

Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP)

Entrepreneur Category Updates

Effective March 14th, several changes have been made to the SINP's Entrepreneur category. These updates have been designed to enhance the program's efficacy, integrity, and alignment with provincial economic objectives.

These changes will only impact applications in which their Expression of Interest (EOI) was selected after March 14th. All applications resulting from EOIs selected prior to these changes will still be assessed based on the criteria and requirements originally in place at the time of submission.

See below for an overview of the key changes that have come into effect:

New Minimum Language Requirement:

A minimum language requirement of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) level 5 has been implemented to ensure applicants possess basic language skills essential for business development and operations and community interaction. This decision is supported by stakeholder feedback and research indicating the importance of language proficiency for business success and integration into the community.

Mandatory Exploratory Visits:

All applicants will now be required to conduct an Exploratory visit to Saskatchewan. The minimum duration for exploratory visits is five calendar days. This change aims to eliminate confusion surrounding "business days" and provides applicants with adequate time for thorough research, enabling them to conduct more comprehensive market research for their proposed business plans.

Extended Operation Period:

Applicants are now required to operate their businesses in Saskatchewan with a temporary work permit for 12 months before applying for nomination, compared to the previous six-month requirement. This extension promotes business stability, demonstrating long-term commitment and allowing applicants sufficient time to establish their businesses and contribute meaningfully to the Saskatchewan economy.

Restrictions to Nominee-to-Nominee Business Successions:

Applicants will only be permitted to purchase a business from a former SINP Entrepreneur category applicant when it has been in continuous operation for at least five years following the previous owner's Permanent Residence application approval by IRCC, or the return of a Good Faith Deposit, if the previous applicant had applied to SINP prior to 2015. This measure

safeguards program integrity and encourages genuine entrepreneurship, aiming to prevent abuse of the succession pathway for immigration purposes.

New Ineligible Businesses:

The SINP has expanded the list of ineligible businesses to address emerging challenges. Wholesale distributor operations, landscaping operations, seasonal businesses, and appliances/home furnishing retail operations have been added based on program analysis highlighting integrity challenges and low economic impact.

Revised Definitions for Eligible Business Investments:

Updates to the list of eligible investments have been made to meet program requirements, with detailed criteria provided in the Entrepreneur category's [Application Guide](#). Changes include removing non-essential business vehicles from eligible investments and limiting pre-paid lease or insurance payments to ensure investment totals reflect a meaningful benefit to Saskatchewan communities.

Applicant and Family Residency Requirements:

Applicants and their families are now required to reside within 50 kilometers of their business in Saskatchewan. Additionally, the program definition of “urban” now extends to the Regina and Saskatoon census metropolitan areas (CMAs) as defined by Statistics Canada, promoting community integration and program integrity while ensuring communities benefit from immigration and SINP entrepreneurs' investments.

New Interview Requirements:

In-person interviews are now mandatory for all applicants, with no interpretation services permitted. These interviews must take place within 90 days of the SINP's request and are crucial in assessing applicants' suitability for the program. Failure to participate without a valid reason will result in application refusal.

These changes will enhance the SINP Entrepreneur Category and support your successful integration into Saskatchewan's economy. Please visit the links below for a more detailed overview of these changes:

- [Entrepreneur Category](#)
- [Entrepreneur EOI System](#)
- [Entrepreneur Category – Application Guide](#)

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact us at saskentrepreneur@gov.sk.ca or call us at 1-833-613-0485.