

Nova Scotia Nominee Program

Physician Application Guide



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Introduction

This guide explains how you can apply to the Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP) through the Physician Stream to be nominated for permanent residence. The NSNP is an immigration recruitment and selection program that allows the Government of Nova Scotia to nominate to the Canadian government individuals who can meet the provincial labour market and economic needs and who intend to establish themselves in Nova Scotia. Nominees, along with their spouse and dependents, approved under this program may become permanent residents of Canada following approval by the Canadian government. This stream is part of an economic immigration program, and is not intended to be used for family reunification, protected persons, or humanitarian or compassionate reasons.

The NSNP Physician Stream assists Nova Scotian public health authorities – 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.

Required Levels of Approval

Applications under the Physician stream require two levels of approval before permanent resident status can be obtained:

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

If you meet all the eligibility criteria, you are eligible to apply to the NSNP by submitting a complete application package. The processing time for a complete application eligible for consideration depends on the time required for the verification of documents included in the application and on the volume of applications received. Nomination under the NSNP is at the sole discretion of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration.

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

If you are nominated by the Province of Nova Scotia, you may then apply to the Government of Canada for a permanent resident visa through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). There is no guarantee that IRCC will approve your permanent resident application even if you are nominated by Nova Scotia.

Fees

There is no provincial application fee under the Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP). You must, however, pay all the required Government of Canada immigration fees when you submit your file to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

Disclaimer

- The NSNP and its streams are dependent upon application volumes and labour market needs. NSNP and stream criteria may change without notice.
- The NSNP reserves the right to close or suspend application intake for any NSNP stream at any time.
- Regardless of when an application was submitted, the NSNP may decline to consider applications in closed or suspended streams.
- 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 novascotiainmigration.com/move-here.
- 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 the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration (NSOI) is not obligated to assess or process any application submitted.
- Applications to the NSNP are treated as an expression of interest and may be processed at the NSNP's discretion in a manner that will best support the goals of the NSNP. This can be based on application volumes, quality of the application, labour market information, occupational supply and demand forecasting, and/or any other factors as determined by the NSNP.
- By submitting an application to the NSNP you agree and acknowledge the decision whether to assess or process any application, and the outcome of that assessment, or processing, is at the NSNP's sole discretion.
- You also agree and acknowledge that meeting NSNP basic eligibility requirements does not guarantee nomination or that your application will be assessed or processed.
- You also agree and acknowledge that a nomination from the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration does not guarantee that a permanent resident visa will be issued, and that the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration is not responsible for any processes or decisions of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

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, the applicant will be refused for misrepresentation, regardless of their 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 for a period of five years.

Withdrawal of Application: Other than in the case of suspected or actual misrepresentation, an applicant may withdraw their application at any time prior to nomination without penalty

When Not to Apply

The NSNP Physician Stream is only open to General Physicians (NOC 3112) and Specialist Physicians (NOC 3111) with signed approved opportunities with the Nova Scotia Health Authority or the IWK Health Centre.

Do not apply for this stream if you do not have a signed approved offer from the Nova Scotia Health Authority or the IWK Health Centre in NOC 3112 or 3111.

Additionally, do not apply for the Physician Stream if you are:

- an individual who has received a nomination under the Nova Scotia Nominee Program dated within the last 12 months;
- an applicant under humanitarian and compassionate grounds, a refugee claimant or a failed refugee claimant;
- not legally present in your current country of residence;
- in Canada illegally, under a removal order, or are prohibited from entering or being in Canada;
- an individual who does not have status. You are not eligible to apply until your status has been restored;
- an international student who is currently studying at a Canadian post-secondary institution;
- an international graduate who has studied in Canada, whose studies have been sponsored by an agency or government and who is contractually obligated to return to their country of origin;
- an individual with unresolved custody or child support disputes affecting any dependent.

Criteria and Requirements for the Principal Applicant

Criteria	Eligibility Requirements
Legal status in country of residence	<p>If you are living in Canada, you must provide proof of your legal status as a temporary worker or visitor.</p> <p>If you apply from outside Canada, you must provide proof that you have legal status in your country of residence.</p> <p>If you have lost your status, you are not eligible to apply until your status has been restored.</p>
Approved opportunity	<p>Written approved opportunity with the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) or the IWK Health Centre as a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General practitioner and family physician (NOC 3112) <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist physician (NOC 3111) <p>The approved opportunity must be on official NSHA or IWK letterhead and must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Indicate that the applicant is eligible to apply for privileges and credentials with NSHA and the IWK
Education and training	<p>A copy of an Education Credential Assessment or proof of education and medical training required for licensure in Nova Scotia.</p>
Language ability	<p>The ability to perform the job in one of Canada's official languages as evidenced by an employment offer from the NSHA or the IWK.</p>

Application and Assessment Process

If you meet the eligibility criteria, you can prepare and submit an application to the Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP). Your application must include all required documentation to be considered complete.

You must notify the NSNP of any changes in your status or eligibility criteria for this stream.

1. Prepare an NSNP application

Gather and prepare all your application materials. The Forms and Supporting Documents Checklist at the end of this guide will assist you in preparing your NSNP application.

Use of a Representative:

If you are using a paid immigration representative to conduct business on your behalf with the Province of Nova Scotia, that individual must be a member of one of the following groups:

- the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC)
- a Canadian provincial or territorial law society
- the Chambre des notaires du Québec

For more information on who may represent you, visit www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/representative/rep-who.asp

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

2. Submit your NSNP application online or by email

You have two options to submit your application:

Apply through Nova Scotia's online service at http://novascotia.ca/eNSNP where you can: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create an account• Save your application in process• Submit supporting documents as PDF attachments	Apply to the NSNP by submitting a complete application package including all supporting documents as PDF attachments by email to NSNP@novascotia.ca .
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3. Your application is assessed by the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration

A. Eligibility and completion check

The Office of Immigration will review your application to ensure that it is complete and meets eligibility criteria before it is assessed. If your application is not complete or if you do not meet basic eligibility requirements, your application will be closed and not fully assessed.

B. Assessment

The Office of Immigration will conduct a full review and evaluation of the complete application subject to application volumes and the possible circumstances set out above under "Disclaimer." The Office of Immigration reserves the right to request an interview with the applicant and/or to contact the employer to gather additional information or to clarify information provided.

C. Decision

If an application is assessed, the Office of Immigration will communicate the decision in writing to the applicant or their representative. If nominated by the Province of Nova Scotia:

- the applicant will receive a letter from the Office of Immigration to confirm that a nomination has been issued; and
- proof of nomination will be sent directly to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada by the Office of Immigration. Note: the nomination expires **6 months** after the date of issuance.

A one-time re-issuance of a nomination may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

D. Refusal

If the application is being considered for refusal, the applicant or their representative will receive a letter of intent to refuse from the Office of Immigration. The applicant will have 10 business days to submit additional information to be considered by the Office of Immigration.

After 10 business days the file, including any new information submitted, will be re-assessed and a final decision made. This decision is sent in writing. There is no appeal process.

4. Temporary work permit

If nominated by the Province of Nova Scotia, it is possible to request a letter of support from the Office of Immigration to support the application of a temporary work permit or the renewal of an existing work permit. This letter of support replaces the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) from Service Canada in applying for the new work permit.

This request should not be submitted until within three (3) months of the expiry of the current work permit, if applicable. Also, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada cannot authorize status documents (e.g., work permit) if the individual's passport will not be valid during the requested timeframe.

The work permit will enable you to continue working in Nova Scotia while the application for a permanent resident visa is being processed at the Canadian visa office.

Employers must pay the federal employer compliance fee when hiring foreign nationals unless exempt. See www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/employers/hire-how.asp for further information.

5. Make an application for a permanent resident visa

If you are nominated by the Province of Nova Scotia, you may then apply to the Government of Canada for a permanent resident visa through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. You must send your application to the IRCC Centralized Intake Office in Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada.

In some cases, you may be asked to go for an interview. You, your spouse and dependents must meet statutory requirements for medical, security and criminal admissibility. IRCC has the final authority to issue a permanent resident visa.

To find out how to apply, review the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada website: www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/provincial/index.asp.

Note, nomination by the Province of Nova Scotia does not guarantee that a permanent resident visa will be issued. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada makes the final decision for the granting of permanent resident visas after ensuring that all legislative requirements are met, including medical, criminality and security checks.

The Office of Immigration 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 minimum eligibility requirements of the NSNP such as changes in your employment;
- The Office of Immigration is advised by the Canadian visa office that any information provided in your application for permanent residency is false or fraudulent; or
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada finds that you or a dependent is inadmissible as a result of medical, criminality, security checks or invalid passport.

6. Issuance of permanent resident visa

If approved by the visa office, you, your spouse and dependents will be issued a Confirmation of Permanent Residence.

You must contact the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration within 30 days of your arrival.

You must provide the Office of Immigration with a copy of the Confirmation of Permanent Residence, as well as a current Nova Scotia address and contact information such as phone number(s) and email address.

Forms and Supporting Documents Checklist

Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP) Forms

Online Application Form (http://novascotia.ca/eNSNP) Or Submit application as PDF by email to NSNP@novascotia.ca	This form must be completed by the principal applicant or their representative.
NSNP 50 – Use of a Representative	<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. This form must be completed by the principal applicant and by all accompanying family members aged 19 or older.
NSNP 60 – Authority to Release Personal Information to a Designated Individual	<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. 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. This form must be completed by the principal applicant and by all accompanying family members aged 19 or older.

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 attached to an online application must be no more than 50 megabytes (MB).
- The total size of all documents attached to a single email must be no more than 30 megabytes (MB).
- The file names of attachments must be no more than 50 characters.

Where the documents are not in English or in French, the principal applicant must submit a scan of the original document and the certified translation. The Office of Immigration 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.

Supporting documents must be provided for the principal applicant and all accompanying dependents. Dependents are all eligible family members who will accompany the principal applicant, including:

- Spouse
- Common-law partner of at least one year
- Dependent children, including adopted children, who:
 - are under the age of 22 and do not have a spouse or common-law partner;
 - are 22 years of age or older and have depended substantially on the financial support of the parent since before the age of 22 and are unable to be financially self-supporting due to a physical or mental condition.

You are a common-law partner either of the opposite sex or same sex if you have been living together in a conjugal relationship for at least one year in a continuous, non-interrupted 12-month period. If you have maintained a conjugal relationship for at least one year but have been prevented from living together or marrying, you may be considered common-law after providing evidence there was a satisfactory reason you could not live together. In either case, you will need to provide a Statutory Declaration of Common-Law Union [IMM 5409] available at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5409E.pdf>.

Approved opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/> A written approved opportunity with the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) or the IWK Health Centre as 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be signed and dated by a person authorized to hire physicians at the NSHA or IWK • Be signed and dated by the applicant that he/she is accepting the opportunity • Indicate eligibility for licensure with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of NS • Indicate that the applicant is eligible to apply for Privileges and Credentials with NSHA and the IWK
Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Education Credential Assessment or proof of education and medical training required for licensure in Nova Scotia.
Passports, Travel Documents and Visas	<p>For the principal applicant, spouse or common-law partner, and all accompanying dependents.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Valid regular passport. Include only copies of pages showing the passport number, date of issue and expiry, your photo, name, date and place of birth, 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 Nova Scotia Nominee Program application. <input type="checkbox"/> If you live in a country other than your country of nationality, include a copy of your visa for the country where you currently live. <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.
Civil Status Documents	<p>If applicable:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Declaration of Common-Law Union

Children's Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificates indicating both parents. If applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Adoption papers.<input type="checkbox"/> Custody documents for children under age 19 (0-18)<ul style="list-style-type: none">o if accompanying, proof that the children may accompany the principal applicant to Canada
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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 to you, you can visit our website at www.novascotiainmigration.com, and contact us via the information below.

Contact Information

Postal Box Address (Mail)

Nova Scotia Office of Immigration
PO Box 1535
Halifax NS B3J 2Y3
CANADA

Civic Address (In person)

Nova Scotia Office of Immigration
1469 Brenton Street
3rd Floor
Halifax NS
CANADA

Tel: (902) 424-5230
Fax: (902) 424-7936
nsnp@novascotia.ca
www.novascotiainmigration.ca

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

