to Canada.

- Canadian permanent residents (PR) need to travel with a valid Canadian PR card or PR travel document and valid passport.
- Former residents of Canada: PR status does not expire. If you once lived in Canada, you could still have PR status. See options available to avoid travel delays. Eligible Romanian and Bulgarian citizens can apply right now for an eTA to fly to or transit through a Canadian airport. Those not eligible to apply right now will need to wait until 4 p.m. EET (9 a.m. ET) on December 1 to apply. Note: Romanian and Bulgarian citizens who are also lawful permanent residents of the United States (U.S.) can apply for an eTA to fly to Canada. Many travellers are booking their flights for the December holidays. If you are not eligible to apply for an eTA, you can either apply for a visa, or wait until December 1 to apply for an eTA. Here is some information to help you determine whether to wait to apply for an eTA.
- Applying for an eTA is a

- simple, inexpensive (CAN\$ 7) online process. All a traveller needs is a passport, a credit or debit card and an email address.
- Most eTAs are approved within minutes.
- However, some requests can take several days or even longer to process if applicants need to submit supporting documents. That's why it is best to apply before booking a flight to Canada. A eTA is an entry requirement for visa-exempt foreign nationals travelling to Canada by air. This does not apply to those travelling to Canada by land or sea (car, bus, train or boat, including a cruise ship) After the planned visa lifts, you would not need an eTA or visa when arriving by car, bus, train or boat. Starting at 4 p.m. EET (9 a.m. ET) on December 1, Canada intends to lift the visa requirements for all Romanians and Bulgarians. At that point, all citizens of Romania and Bulgaria would need an eTA to fly to or transit through a Canadian airport. Exceptions include those who already have a valid Canadian visa.

New Brunswick

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University of New Brunswick's immigration retention project received a lot of money

University of New Brunswick's immigration retention project received a lot of money to help support it. A new project at the Pond-Deshpande Centre at the University of New Brunswick hopes to solve the complicated question of how to keep more economic immigrants from leaving the province. This week, the provincial and federal governments announced a combined \$400,000 in funding to NouLAB, a joint venture of the Pond-Deshpande Centre and the New Brunswick Social Policy Research Network, to pay for the costs of running the Economic Immigration Lab project. The project is a social innovation lab that brings together stakeholders from every sector, including public and private sector officials, academics and immigrants themselves, to brainstorm ideas to increase immigrant retention. Then, the lab will get to work on putting some of those ideas into practice, and tracking how successful they are over a three-year period. Karina LeBlanc, executive director of the Pond-Deshpande Centre, said the lab allows the problem to be tackled from all angles, rather than leaving individual sectors to try and solve it themselves.

British Columbia

Skills Immigration, Express Entry BC and Entrepreneur Immigration Invitations Issued

On November 8 and November 15, 2017, the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) issued invitations to apply to registrants from the following category selection pools:

- Skills Immigration – Skilled Worker
- Skills Immigration – International Graduate
- Skills Immigration – Entry Level and Semi-Skilled
- Express Entry BC - Skilled Worker
- Express Entry BC –International Graduate

Ministerial Instructions: November 15, 2017

Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system #78 – November 15, 2017

1. The following definitions apply in these Instructions. Eligible foreign national Means a foreign national whose expression of interest is in the express entry pool established by the Express Entry Instructions. Express Entry Instructions Means the Ministerial Instructions

Respecting the Express Entry System, as published in the Canada Gazette, Part I, on December 1, 2014, as amended from time to time. General ranking Means the ranking of eligible foreign nationals relative to each other, regardless of the class under which they can receive an invitation. Invitation Has the same meaning as in section 1 of the Express Entry Instructions. Invitations — Period

2. Invitations may be issued under these Ministerial Instructions during the period beginning on November 15, 2017, and ending on November 16, 2017. Invitations — Number 3. The number of invitations that may be issued is 2,750. Invitations — Rank 4. For an eligible foreign national to be invited to make an application, they must be ranked among the first 2,750 eligible foreign nationals in the general ranking.

Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program changes

Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program changes
Manitoba has announced a number of changes to its Provincial Nominee Program, including the creation of an in-demand occupations list and a new pathway aligned with Canada's Express Entry system. The changes include the restructuring of three existing immigration streams: MPNP-B business immigration stream, Skilled Worker in Manitoba Stream and Skilled Worker Overseas Stream, and the creation of a new International Education Stream. One of the key changes is the introduction of a new in-demand occupations list that will be used to prioritize Expressions of Interest (EOI) for inviting applications from the new Skilled Worker Overseas stream. That stream will now be subdivided into two pathways: the Manitoba Express Entry Pathway and the Human Capital Pathway. The Express Entry Pathway, which is due to come into effect in January 2018, will allow Manitoba to nominate qualified applicants who meet the criteria for Canada's Express Entry system and have an active Express Entry profile. Priority will be given to candidates who have a minimum of six-months experience in an in-demand occupation as well as a close friend or relative in Manitoba or a valid Invitation to Apply issued by the MPNP. The Human Capital Pathway is for international skilled worker applicants with skills and training covered by the In-demand Occupations list, and who demonstrate a high potential for establishing themselves in their chosen occupations sooner after arrival in Manitoba. Family connections or previous post-secondary or work experience in Manitoba in the last five years are required to qualify for this stream, among other criteria.

Changes to MPNP-B and Skilled Workers in Manitoba:

The MPNP-B stream has been renamed the Business Investor Stream (BIS), effective immediately, and it has been sub-divided into the Entrepreneur Pathway and the Farm Investor Pathway. A government news release said the BIS will prioritize applicants who start a business within the first 12 months of their arrival in Manitoba, especially those who want to establish their business outside Winnipeg. Applicants in the Entrepreneur Pathway would receive a temporary work permit and rather than provide a good-faith deposit of \$100,000, they would sign a business performance agreement to purchase an existing business in the province or start a new one. The province says the new criteria is scheduled to come into effect in the first quarter of 2018. The new Skilled Workers in Manitoba Stream will also be subdivided into two pathways: the Manitoba Work Experience

Pathway and Employer Direct Recruitment Pathway. The Manitoba Work Experience Pathway is for applicants currently working in Manitoba with temporary work permits and whose jobs are not found on the In-demand Occupations list. The Employer Direct Recruitment Pathway is for international applicants with job offers from pre-approved Manitoba employers.

New Streams:

1. Skilled Worker in Manitoba Stream

The Skilled Worker in Manitoba Stream (SWM) is based on the specific needs of Manitoba employers. SWM selects foreign-trained workers with the required skills and nominates them for Canada permanent residence. The stream prioritizes candidates with a strong attachment to Manitoba, with two pathways to Manitoba immigration.

a) Manitoba Work Experience Pathway For applicants currently working in Manitoba on temporary work permits, through the Temporary Foreign Worker Program or as international graduates from any province. Candidates do not need to be working in In-Demand Occupations.

b) Employer Direct Recruitment Pathway For applicants from overseas with job offers from approved Manitoba employers.

2. Skilled Worker Overseas Stream

The Skilled Worker Overseas Stream (SWO) includes both a dedicated Canada Express Entry Pathway and a direct provincial pathway. It is aimed at international skilled workers with skills and training in Manitoba's In-Demand Occupations. Priority is given to applicants and spouses with close family connections, plus the language proficiency, training and experience to find jobs quickly.

a) Manitoba Express Entry Pathway For international candidates eligible under another MPNP stream, who also meet Express Entry criteria and have an active Express Entry profile. Candidates need skills, training and experience in one of Manitoba's In-Demand Occupations, and a strong family connection to the province.

b) Human Capital Pathway For international skilled workers with skills, training and experience in one of Manitoba's In-Demand Occupations. Candidates must demonstrate potential to find employment soon after they arrive in Manitoba.

3. International Education Stream

The International Education Stream (IES) is dedicated to international graduates from Manitoba colleges and universities. Under IES, candidates are no longer required to work for six months in their field before applying for

an MPNP nomination. It has one pathway:

a) Career Employment Pathway The IES Career Employment Pathway will expedite nomination for international graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM subjects, with internships contributing to innovation. International graduate candidates with job offers in an In-Demand Occupation aligned with their qualification no longer have to work for six months before applying,

4. Business Investor Stream

The Business Investor Stream is aimed at qualified international business investors and entrepreneurs. Candidates are initially issued with a temporary work permit, and must have the intent and ability to start or purchase a business in Manitoba within two years of arrival. The stream abolishes a previous requirement for a \$100,000 deposit with the Manitoba government. There are pathways for entrepreneurs and for farm investors.

a) Entrepreneur Pathway For applicants wanting to open a business in Manitoba. Candidates are initially issued with a temporary work permit. They are nominated for permanent residence after establishing a business meeting the conditions of a Business Performance Agreement. Priority is given to candidates starting businesses outside Winnipeg.

b) Farm Investor Pathway For applicants wanting to open and operate a farm in rural Manitoba. Candidates are initially issued with a temporary work permit. They are nominated for permanent residence after establishing a business meeting the conditions of a Business Performance Agreement.

International Education Stream: The new International Education Stream will become effective in April 2018 and is designed to provide faster pathways to provincial nomination for international students graduating in Manitoba and whose skills meet the needs of the province's employers. It will target graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs who are completing internships that support industry innovation in their fields of study. Under the new stream, Manitoba's provincial government says international student graduates from Manitoba institutions who have found a long-term job in an in-demand occupation will no longer have to work for six months before applying for the MPNP. "The new International Education Stream will make it easier for international students with a Manitoba education to build their careers and settle here in the province," said Manitoba's Education and Training Minister, Ian Wishart.

Timeline of changes:

Change	Date
In-Demand Occupations list used to prioritize Expressions of Interest (EOI) for inviting applications from the Skilled Worker Overseas stream	Immediately
"PNP-B" replaced by new Business Investor Stream	Immediately
New Skilled Worker Overseas Stream – Manitoba Express Entry Pathway criteria in effect	January 18
Skilled Worker Overseas Stream – Manitoba Express Entry Pathway EOI draw	January 2018
Renewed Business Investor Stream (BIS) criteria in effect	Q1 2018
New International Education Stream (IES) criteria in effect	Q2 2018
Technical changes to MPNP Online application system	Q3 2018
Renewed Skilled Worker Overseas Stream criteria in effect	Q3 2018
Renewed Skilled Worker in Manitoba Stream criteria in effect	Q3 2018