FREE GUIDE · 2026 EDITION

Canada Business Immigration 2026

Which province will approve your capital — and how. Province-by-province deep dives, source-of-funds guidance, a full comparison table, and citizenship & residency by investment options beyond Canada.

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In this guide

1 · The 2026 route map at a glance

Program	Type	Investment	Net worth	Language
BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration — Base	Direct PR	$200,000	$600,000	—
BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration — Regional	Direct PR	$100,000	$300,000	—
Manitoba MPNP — Business Investor (Entrepreneur Pathway)	Direct PR	$150,000–$250,000	$500,000	CLB 5+
New Brunswick Business Immigration Stream	Direct PR	$150,000	$500,000	CLB 4+
Nova Scotia Nominee Program — Entrepreneur	Direct PR	$100,000–$150,000	—	CLB 5+
Alberta AAIP — Rural Entrepreneur	Direct PR	$100,000	$300,000	CLB 4+
C11 Owner-Operator work permit	Work permit PR later	—	—	—

Closed or paused in 2026: Federal Start-Up Visa (closed Jan 1, 2026), Federal Self-Employed Persons Program, Saskatchewan SINP Entrepreneur (closed Mar 2025), PEI Business Impact (de facto paused), Ontario OINP Entrepreneur Stream (closed Nov 2024).

2 · How the provincial entrepreneur streams actually work

Every active entrepreneur stream today follows the same skeleton: you submit an Expression of Interest with your net worth and business concept   the province invites you   you sign a performance agreement   you arrive on a work permit and run the business (usually 12–24 months)   the province nominates you   you apply for permanent residence. The days of "invest and receive PR directly" are over in every province.

What that means strategically: the province is not buying your money, it is buying your operating history. A documented owner-operator profile opens every stream in this guide.

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3 · British Columbia — Entrepreneur Immigration

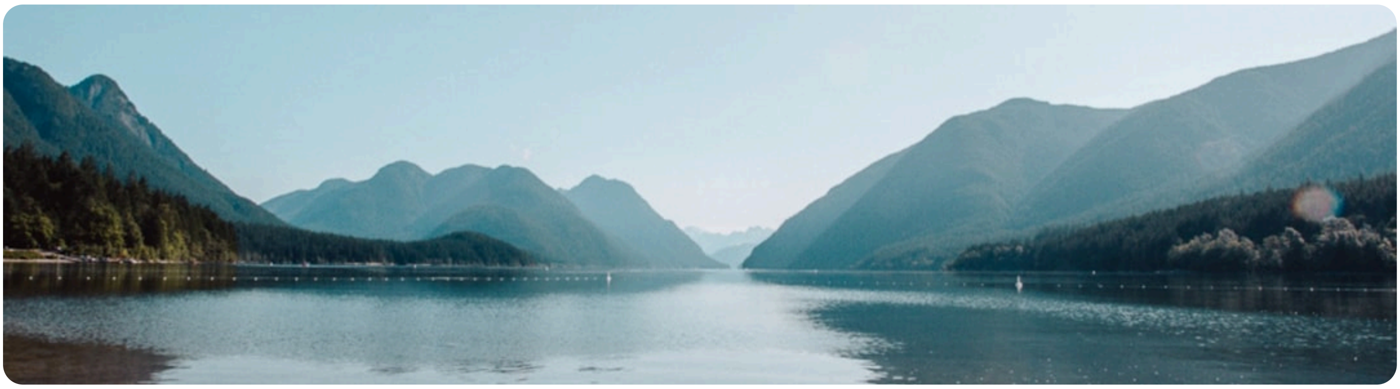

Photo: Lauren Kan / Unsplash

Canada's Pacific gateway, with two doors in: a Base stream for the big markets and a Regional stream with the lowest thresholds on the west coast.

Program criteria			
BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration — Base	Invest: $200,000	Net worth: $600,000	Language: —
BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration — Regional	Invest: $100,000	Net worth: $300,000	Language: —
Business experience	3+ years as an active business owner-manager, or 4+ years in senior management		
Job creation	At least one new full-time job for a Canadian citizen or permanent resident		
Regional stream extra	A referral from a participating small community outside Metro Vancouver — the community effectively pre-approves your concept		

About the province

British Columbia is Canada's third-largest provincial economy and its trade bridge to Asia. Metro Vancouver hosts one of the largest Iranian communities in North America, so even entrepreneurs who settle in a smaller Regional-stream community stay within reach of Persian-speaking services, schools and family networks. The climate is the mildest in Canada, and the province consistently ranks among the most desirable places to live in the country.

Doing business there

Tourism, food and beverage, light manufacturing, forestry services and a fast-growing tech sector dominate. Metro Vancouver is expensive to enter — which is exactly why the Regional stream exists: towns in the Interior, on Vancouver Island and along the Sunshine Coast offer far lower purchase prices, active economic-development offices, and loyal local customer bases with little competition.

Why investors pick it

- Two entry points: full-market Base stream, or the Regional stream at $100K investment / $300K net worth — among the lowest direct-PR thresholds in Canada
- A mature, well-documented program — performance agreements and nomination timelines are predictable
- Large Persian-speaking community, direct flights, and Canada’s mildest climate

The honest catch: Invitations are points-competitive — meeting the minimums gets you into the pool, not into the program. And the Regional stream expects genuine settlement in the referring community, not a mailbox address.

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4 · Alberta — Rural Entrepreneur Stream

Photo: Priscilla Du Preez / Unsplash

The lowest-cost direct-PR entry into Canada's energy-and-agriculture powerhouse — built around buying main-street businesses from retiring owners.

Program criteria			
Alberta AAIP — Rural Entrepreneur	Invest: $100,000	Net worth: $300,000	Language: CLB 4+
Community support	A support letter from an eligible rural community (population under 100,000, outside the Calgary and Edmonton metro areas) is a hard requirement		
Ownership	51%+ of a new business, or 100% when buying an existing business (succession)		
Exploratory visit	Visiting the community before applying is strongly recommended and, in practice, expected by the endorsing community		

About the province

Alberta has Canada's youngest population, no provincial sales tax, and some of its highest household incomes. While Calgary and Edmonton boom, the rural towns this stream targets — places like Grande Prairie or Medicine Hat's surrounding communities — combine small-town affordability with resource-economy money flowing through their main streets.

Doing business there

This is succession country: established owners are retiring with no buyer in sight, which is why endorsing communities actively court immigrant entrepreneurs. Automotive services, trades, restaurants, retail and agriculture services dominate the deal flow — often with decades of operating history and loyal customers, at prices far below anything comparable in a metro.

Why investors pick it

- $100K investment and $300K net worth — the most accessible direct-PR economics in this guide
- Buying an established business with real books de-risks your performance agreement
- No provincial sales tax and Alberta's low overall tax burden
- Communities that genuinely want you — the endorsement means a built-in local network from day one

The honest catch: The community endorsement is a genuine gate, not paperwork — and this is a rural-life commitment. If your family needs a big-city lifestyle, look at BC Base or Manitoba instead.

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5 · Manitoba — Business Investor (Entrepreneur Pathway)

Photo: Samuel James / Unsplash

Canada's original Provincial Nominee Program — a well-worn, milestone-driven path from work permit to nomination in the country's most affordable major city.

Program criteria			
Manitoba MPNP — Business Investor (Entrepreneur Pathway)	Invest: $150,000–$250,000	Net worth: $500,000	Language: CLB 5+
Business experience	3+ years of business ownership or senior management within the last five years		
Business research visit	Manitoba expects a business research visit to the province before your Expression of Interest in most cases		
Path to nomination	Arrive on a work permit, then apply for nomination after operating the business — typically at least six months of active operation		

About the province

Manitoba sits at the geographic centre of Canada. Winnipeg (metro ~850,000) offers big-city amenities at small-city prices — housing costs are among the lowest of any major Canadian city — and the province has been welcoming nominee-program immigrants longer than anywhere else in Canada, since 1998. Established immigrant business networks make the landing softer than the map suggests.

Doing business there

Transportation and logistics (Winnipeg is a continental rail and trucking hub), food processing, manufacturing, and neighbourhood retail and hospitality anchor the economy. Commercial rents are low, competition is moderate, and outside Winnipeg the investment threshold drops to $150K — regional towns like Pinawa (see the deal book) come with near-zero competition.

Why investors pick it

- Clear, published milestones: land, operate, nominate — less ambiguity than almost any other stream
- $150K investment outside Winnipeg, with a genuinely low cost of living everywhere in the province
- A quarter-century of PNP experience — the machinery on the province’s side simply works

The honest catch: The CLB 5 language requirement is enforced, and Winnipeg-area projects need the full $250K. Budget for the research visit before you commit capital.

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6 · New Brunswick — Business Immigration Stream

Photo: Peter Lloyd / Unsplash

Atlantic Canada's bilingual gateway: modest thresholds, a CLB 4 language bar, and towns where a good business makes you a known name within a year.

Program criteria			
New Brunswick Business Immigration Stream	Invest: $150,000	Net worth: $500,000	Language: CLB 4+
Ownership	Majority ownership — at least 51% of the business		
Business plan	A concept the province sees local need for — succession purchases from retiring owners score well		
French bonus	Not required, but French ability is a real asset in Canada’s only officially bilingual province		

About the province

New Brunswick is Canada’s only officially bilingual province — English and French — with three anchor cities: Saint John (port and industry), Moncton (the fastest-growing hub in Atlantic Canada) and Fredericton (government and universities). Housing and commercial costs are among the lowest in the country, and an aging population of business owners means the succession pipeline is unusually rich for a province of 800,000.

Doing business there

Services, construction and skilled trades, food service and neighbourhood retail carry the economy — exactly the profile of the Moncton restaurant and Saint John framing business in our deal book. Competition is thin, staff turnover is lower than in big metros, and a well-run newcomer business gets noticed by the community (and the province) quickly.

Why investors pick it

- CLB 4 — the lowest language bar of any direct-PR stream in this guide
- $150K investment with living costs that stretch your capital further than anywhere west of it
- Atlantic-Canada pace: shorter commutes, tight communities, real quality of life for families

The honest catch: The age window is 19–59 — plan accordingly. And the market is small: a business plan that ignores local demand will not survive provincial review.

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7 · Nova Scotia — Entrepreneur Stream

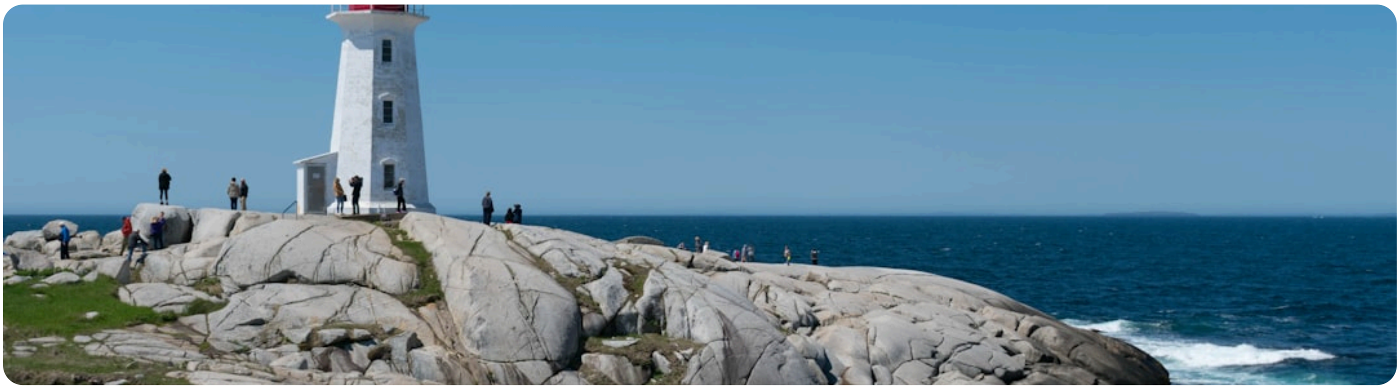

Photo: Stephen Lester / Unsplash

Invitation-only and experience-first: no published net-worth minimum, a low investment floor, and a nomination that comes after you have proven yourself for a year.

Program criteria			
Nova Scotia Nominee Program — Entrepreneur	Invest: $100,000–$150,000	Net worth: —	Language: CLB 5+
Experience	3+ years owning and actively managing a business (33.3%+ stake), or 5+ years in a senior management role		
How entry works	Expression of Interest invitation only. You cannot apply directly; the province picks from the pool		
Operating period	Operate the business for at least one year on a work permit before the nomination for PR		

About the province

Nova Scotia is Atlantic Canada's economic centre. Halifax is one of the fastest-growing metros in the country (~half a million people), fed by universities, the navy, ocean industries and a startup scene — while the coastal towns beyond it, from Lockeport to Cape Breton, run on tourism, fisheries and main-street commerce and are actively looking for successors to retiring owners.

Doing business there

Tourism and hospitality, food and beverage, retail and the ocean economy dominate. Outside Halifax the investment floor drops to $100K, and businesses like the Lockeport general store in our deal book show the pattern: 50-year-old anchors of small communities, profitable, with real estate included — waiting for an operator, not an inventor.

Why investors pick it

- No published net-worth minimum — the only stream here that weighs your track record over your balance sheet
- $100K investment floor outside Halifax — pair it with a succession purchase and the math is unmatched
- The one-year operating period converts uncertainty into a near-formality nomination for those who deliver

The honest catch: Invitation-only means timing is out of your hands — and you operate on temporary status for the first year. Enter with working capital beyond the purchase price.

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8 · C11 Owner-Operator Work Permit (Federal)

Photo: Oleg Bersenev / Unsplash

The federal workhorse: buy a controlling stake in any Canadian business — in any province, including Ontario — and be operating it within months, then build your own PR path.

Program criteria			
C11 Owner-Operator work permit	Invest: no fixed minimum	Net worth: —	Language: —
Ownership	A controlling stake — 50% or more of the business		
The real test	"Significant benefit to Canada": a genuine business with real revenue, jobs preserved or created, and a credible plan — not a shell		
Family	Your spouse is generally eligible for an open work permit, and children attend public school		

About the province

C11 is not tied to any province — it is an LMIA-exempt federal work permit under the "significant benefit" category. That makes it the only business-immigration door currently open for Ontario (whose provincial entrepreneur stream is closed pending the Phase 2 redesign) and a faster alternative everywhere else: months to a work permit instead of a year-plus to a provincial invitation.

Doing business there

Because there is no fixed capital or net-worth threshold, the deal itself is your application: an established business with clean books, staff on payroll and a defensible growth plan is what officers approve. That is why every listing in our deal book is screened for operating history — the Mississauga HVAC company and window manufacturer are textbook C11 candidates.

Why investors pick it

- Speed: a work permit in months, with the family landing together
- Works in all provinces — the only current option for Ontario opportunities
- No fixed capital minimum: the credibility of the business matters more than the size of the cheque
- Canadian managerial experience then powers Express Entry — or a provincial nomination — for PR

The honest catch: C11 is temporary status, and renewal depends on the business performing. Decide your PR route — Express Entry or a PNP — before you buy, not after; the right province and the right NOC make step two dramatically easier.

9 · All routes side by side

Program	PR type	Investment	Net worth	Language	Ownership	Where
BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration — Base	Direct	$200,000	$600,000	—	—	Anywhere in BC
BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration — Regional	Direct	$100,000	$300,000	—	—	Small community outside Metro Vancouver
Manitoba MPNP — Business Investor (Entrepreneur Pathway)	Direct	$150,000–$250,000	$500,000	CLB 5+	33.3%+	Anywhere in MB (lower threshold outside Winnipeg)
New Brunswick Business Immigration Stream	Direct	$150,000	$500,000	CLB 4+	51%+	Anywhere in NB
Nova Scotia Nominee Program — Entrepreneur	Direct	$100,000–$150,000	—	CLB 5+	33.3%+	Anywhere in NS (lower threshold outside Halifax)
Alberta AAIP — Rural Entrepreneur	Direct	$100,000	$300,000	CLB 4+	51%+	Rural community < 100K (not Calgary/Edmonton)
C11 Owner-Operator work permit	2-step	—	—	—	50%+	Anywhere in Canada (incl. Ontario)

10 · Source of funds: where applications really die

For applicants from Iran and the wider region, source-of-funds documentation is the single biggest cause of refusal. Officers must be able to trace every major asset to a legal origin: the sale of a property (deed + transaction record + bank flow), company dividends (financial statements + tax records), an inheritance (probate documents), or accumulated salary.

Start assembling the file 6–12 months before you apply: translated property deeds, company registration and share records, several years of bank statements, tax documents, and appraisal reports. Moving funds out of Iran must be planned through legal, documented channels — this is a specialist conversation we have individually, never a template.

11 · Citizenship by Investment — Caribbean & Pacific

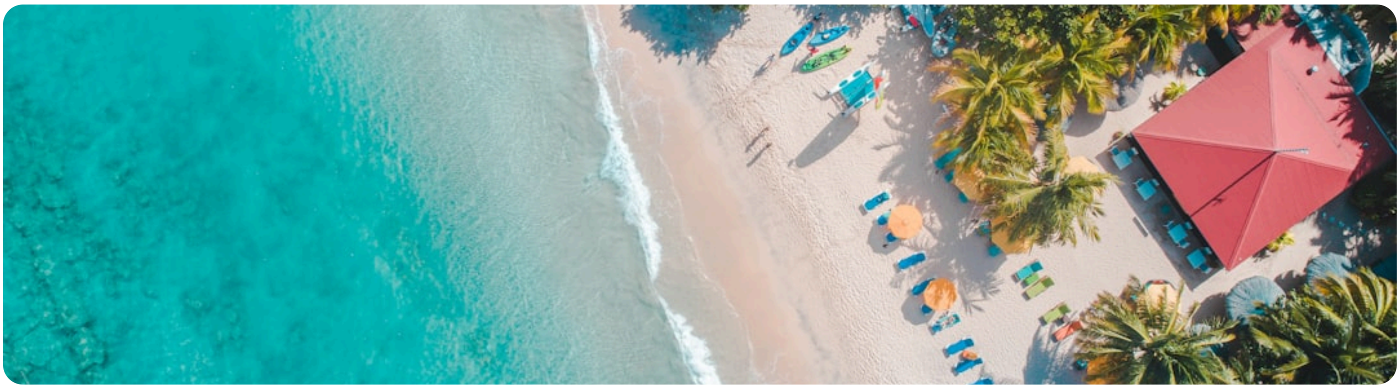

Photo: Hugh Whyte / Unsplash

A second citizenship is not a Canadian immigration route — it is a parallel strategy. A Caribbean passport delivers visa-free access to 140+ destinations, easier international banking, and a documented financial footprint outside Iran.

Country	Min. contribution	Notes
Nauru	from USD $105,000	Newest program (2025); restricted: Iran, Russia, Belarus, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sudan, Yemen, North Korea not eligible
Vanuatu	from USD $130,000	Fastest processing (~1–2 months); restricted: Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, North Korea — case-by-case exception after 5+ years living abroad
Grenada	from USD $150,000	E-2 treaty with the USA; pricing recently adjusted — confirm current figures. Iranian nationals currently barred
Dominica	from USD $100,000	Iranians: only with 10+ years residence outside Iran, no Iranian assets or business ties
Antigua & Barbuda	from USD $100,000	Iranians: only with 10+ years residence outside Iran, no Iranian assets or business ties
Saint Lucia	from USD $100,000	Iranian nationals currently barred
St. Kitts & Nevis	from USD $125,000	Iranian nationals currently barred

Straight talk for clients still in Iran: most passport programs currently bar or heavily restrict Iran-resident applicants — the notes column above is the real map, not the marketing. We map this country-by-country in consultation.

12 · Residency by Investment — Europe & beyond

Photo: Polina Kuzovkova / Unsplash

Golden-visa residency programs buy mobility and a foothold — not citizenship. What remains is still powerful for the right profile: a European base for family and business, EU-Schengen travel, and asset diversification outside Iran.

Country	Min. investment	Notes
Portugal	EUR €500,000	7 days/year minimum stay; citizenship in 7–10 years under the 2026 nationality law
Greece	EUR €250,000 – EUR €800,000	Renewable 5-year permit (not permanent residency outright), no minimum stay; citizenship after 7 years requires real 183+ days/year presence
Italy	EUR €250,000 – EUR €2,000,000	30-day pre-clearance decision; path to citizenship in 10 years
Latvia	EUR €50,000 – EUR €280,000	5-year renewable permit, no minimum stay to renew; EU PR eligible after 5 years. Proposed 2026 reform would end the real estate/bank deposit/bonds routes from 2027 — business route unaffected
United Kingdom	No fixed minimum	B2 English required; settlement (ILR) in 3 years. Replaced the £2M+ Tier 1 Investor Visa, closed since Feb 2022
UAE — Golden Visa	AED 2,000,000 (~US$545K)	10-year renewable, no minimum stay, zero personal income tax, spouse + all children included
UAE — Dubai Property Investor Visa	No minimum (sole owner)	A lower-cost entry point to UAE residency before qualifying for the 10-year Golden Visa; 2-year renewable, 7–10 day processing

13 · Your next step

Before any consultant can give you a real answer, three numbers decide everything: your verifiable net worth, your liquid capital, and your years of ownership or senior management. See the live deal book and take our qualification check at:

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