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British Columbia

The British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) offers accelerated immigration for qualified skilled workers and experienced entrepreneurs who wish to settle in British Columbia (BC) and become permanent residents of Canada.

This program is administered on behalf of the Province of B.C. by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development in partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), the federal government agency responsible for immigration.

How It Works

The Provincial Nominee Program selects and nominates potential immigrants for permanent residence who have the ability to become economically established in B.C. and who will provide significant economic benefits to the province.

Individuals nominated by the Province of B.C., together with their spouse and dependent children, are eligible to apply for a permanent resident visa from Citizenship and Immigration Canada in the Provincial Nominee Class. Citizenship and Immigration Canada gives priority to processing permanent resident visa applications for provincial nominees. Citizenship and Immigration Canada makes the final decision on these applications.

Program Components:

Strategic Occupations

The Strategic Occupations component of the Provincial Nominee Program supports B.C. employers who need to recruit or retain qualified foreign workers to help meet their current and future skill needs, and whose activities contribute to the

Head office :

2455 Cawthra Road , Unit 54, Mississauga; Ontario , L5A 3P1, Canada.

Phone: 001(905)-615-1152

Fax #: 001(905)-615-1155

WEB: www.suhaibmustafatrust.com

Email: info@suhaibmustafatrust.com



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Province's economic development objectives. The employer and the prospective employee (nominee candidate) submit a joint application to the program.

Applications in this component of the Provincial Nominee Program are considered in these categories:

NEW Notice of New Policy Regarding PNP Nomination Extensions:

Please note that for all applications approved after April 1st, 2009, the B.C. PNP will no longer issue extensions to nomination certificates. Provincial Nominees who do not submit an application for Permanent Residence to the appropriate Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Visa Office within 180 days from the date of nomination will be required to submit a new application and fees to the B.C. PNP. A reassessment of the application is required in this situation to ensure that there have been no material changes in the circumstances under which the original application was approved, including the applicant's intention to become a permanent resident of Canada and to settle in British Columbia.

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