

NOVA SCOTIA NOMINEE PROGRAM

Nova Scotia
Labour Market Priorities
Application Guide for Physicians

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Contact Information

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Find "Nova Scotia Immigration" on the following social media websites:



Introduction

The Labour Market Priorities stream is flexible to meet Nova Scotia's complex labour market needs and allows the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration to assist the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) and the IWK Health Centre (IWK) to hire general practitioners and specialist physicians to work in Nova Scotia. The stream helps the NSHA and IWK to recruit and retain physicians with the required skills for positions that they have been unable to fill with a permanent resident or Canadian citizen.

This guide provides eligibility criteria and guidelines for general practitioner and specialist physicians with an approved opportunity from the NSHA or the IWK who wish to apply to the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities stream under the Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP) of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration (NSOI).

The Labour Market Priorities stream uses IRCC's Express Entry system to select candidates who meet the stream criteria. Before you can apply for the Labour Market Priorities stream, you must first create an Express Entry profile and notify NSOI of your Express Entry profile number. If you qualify for this stream, a Letter of Interest will be sent to your IRCC online account indicating that Nova Scotia is inviting you to apply under the NSNP.

Letters of Interest will only be offered to physicians who have:

- Created a valid Express Entry profile;
- Received an approved opportunity from the NSHA or the IWK; and
- Indicated their interest in moving to Nova Scotia in Express Entry.

After you receive a Letter of Interest, you are eligible to apply for nomination under the Labour Market Priorities for Physicians stream. Letters of Interest will remain valid for 30 calendar days. If you do not submit a complete application with all required supporting documentation within 30 calendar days, your application will be refused.

With your application, you must submit required documentation set out in the Eligibility Criteria section of this guide:

1. Approved Opportunity
2. Return of Service Agreement
3. Language
4. Education
5. Work Experience
6. Settlement Funds
7. Immigration Status

If you are a physician with an approved opportunity but prefer not to use the Express Entry system, NSOI also offers a Physician Stream. More information about the Physician Stream is available on the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration website at www.novascotiaimmigration.com.

If you are not a physician and you would like to apply under the Labour Market Priorities stream, more information about the general eligibility criteria and guidelines for the Labour Market Priorities stream is available on the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration website at www.novascotiaimmigration.com.

Important Information

- You are not eligible for the Labour Market Priorities Stream if you are a refugee claimant or a failed refugee claimant who has not yet left Canada.
- It is your responsibility to submit all documents required to validate eligibility criteria as set out in this guide.
- All eligibility criteria and supporting documentation must be valid at the time of application to NSOI and must also be valid at the time of application to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for permanent residency.
- if you do not meet basic eligibility requirements, your application will be refused.
- NSOI reserves the right to close or suspend application intake for any NSNP stream at any time. Regardless of when an application is submitted, the NSOI may decline to consider applications in closed or suspended streams.
- Stream criteria may change without notice. If application criteria or forms are updated or if there are changes to the NSNP or its streams, including closure or suspension of a stream, you will find the most current information at www.novascotiainmigration.com. Applications may be assessed with the most current criteria irrespective of the date of submission of an application.
- By submitting an application to the NSNP, you agree and acknowledge that:
 - meeting eligibility criteria does not guarantee nomination;
 - NSOI is not obligated to assess or process any application submitted;
 - the decision whether to assess or process any application, and the outcome of that assessment, or processing, is at the NSOI's sole discretion;
 - the decision to refuse an application is final. There is no appeal process; and
 - NSOI is not responsible for any processes or decisions of IRCC.
 - NSOI will be advised of any changes in your status or eligibility criteria for this stream, including loss of employment.

Withdrawals

NSOI may withdraw your nomination at any time prior to the issuance of the permanent resident visa and prior to landing in Canada if:

- You no longer meet any of the minimum eligibility requirements of the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream;
- NSOI is advised by the Government of Canada that any information provided in your application for permanent residency is false or fraudulent; or
- IRCC finds that you or a dependent is inadmissible to Canada.

You may withdraw an application at any time prior to nomination without penalty, except in the case of suspected or actual misrepresentation.

If you receive an Invitation to Apply (ITA) from IRCC while your application is being processed by the NSNP, you must advise the NSOI of your intention to reject the ITA and request that the NSNP continue to process your application, or you must withdraw your application to the NSNP.

Misrepresentation

If it is found that any person included in or associated with the application has misrepresented or intentionally omitted material information in the course of applying to the NSNP that is relevant to the application or the decision to nominate, you will be refused for misrepresentation regardless of your ability to meet any or all of the eligibility requirements. Any person refused by the NSOI for misrepresentation is unable to submit an expression of interest or apply to the NSNP or the Atlantic Immigration Pilot for a period of five years.

Fees

There is no provincial application fee under the NSNP. You must, however, pay all the required Government of Canada immigration fees when you submit your file to IRCC. There may also be costs associated with third parties for services such as language testing or educational credential assessment.

Use of a Representative

A representative is someone who provides advice or guidance to you at any stage of the application process, whether they are paid or unpaid. Unpaid representatives provide the same services as paid representatives, but they do not charge a fee. An unpaid representative could be a family member, a friend or another third party.

You do not need to use a representative to prepare and submit an application, but if you choose to use a representative, they must complete an [NSNP 50 – Use of a Representative form](#) and submit it with your application, whether they are paid or unpaid.

If you are using a paid immigration representative, they must be authorized. If you use an unauthorized representative, we will return your application or refuse it. To be authorized, representatives must be:

- An immigration consultant who is a member in good standing with the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC) (visit icrc-crcic.ca);
- A lawyer or paralegal who is a member in good standing of a Canadian Law Society or a student-at-law under the supervision of a recognized lawyer (visit flsc.ca/about-us/our-members-canadas-law-societies); or
- A notary public who is a member in good standing of the Chambre des notaires du Québec or a student-at-law under their supervision (visit cnq.org/).

WARNING: Payment to an individual who is not regulated as above offers no legal opportunity for complaint and is strongly discouraged by this office. NSOI will not deal with non-regulated representatives.

Levels of Approval

Applications under the Labour Market Priorities stream require two levels of approval before you can obtain permanent resident status.

Level 1: Application to the Nova Scotia Nominee Program Physician stream

If you meet all the eligibility criteria set out in this guide, you can submit a complete application online. The processing time for a complete application depends on the time required to verify information in the application and the volume of applications received. Nomination under the NSNP is at the sole discretion of NSOI.

Level 2: Application to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for a permanent resident visa

A nomination from Nova Scotia allows you to apply for a permanent resident visa through IRCC. Nomination by the Province of Nova Scotia does not guarantee that a permanent resident visa will be issued to you. IRCC has the final authority to issue a permanent resident visa.

Information on immigration to Canada and application for permanent residency can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/provincial-nominees/application-process/express-entry.html>

A nomination also allows you to request a letter of support from the Office of Immigration to support an application for a temporary work permit. This letter of support replaces the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) from Service Canada when you apply for a work permit or renew an existing work permit. A temporary work permit enables you to work in Nova Scotia while your application for a permanent resident visa is being processed by IRCC.

Information on applying for a work permit can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/permit/temporary/apply.html>

Settlement Support

The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration can help you connect with supports to help you and your family to settle successfully in your community. For more information about the resources available, visit the NSOI website at www.novascotiainmigration.com.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to apply for nomination under the Labour Market Priorities stream, you must meet all the following eligibility criteria. To show that you meet these criteria, you must provide all required documentation.

1. Approved Opportunity

You must have an approved opportunity from the NSHA or IWK as either a general practitioner and family physician (NOC 3112) or a specialist physician (NOC 3111).

The approved opportunity must be on official NSHA or IWK letterhead and must:

- Be signed and dated by a person authorized to hire physicians at the NSHA or IWK;
- Be signed and dated by the applicant who is accepting the opportunity;
- Indicate eligibility for licensure with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of NS; and
- Indicate that the applicant is eligible to apply for privileges and credentials with NSHA and the IWK.

2. Return for Service Agreement

You must provide a copy of a signed Return for Service Agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness indicating commitment to live and work in Nova Scotia for a minimum period of two years.

3. Education

You must provide documentation to show that you have education and medical training required for licensure in Nova Scotia. This proof must include:

- Proof of education in Canada (e.g., copies of your diplomas/degrees, transcripts)

OR

- Proof of your completed foreign educational credentials (e.g., copies of your diplomas/degrees, transcripts)

AND

a copy of an Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) issued by the Medical Council of Canada (<https://mcc.ca/services/repository/educational-credential-assessment/>).

Your ECA report must:

- Meet IRCC format and content requirement;
- Not be more than five years old on the date that NSOI receives your application and on application for permanent residence to IRCC; and
- Show your credential is equal to a completed Canadian credential.

Submit a copy of the ECA report with your application to NSOI along with proof of your completed foreign educational credential(s) (e.g., copies of your diplomas/degrees, transcripts). Do not request that your ECA report be sent directly to NSOI. Keep a copy of your ECA report for your records and future use.

4. Language

When you submit your application to NSOI, you must provide official language tests showing that you meet the minimum language proficiency level of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 7 across all four language abilities (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). You must provide this documentation even if your first language is English or French.

Language test results must not be older than two years upon receipt at the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration, and they must be renewed if they will expire at any time before your application to IRCC is approved for processing. The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration will only consider results from designated testing agencies.

The acceptable tests are:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) General Training: www.ielts.org/test_takers_information.aspx
- Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program (CELPIP-General): www.celpip.ca
- Test d'évaluation de français (TEF) : www.lefrancaisdesaffaires.fr
- Test de connaissance du français (TCF) : www.ciep.fr/tcf

CLB Level	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
7	IELTS test results for each ability			
	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
	CELPIP test results for each ability			
	7	7	7	7
	TEF test results for each ability			
	249	207	310	310
	TCF test results for each ability			
	458	453	10	10

5. Work Experience

You must demonstrate you meet the minimum work experience requirements of the Express Entry stream for which you have qualified, either Canadian Experience Class or the Federal Skilled Worker Program.

Current criteria for Canadian Experience Class can be found at:

canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/eligibility/canadian-experience-class.html

Current criteria for the Federal Skilled Worker Program can be found at: canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/eligibility/federal-skilled-workers.html

To show that you meet the work experience criteria, you must provide letters of reference from all employers.

Letters must:

- be written on company letterhead
- be signed by the responsible human resources officer, supervisor, or manager
- show company's full address, telephone number, e-mail and website addresses and be stamped with the company's official seal (if applicable)
- include all the following information in one document:
 - the specific period of your employment with the company
 - the positions you have held during the period of employment and time spent in each position
 - your main responsibilities and duties in each position
 - your annual salary plus benefits in each position
 - the number of hours worked per week in each position
 - the number of hours worked in total for each position
 - proof that your work experience meets the lead statement and the majority (at least 51%) of the main duties as set out in NOC 2016, found here: noc.esdc.gc.ca/English/home.aspx

6. Settlement Funds

You must demonstrate sufficient funds to successfully establish yourself and your family in Nova Scotia and to pay your immigration costs and travel expenses if you are not already in Nova Scotia.

Federal guidelines generally recommend that immigrants arrive with a minimum of \$11,000, plus \$2,000 for each dependent. This recommended amount is reduced in the case of a principal applicant who is already living in Nova Scotia or has arranged employment. In all cases, proof of some financial resources in your own name is required. This may include transferable funds in your name or your spouse's name.

Information about the proof of funds requirements for skilled workers under Express Entry is available here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/documents/proof-funds.html>

7. Immigration Status

If you are living in a country other than your country of nationality, include a photocopy of your visa or permit for the country where you currently live.

If you are living in Canada, you must provide proof of your legal status as a temporary worker or visitor. If you are in Canada on a temporary permit, your permit must be valid at the time of application.

Passports

You must have valid passports for all accompanying family members. When you submit your application, you must provide copies of your passport pages showing the passport number, date of issue and expiry, your photo, name, date and place of birth, any amendments in name, date of birth, expiration, etc., and any previous visas and/or visits to Canada. In order to ensure successful immigration processing, it is recommended that passports have an expiry date no less than two years from the date of your application.

Previous applications

If you have previously applied to immigrate to Canada through provincial or federal immigration categories, you must provide copies of all correspondence received from the provincial or Canadian government associated with each previous application.

Application Process

Notify NSOI of your Express Entry Profile Number

The Labour Market Priorities stream uses IRCC's Express Entry system to select candidates who meet the stream criteria. Before you can apply for the Labour Market Priorities stream, you must first create an Express Entry profile and notify NSOI of your Express Entry profile number. If you qualify for this stream, a Letter of Interest will be sent to your IRCC online account indicating that Nova Scotia is inviting you to apply under the NSNP.

Letters of Interest will only be offered to physicians who have:

- Created a valid Express Entry profile;
- Received an approved opportunity from the NSHA or the IWK;
- Have a signed Return of Service Agreement and

- Indicated their interest in moving to Nova Scotia in Express Entry.

Apply to NSNP under the Labour Market Priorities Stream

After you receive a Letter of Interest from Nova Scotia through your IRCC online account, you have **30 calendar days** to apply to NSNP under the Labour Market Priorities stream.

To apply, you must submit your application through Nova Scotia's online service (www.novascotia.ca/ensnp) and ensure that you include all the required supporting documents.

All supporting documents must be provided as portable document format (PDF) files. You will have to scan paper documents into PDF files and convert electronic documents into PDF files. Note that all documents must be clear enough to read and:

- Documents with images should be scanned in colour.
- Text-only documents may be scanned at a grayscale setting to reduce file size.
- Scanner resolution should be a minimum of 300 dots per inch.
- No enhancement or editing should be done to a scanned document.
- The total size of all documents should be no more than 50 megabytes (MB).
- The file names of attachments must be no more than 50 characters.

When documents are not in English or in French, you must submit a copy of the original document and a copy of the certified translation. NSOI will only accept translations prepared by certified translators. Translators must be certified by a regulatory body and cannot be a family member of the applicant or spouse, or common-law partner, or work for a paid consultant or representative who is preparing the application. The applicant must also supply proof from the translator describing their translation ability or certification. It is your responsibility to submit all requested documents outlined in this guide and on our website. If documents are missing, unsigned, not translated by a certified translator, or not clear, your application may be closed.

Nomination/Refusal

Nomination under the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities stream is at the sole discretion of NSOI.

Nomination

If your application is approved by Nova Scotia, you will receive a letter from NSOI through your IRCC online account notifying you of your nomination. NSOI will also communicate the decision and provide the Nomination Certificate to you or your representative via email.

You have 30 calendar days to accept the nomination from Nova Scotia in the IRCC Express Entry system. Once the nomination has been accepted, you will receive an invitation to apply from IRCC. You must follow all guidelines and instructions from IRCC to apply for permanent residency. Information on applying for permanent residency can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/application-forms-guides/guide-p7000-application-permanent-residence-provincial-nominee-class.html>.

A nomination from the Province of Nova Scotia does not guarantee that a permanent resident visa will be issued. IRCC has the final authority to issue a permanent resident visa.

Intent to Refuse

You may receive a letter of Intent to Refuse from NSOI via email. You have 10 business days to submit additional information to be considered by NSOI. In extenuating circumstances such as hospitalization or death in the family, extensions may be given on a case-by-case basis. After 10 business days the file will be re-assessed, including any new information submitted, and a final decision made. This decision will be sent via email to you or your representative.

Refusal

If your application has been refused by NSOI, you or your representative will receive notification via email. Refusal decisions are final; there is no appeal process.

Temporary work permit

After you have been nominated by the Province of Nova Scotia, you can request a letter of support from the Office of Immigration to support an application for a temporary work permit. This letter of support replaces the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) from Service Canada when you apply for a work permit or renew an existing work permit. A temporary work permit enables you to work in Nova Scotia while your application for a permanent resident visa is being processed by IRCC.

If you are renewing your work permit, you should not submit the application until three (3) months before the expiry of your current work permit.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada cannot approve your work permit if your passport will not be valid during the requested timeframe.

Extension of Nomination

At NSOI's discretion, NSNP may issue one extension of nomination valid for a period of six months. The decision to issue an extension will be made on a case-by-case basis where there is evidence of extenuating circumstances.

Notification of Permanent Residence

When you are granted permanent residence, you must contact NSOI within 30 days of your arrival in Nova Scotia. You must provide NSOI with a copy of the Confirmation of Permanent Residence, a copy of your passport and your Nova Scotia contact information such as current address, phone number(s) and email address.

Document Checklist

The checklist below will help you organize your documents before submitting your application to NSOI. It is your responsibility to submit all documents required to validate eligibility criteria as set out in this guide.

Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP) Forms	
Online Application Form www.novascotia.ca/eNSNP	This form must be completed by the principal applicant or their representative.
NSNP 50 – Use of a Representative	<p><u>Optional.</u> Use this form if you wish to designate an authorized representative who has your permission to conduct business on your behalf with the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration. When you appoint a representative, you also authorize the Province of Nova Scotia to share information from your case to this person.</p> <p>This form must be completed by the principal applicant and by all accompanying family members aged 19 or older.</p>
NSNP 60 – Authority to Release Personal Information to a Designated Individual	<p><u>Optional.</u> Use this form if you wish to have your application information sent to a designated individual other than yourself or your representative.</p> <p>The individual you designate will be able to obtain information on your case file, such as the status of your application. However, he or she will not be a representative who can conduct business on your behalf with Nova Scotia Office of Immigration.</p> <p>This form must be completed by the principal applicant and by all accompanying family members aged 19 or older.</p>

Supporting Documents	Who must provide the document
APPROVED OPPORTUNITY	
Copy of an approved opportunity with the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) or the IWK Health Centre (IWK) as a general practitioner and family physician or a specialist physician	Principal Applicant
RETURN FOR SERVICE AGREEMENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Return for Service Agreement with the Department of Health and Wellness	Principal Applicant
LANGUAGE ABILITY	
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of valid language tests	Principal Applicant
EDUCATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of the valid Education Credential Assessment from the Medical Council of Canada	Principal Applicant

WORK EXPERIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Letters of Reference from employers demonstrating that you meet the work experience criteria for the Express Entry stream for which you qualified	Principal Applicant
SETTLEMENT FUNDS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Official banking statements from a financial institution for the past three months indicating the account(s) balance and transactional history <input type="checkbox"/> Statements for investment portfolio and fixed deposits and the terms and conditions for withdrawing these funds prior to maturity (if applicable)	Principal Applicant, spouse, and accompanying dependents
IMMIGRATION STATUS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Valid regular passports for all accompanying family members. Include copies of pages showing the passport number, date of issue and expiry, your photo, name, date and place of birth, any amendments in name, date of birth, expiration, etc., and any previous visas and/or visits to Canada <input type="checkbox"/> If you live in a country other than your country of nationality, a copy of your valid visa or work permit for the country where you currently live (including Canada) <input type="checkbox"/> Previous temporary residence permits, if applicable and available <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence from previous attempts to immigrate to Canada through provincial or federal immigration categories. Include correspondence received from the provincial or Canadian government associated with each previous application	Principal Applicant, spouse, and accompanying dependents
CIVIL STATUS DOCUMENTS	
If applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Declaration of Common-Law Union	
CHILDREN'S INFORMATION	
If applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificates <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption papers <input type="checkbox"/> Custody documents for children under age 19 (0-18) <input type="checkbox"/> If accompanying, proof that the children may accompany the principal applicant to Canada	