

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is the Provincial Nominee Program for Young Farmers (PNP-YF)?

A. The Provincial Nominee Program for Young Farmers (PNP-YF) is a component of an immigration program that was created through an agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba. The purpose of this program is to attract exceptional farm business persons who are able and willing to make an investment in and be active in a new or existing farm business in the Province of Manitoba. The PNP-YF accelerates the immigration process for you by providing a Nomination Certificate to allow for faster processing by the Government of Canada of your immigration application.

Q2. How much net worth must I have to qualify as a farm business immigrant under the program?

A. Young Immigrant farmers are required to have a legally earned or obtained net worth of at least CDN\$150,000 and be willing to invest at least CDN\$150,000 of their net worth into a new or existing farm business in which they will be actively involved.

Q3. How much does the program require me to invest in Manitoba?

A. The amount of investment you make in Manitoba will be dictated by the type of farm business you establish, what size it is, whether it will be a new farm business or an existing farm business in which you become an active partner. Depending on the size of the farm, the investment may be in the hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars. However, the investment amount must not, under any circumstances, be lower than \$150,000. This does not include the \$75,000 deposit.

Q4. If I am invited for an exploratory visit, will I automatically be nominated by Manitoba?

A. Receiving an invitation for an exploratory visit does not guarantee that the program will issue a Nomination Certificate. The program bases its decision on many factors in addition to the minimum net worth and management experience criteria.

Q5. Must I make an exploratory visit to Manitoba before submitting my application?

A. Yes. Exploratory visits are mandatory for a minimum of seven (7) days. This visit will allow you to identify and assess potential farm business opportunities as well as experience rural Manitoba's quality of life. For more information on exploratory visits, contact the Business Immigration and Investment Branch at pnp-b@gov.mb.ca; phone (Canada 001) 204-945-1872; or fax (204) 948-2179, or visit the "*Guide to Applying for an Exploratory Visit to Manitoba*."

Q6. Do my documents have to be translated by a certified translator?

A. All documents must be accurately translated into English or French. Education and employment documents that are translated must be notarized by a Notary Public or Commissioner of Oaths if they are not prepared by a certified translator. Copies of the official language documents must also be included. If nominated, the Canada Visa Office may require all translations to be notarized.

Q7. I do not understand English or French. Will you provide an interpreter to help me with the Exploratory Visit interview?

A. You must advise our office at least three weeks prior to your arrival to Manitoba that you will require an interpreter. Our office will provide an interpreter to assist you during your interview with a Program Officer. However, if you require the services of an interpreter when conducting the rest of your exploratory visit, you may contact the Language Bank of the International Centre of Winnipeg at 204-943-9158, or after hours and weekends at 204-943-7954.

Q8. If I obtain an invitation letter from your office, will I be guaranteed a Visitor's Visa to come to Canada?

A. Although the invitation letter is intended to assist interested potential applicants in their application for a visitor's visa to Canada, the granting of visitor visas is the sole responsibility of Canada. The Provincial Nominee Program for Young Farmers will extend invitation letters to applicants meeting the basic requirements for a visit. However, the issuance of all visas is the sole responsibility of the Federal Government's Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Q9. I have never owned a farm business. Does this affect my chances of qualifying?

A. While the experience of owning a successful farm business improves your chances of being selected, it is not essential. You must, however, be able to prove significant experience in actively managing a farm business at a senior level for a minimum of three (3) years. This may include financial, marketing or operations/production management experience, or expertise in the field specific to the intended farm business.

Q10. What kind of information should I include in my Farm Proposal?

A. Please find the "Guidelines for Farm and Off-Farm Income Estimates" on page 21 of the application kit. The guide will provide you with some valuable information as to what factors your Farm Proposal document should take into account. You may include any other information to your Farm Proposal document that is not referred to in the Guide, but that you think will be helpful in strengthening your proposal.

Q11. Do I need to hire a lawyer, consultant, or representative to help me complete or advise me on my application?

A. Our Program does not require you to hire a lawyer, consultant or representative to assist you with your application. In some cases (for example, if you have difficulty understanding the forms) you may wish to hire someone to help you fill out the forms or give advice. However, if you hire someone, your application will not receive special attention, or be handled differently from other applications.

Q12. What kind of farm businesses will not be considered?

A. Please refer to the "*Eligible Farm Business Investments*" section of our web site for specific information.

Q13. Why is a Deposit Agreement required?

A. If your application for nomination is approved by Manitoba, you will be required to make a CDN\$75,000 deposit to the Government of Manitoba, guaranteeing that you will live in Manitoba and start or purchase a farm business in Manitoba. The deposit will be refunded to you when the investment described in your application is made, your farm is operational and you are living in Manitoba. The *Deposit Agreement* ensures that the applicant understands the commitment to Manitoba.

Q14. When do I deposit the CDN\$75,000?

A. After you have been nominated, you will be given detailed instructions regarding the deposit of the CDN\$75,000 to the Province of Manitoba.

Q15. When is the CDN\$75,000 Deposit released?

A. You have 2 years from the date of landing to fulfill the requirements of the *Deposit Agreement*. Once you have met the terms and conditions specified in your Deposit Agreement, your CDN\$75,000 deposit will be returned to you in full. Deposits are released to the applicant only at their current address or may be wired to the applicant's account upon request. Any changes to the Deposit Agreement must be discussed and approved by the program's Business Settlement Office before proceeding with any other business.

Q16. If I am approved for the Provincial Nominee Program for Young Farmers, what is my next step?

A. If you are approved as a Provincial Nominee, a *Certificate of Nomination* will be issued in your name (and your dependents, if applicable) and you will receive a letter from the program which will provide detailed instructions about the deposit and the forwarding of Federal Immigration forms and Federal processing fees to the appropriate Canadian Visa Office that serves your area.

Q17. How long will it take for me to receive my immigration visa and what are the factors that may delay processing my application?

A. Based on current experiences with the program, applicants may receive their visas between 10 and 12 months after a complete application is received by the program.

There are several factors that can delay processing of your application. These may include, but are not limited to: not having completed an exploratory visit; the need for an interview with the Canadian Embassy; incorrectly completed or unsigned application forms and/or cheques; missing documents; unclear photocopies; documents not accompanied by a certified English or French translation; failure to provide an accurate mailing address or change of address; verification of information and documents provided or a change in family situation; a medical condition which may require additional tests or consultations; and a criminal or security problem.

Q18. May I change my plans for my farming venture after I arrive in Manitoba?

A. You may do so only with the approval of the program's Business Settlement Office. You will be required to contact the Business Settlement Office for counseling and guidance as soon as you think you may have difficulty fulfilling, and/or need to change, your business plans.

Q19. What if I need more time than the two years after landing to establish my farm business?

A. An extension may be granted depending on your circumstances and what kinds of activities you had undertaken within the two-year period. Extensions are not automatically granted unless requested for with an adequate explanation as to why the extension should be granted.

Q20. What if I am unable to proceed with my farm business venture in Manitoba?

A. If the farm business intent or farm venture does not go ahead, or another approved farm project involving comparable levels of investment and employment is not undertaken, your CDN\$75,000 deposit may be retained by the Province of Manitoba.

Q21. If my application is declined, can I appeal the decision, or if not, can I apply again?

A. The decision that the program makes is final. Such a decision will not prevent you from submitting another application at a later date. However, before submitting your next application, please ensure that all of the reasons causing your first application to be declined are fully addressed.

Q22. If I already have applied for immigration under a Federal Government Program, or under any other Provincial Nominee program, can I still apply under the program?

A. You may apply under the program only if your other application was filed with the Federal Government's Immigration Program even if that application is still waiting for a decision. Your application under the program will not be accepted if you already have a pending application with any of the other provinces of Canada.

Q23. What fees will I have to pay?

A. The Provincial Nominee Program for Young Farmers does not charge any processing fees. If you are nominated, you will be responsible for all federal immigration processing and the Right of Permanent Residency Fees. You will receive detailed instructions on payment of these fees after you are nominated.

Q24. Who do I contact after I arrive in Manitoba?

A. It is important that you meet with staff of the program's Business Settlement Office, which is located on the 6th floor – 259 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada telephone: 204-945-1872, and bring your landing papers with you at that time. The Business Settlement Office provides advice and guidance to newcomer business entrepreneur immigrants in preparing for and going through the establishment of their proposed businesses.

Q25. Can I start to dispose of my assets before getting my permanent resident visa?

A. Do not quit your job or dispose of any assets until Citizen and Immigration Canada has provided you with a permanent resident visa.

Q26. How are applications assessed to determine if it meets the program requirements?

A. The program's assessment system uses a multi-step process for reviewing applications for nomination. A preliminary assessment of the application is conducted at the exploratory visit step to determine if the application appears to meet the net worth and farm business experience criteria. Once the application is received, the file is comprehensively assessed by a Business Immigration Officer. The third step is for the recommendation of the officer to be reviewed by an Assessment Review Team comprised of senior management of the program. This three step process ensures that the application is reviewed by multiple officers of the program so that each application is assessed fairly.

Q27. Can I still apply if I have been refused under an immigration program of another province?

A. Yes you can still apply. However, an applicant is required to advise the program if an application has been made previously to another Provincial or Federal immigration program. You are required to advise the program of the results of that application including copies of any correspondence such as a letter of refusal. The application should contain sufficient information to allow the program to

evaluate why the reasons for refusal in the other Provincial or Federal programs do not apply to the application to Manitoba.

Q28. If I have dependants, relatives or friends living somewhere else in Canada will that cause my application to be automatically refused?

A. In the Declaration of Intent submitted as part of the application, an applicant declares that they understand that Manitoba only nominates individuals who intend to reside in Manitoba along with their dependent family members. The program strongly encourages applicants to demonstrate to the program that they will meet this requirement whether the applicant has or does not have relatives, dependants or friends in another province. If, for example, a dependant is studying in another province, an applicant might consider moving this dependant to an educational facility in Manitoba to demonstrate a commitment to the province. Having friends or relatives in another province does not automatically cause an application to be refused. However, the program must be convinced that the applicant will not come to Canada and reside in the province where those friends or relatives currently are. It is up to the applicant to convince the program of their sincerity to relocate to Manitoba.

Q29: Does the Program assist Nominees to identify specific farm business opportunities in Manitoba? What is a good farm business to invest in?

A: As a government entity, the Program does not endorse or advertise directly or indirectly any farm business opportunities. The program does not have a list of farms for sale. However, through the counseling services by the Business Settlement Office, the program will provide landed nominees with necessary information and knowledge that will allow them to undertake independent research for farm business opportunities in Manitoba. Manitoba has a very diverse agricultural economy with farm business opportunities in a variety of farming sectors. We encourage applicants to conduct as much research as possible to identify opportunities across the broad spectrum of farm businesses operating in the Manitoba agri-business economy

Q30. What is off-farm income?

A. Off-farm income is supplementary income that you or your spouse may need to earn by working outside of your farm. A significant number of Manitoba farmers work during the farming off-season to earn additional income. This income may be earned either through employment, or through operating a farm business. If the off-farm income is through employment, supporting documents could include offer of employment, trade or profession credentials in which experience was obtained. If the off-farm income is obtained through operating another farm business, a business proposal is required, including a forecast (please refer to the general "Guidelines for Farm and Off-Farm Income Estates" on page 21 of the application.

Q31. How do demonstrate potential off-farm income?

A. You can demonstrate potential off-farm income capability by providing documentation that shows your and/or your spouse's training and/or experience in areas other than farming along with supporting information to demonstrate earning capability in Manitoba.

Q32. How do I prepare a budget/forecast for my farm?

A. You will find some helpful hints on how to prepare a budget/forecast in a Manitoba "Farm Plan" web site at: www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/financial/farm/software.

Q33. What are marketable skills?

A. Principal applicants and/or their spouses, if applicable, must have skills or work experiences that could make them employable in some capacity so they can earn off-farm supplementary income. For instance, while their business activity may have been farming, they may also have experience in welding or repairing farm machines and equipment. At the same time, their spouses may also have skills and experiences that could open up employment opportunities for themselves within the community that they live.

Q34. How do I demonstrate marketable skills?

A. You can demonstrate marketable skills by providing documentation that shows your, or your spouses training and/or work experiences in areas other than your farm. Documents could include; educational, training or trade (Guild) certificates, income tax documentation that supports your work experience, and other related documents that support your capacity to be employable off farm and earn off-farm supplementary income.

NOTE: DO NOT QUIT YOUR JOB OR SELL OR DISPOSE OF YOUR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AND FARM OR BUSINESS ASSETS UNTIL YOU HAVE OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION FROM CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION CANADA THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE A PERMANENT RESIDENT VISA.