

CANADA WELCOMES INVESTORS, ENTREPRENEURS AND SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS

We in the Kootenays are eager to attract experienced business people who will support the development of a strong and prosperous regional economy.

Canada has three classes of business immigrants:

- investors
- entrepreneurs and
- self-employed persons.

Each application can be made for only one class and cannot be changed once the application is submitted. The criteria you must meet to qualify are different for each class.

Investors

As a qualified Immigrant Investor, you and your immediate family can obtain Canada Immigration (Permanent Resident) Visas by investing CAD \$400,000 for five years under the Federal Program. This entitles you to reside anywhere in Canada, except Quebec. The program is Government guaranteed, assuring that your CAD \$400,000 will be reimbursed in full, without interest, at the end of five years.

To be eligible under the Immigrant Investor Program, you must:

- have at least two years of business experience (management and ownership of a qualifying business, as defined under the Regulations, OR management of 5 employees in a business).
- Have a net worth of at least C\$800,000 that was legally obtained, and be willing and able to make an investment of C\$400,000.
- You must also demonstrate you have enough money to support yourself and your dependents after you arrive in Canada.
- Obtain a minimum of 35 points in the selection criteria.
- Meet medical and security requirements.
- Meet any other requirements of Canadian or Quebec immigration regulations.

Entrepreneurs

The Entrepreneur Program seeks to attract experienced business persons who will own and actively manage businesses in Canada that contribute to the economy and create jobs. As a qualified Entrepreneur, you and your immediate family can obtain Canada Immigration (Permanent Resident) Visas under the Federal Program, which permits you to reside anywhere in Canada, except Quebec. The Entrepreneur Program requires you to establish or acquire a percentage of equity (at least 33.33%) in a qualifying Canadian business that you must actively manage. Your business must create at least one new job for a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

Entrepreneurs must:

- show that they have business experience (management and ownership of a qualifying business, as defined under the Regulations)
- have a minimum net worth of C\$300,000 that was obtained legally and
- respect the conditions for entrepreneurs after they arrive in Canada.

Self-employed persons

The Self-Employed Persons Program seeks to attract applicants who have the intention and ability to become self-employed in Canada. Self-employed persons are required to have either:

- relevant experience that will make a significant contribution to the cultural or athletic life of Canada or
- experience in farm management and the intention and ability to purchase and manage a farm in Canada.

For more detailed information, please go to: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/business/index.asp>

Canadian Tax Advantages

People are attracted to Canada for many reasons: stable political climate, safety and security, free universal health care, good job opportunities, excellent educational facilities, clean air and a well deserved reputation for quality of life are just some of them. Tax benefits, however, are not usually included on this list. They should be.

To begin with, the following principles of taxation apply:

- Canada taxes individuals on the basis of their residence and not their citizenship. A Canadian Permanent Resident may apply for Canadian citizenship and a Canadian passport after three years.
- Canada taxes its residents on their worldwide income, but allows offshore trusts for new permanent residents.
- Canadian citizens who are non-residents of Canada do not pay Canadian tax on their worldwide income. Non-residents pay Canadian tax only on certain Canadian sourced income and capital gain.
- There are no estate duties or succession duties in Canada.

New Canadian Permanent Residents can significantly reduce or even eliminate Canadian taxes with proper planning in advance of their arrival. They are permitted to establish a properly structured offshore trust to shelter non-Canadian sourced income and capital gain for up to five years after their arrival in Canada. During this five-year tax holiday the individual can acquire Canadian citizenship and choose to become a non-resident for Canadian tax purposes. In this manner the income and capital gain generated by the trust never falls into the Canadian tax net.

Taken all together, Canada is the right choice even from a taxation point of view.