

FOR MORE INFORMATION

RELATED MINISTRIES

Ministry of Citizens' Services and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism and the Public Affairs Bureau.

www.gov.bc.ca/citz

Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development

www.gov.bc.ca/sted

Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development

www.gov.bc.ca/aved

Ministry of Education

www.gov.bc.ca/bced

Ministry of Attorney General

www.gov.bc.ca/ag

Ministry of Labour

www.gov.bc.ca/lbr

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

www.gov.bc.ca/tca

USEFUL CONTACTS AND LINKS

WelcomeBC

WelcomeBC is a one-stop source for information on immigration in B.C.

www.WelcomeBC.ca

ReadNow BC

www.readnowbc.ca

Work BC

www.workbc.ca

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

www.cic.gc.ca

Skills Connect

www.cvims.org/skills_connect.php

Provincial Nominee Program

www.pnp.gov.bc.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER



British Columbia is the new home of choice for more than 40,000 immigrants each year and many international students. Our government has programs and services in place to welcome and support them. We've made significant investments in WelcomeBC, our provincial initiative

that brings together programs that assist newcomers to B.C., and we're enhancing programs for English Language Services for Adults. Working together, we can help remove employment barriers through programs such as the BC Skills Connect for Immigrants Program, which helps recent immigrants connect quickly with jobs that match their pre-arrival skills, knowledge and experience.

The Provincial Nominee program accelerates immigration for qualified skilled workers, designated health professionals, international graduates and experienced entrepreneurs. We're also continuing to work with the federal government on increasing eligibility for the Temporary Foreign Workers program. Skilled immigrants are key to meeting our labour force needs in health care delivery, construction, information technology and new media, film and television production, life sciences, clean energy, engineering, and other vocations. Together, we can ensure that British Columbia remains a welcoming place for new immigrants, where we all benefit from the diversity of our people.

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia



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SERVICE BC

(For information on any provincial government service or program)

Monday to Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 663-7867

Telephone device for the deaf (TDD) in B.C.: 1 800 661-8773

WWW.SERVICEBC.GOV.BC.CA

SIGN UP FOR THE PREMIER'S NEWSLETTER:

PREMIERSOFFICE@GOV.BC.CA

SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO:

E-MAIL: PREMIER@GOV.BC.CA

BUILDING THE FUTURE >>

FOR NEW BRITISH COLUMBIANS



WelcomeBC



EMBRACING MULTICULTURALISM

EmbraceBC invites people of all ethnic backgrounds to participate in the social, cultural, economic and political life of our province.

The EmbraceBC website puts multiculturalism and anti-racism materials at British Columbians' fingertips, while program funding assists projects that inspire people to welcome, accept and embrace difference.

WELCOMING NEWCOMERS

B.C. is a welcoming place for everyone with some of the world's most diverse communities, represented by virtually every linguistic, cultural and ethnic group. B.C. embraces this diversity and encourages the arrival of much-needed skilled workers, investors and students from all countries. We offer resources, information and support for approximately 40,000 immigrants and their families each year to help their transition into our communities.

In 2007, we created WelcomeBC — an umbrella of services and programs to help newcomers and support the agencies and communities that serve them. WelcomeBC works with communities to attract skilled workers, investors and businesses, ensuring immigrants and other newcomers receive the support they need to benefit from their new life in our province. By contributing to the success of newcomers and working with communities to meet their potential, WelcomeBC is creating new opportunities for B.C.

WELCOMEBC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Since its launch in 2007, WelcomeBC has helped newcomers adapt to life in British Columbia by:

- » Addressing English as a Second Language waitlists and increasing training accessibility for approximately 18,000 students, up from 12,000 in 2006/07.
- » Introducing labour market enhancements to services including employment information and referrals earlier in the settlement process, and providing employment hosts (mentors) and work-focused English language training.
- » Expanding services for vulnerable populations, such as early-learning projects for refugee children, settlement and labour market supports for immigrant youth, and measures to help immigrant seniors settle comfortably in the province.
- » Creating an award-winning immigration portal, WelcomeBC.ca, to connect prospective newcomers and British Columbians to available programs.
- » Developing a Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Program to help communities support immigrants' settlement and their integration, to value and respect multiculturalism, and to work towards eliminating racism.

WE ALL BENEFIT

Immigration is an important part of our Province's growth. More than a quarter of British Columbians were born outside Canada, and immigration will continue to account for a significant share of B.C.'s population growth over the next two decades.

In today's competitive economy, our job market brings opportunities for many skills and backgrounds. This is great news, because immigrants are needed to fill more than one-third of job openings over the next ten years.

WelcomeBC is working hard to ensure we attract and retain these valuable arrivals through programs and services that can help newcomers to build a long-term future in British Columbia's communities.

To ensure our success, WelcomeBC is working across governments, regions, and communities. Canada and British Columbia have committed \$123.6 million this year in support of WelcomeBC.

Our future economy is dependant on the arrival of much-needed newcomers. WelcomeBC is helping immigrants get the services they need to build a long-term future in our communities.

By helping immigrants and the communities they live in, we're helping British Columbia grow and prosper.

SKILLS FOR NEW BRITISH COLUMBIANS

The B.C. Provincial Nominee Program speeds up the process for immigrants in highly-skilled, in-demand professions, including registered nurses, doctors, accountants, engineers, and computer professionals; and to select entry-level and semi-skilled occupations in tourism and hospitality, trucking, and food processing — sectors with persistent labour shortages. The Skills Connect for Immigrants Program helps newcomers find jobs matching their skills, knowledge and experience.

Each year, the B.C. Settlement and Adaptation Program provides English skills to 18,000 newcomers and helps another 100,000 integrate into their local communities.

