

Mobility: immigration alert

January 2022

Canada

New Alberta Immigration Nominee Program introduced

Executive summary

On 13 January 2022, the Government of Alberta introduced a new expedited immigration program for tech workers launched in December, the Accelerated Immigration Pathway for the Tech Sector. This pathway to permanent residence is part of the Alberta Express Entry Stream under the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program. It provides fast-track processing to foreign workers who are currently working for, or have a job offer with, an Alberta-based tech industry employer in an eligible tech occupation. The program is a result of collaboration between the Alberta government and the tech sector to identify ways to meet the industry's growth and demand, particularly for tech talent. According to a recent study by the Alberta Enterprise Corporation, there are more than 3,000 tech companies based in Alberta in 2021, which is a 233% increase since 2012, evidencing the rapid expansion of this critical industry and benefit to the Alberta economy.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible, an individual must be currently employed in, or have a job offer for, a tech occupation with an Alberta tech sector employer. Specifically, the applicant must:

- ▶ Have an Express Entry profile already created with the Federal Government with a minimum Comprehensive Ranking Score of 300
- ▶ Meet the criteria of at least one of the federal immigration programs (Canadian Experience Class;

Federal Skilled Trades Program; or Federal Skilled Worker Program)

- ▶ Be working full-time (a minimum of 30 hours per week) in, or have a job offer for full-time employment for, a role on the list of eligible Accelerated Tech Pathway occupations, and with an employer identified as being part of the Alberta tech industry
- ▶ The primary occupation in your Express Entry profile is the same occupation as your current Alberta employment or job offer

Applicants will then submit their Express Entry profile information and details of their Alberta tech employer job offer through a brief online form at [Alberta.ca](https://alberta.ca). The Government of Alberta will assess this information and eligible candidates will be sent an email inviting them to apply. Full details regarding the eligibility criteria, including the 23 eligible Accelerated Tech Pathway occupations and Alberta tech industry employer classification, can be found [here](#).

Processing times

The goal of the program is to offer 6-month expedited processing, and applicants are eligible to receive a letter from the Government of Alberta to support a work permit application while their permanent residence application processes.

Alberta's economic recovery plan

The Government of Alberta has identified this industry as a key economic growth driver and has worked with the sector to



EY Law LLP

diversify and create jobs. By creating an expedited means to obtain critical tech talent, the Government predicts stronger economic recovery and is committed to ensuring employers have access to workers who will bring in fresh skills and perspectives to Alberta. As such, they have implemented this accelerated pathway to permanent residence for highly skilled tech professionals who want to live and work in Alberta.

Should you have any questions with respect to this new program, please do not hesitate to contact your EY Law LLP professional.

EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

For more information, please visit ey.com/ca.

Follow us on Twitter @EYCanada.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via ey.com/privacy. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

About EY Law LLP

EY Law LLP is a Canadian law firm, affiliated with Ernst & Young LLP in Canada. Both EY Law LLP and Ernst & Young LLP are Ontario limited liability partnerships. EY Law LLP has no association or relationship with Ernst & Young LLP in the US, or any of its members. Ernst & Young LLP in the US does not practice law, nor does it provide immigration or legal services. For more information, please visit EYLaw.ca.

© 2021 EY Law LLP.

All Rights Reserved.

A member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited.

EYG no. 000550-22Gbl

This publication contains information in summary form, current as of the date of publication, and is intended for general guidance only. It should not be regarded as comprehensive or a substitute for professional advice. Before taking any particular course of action, contact EY or another professional advisor to discuss these matters in the context of your particular circumstances. We accept no responsibility for any loss or damage occasioned by your reliance on information contained in this publication.

ey.com/en_ca

George Reis, Managing Partner
+1 416 943 2535
george.reis@ca.ey.com

Batia Stein, Partner
+1 416 943 3593
batia.j.stein@ca.ey.com

Roxanne Israel, Partner
+1 403 206 5086
roxanne.n.israel@ca.ey.com

Marwah Serag, Partner
+1 416 943 2944
marwah.serag@ca.ey.com

Alex Israel, Partner
+1 416 943 2698
alex.d.israel@ca.ey.com

Christopher Gordon, Partner
+1 416 943 2544
christopher.d.gordon@ca.ey.com

Jonathan Leebosh, Partner
+1 604 899 3560
jonathan.e.leebosh@ca.ey.com

Authored by:
Rebecca Narfason, Articling Student
+1 403 592 9943
rebecca.narfason@ca.ey.com