



*The **Vancouver Economic Development Commission**, an agency of the City of Vancouver, works to strengthen the city's economic future by helping existing businesses, attracting investment, researching the business environment and making policy recommendations.*

Media Fact Sheet

Immigration

Overview

- Canada's flexible immigration policies have helped Vancouver (and Canada) to attract extremely well-educated talent from around the world
- The British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) helps fast-track recruitment of highly skilled foreign workers and business entrepreneurs, and is consistently cited by global businesses as one of the key advantages to locating in British Columbia.
- Vancouver is one of the most immigrant-friendly cities in the world, with the second-highest rate of foreign-born population in North America
- Over 20,000 skilled workers immigrate to BC every year

Background

- The Strategic Occupations component of the Provincial Nominee Program is focused on supporting industries that are priorities for economic development. It supports B.C. employers who need to recruit or retain qualified foreign workers to help meet their current and future skill needs.
- The Skills Connect Program accelerates the entry of skilled immigrants into their fields of expertise.
- BC's Economic Immigration Service in Vancouver provides assistance with Canadian Government Visa and Work Permits to facilitate intra-company transfers.
- Certain IT/software positions are subject to special provisions that allow rapid entry of skilled workers.
- Vancouver's ability to attract talent from abroad was one of the key reasons for firms like Microsoft and Amazon to establish facilities in the region.
 - At the same time as the US has tightened its immigration policies, Canada has developed policies that help firms to attract skilled, educated workers from abroad.

Demographics

- More than two-thirds of Vancouver's recent immigrants came from Asia.
- Half of those immigrating to Vancouver between 2001 and 2006 had a university degree or diploma
 - Among working age individuals, immigrants account for more than half of those holding master's degrees and doctorate degrees.

- More than 40 per cent of the region's population regularly speaks a language other than English or French at home. Cantonese, Mandarin, other Chinese dialects and Punjabi are the most widely used non-English languages.

Resources

- Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development
Information on programs and services available to immigrants to BC:
<http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/index/immigrants.htm>
- Provincial Nominee Program
The Provincial Nominee Program helps B.C. employers recruit or retain qualified foreign workers:
<http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/provincialnominee/welcome.htm>
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Federal Government information on working temporarily in Canada:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/index.asp>

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Media Inquiries:

Rebecca Peters

Laura Ballance Media Group

604.252.3614 (office)

604.762.2098 (cell)

Rebecca@LBMG.ca