

# Mobility: immigration alert

May 2021

## Canada

### New EOI system for OINP streams now open

#### Executive summary

On 28 April 2021, Ontario released a new Expression of Interest (EOI) system for several Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) streams. Applicants who are interested in making the province of Ontario their permanent residence have the option of obtaining a provincial nomination certificate from Ontario. Similar to the federal Express Entry intake system, candidates are awarded points in the EOI system based on various factors. The Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) will select candidates on a periodic basis and invite them to apply for a nomination certificate. Candidates who have received an invitation will have 14 days to submit the nomination certificate application.

Currently, two OINP streams, the Employer Job Offer Foreign Worker and Employer Job Offer: International Student stream, are open for intake using the EOI. The remaining three OINP EOI streams are expected to become available for intake later this year.

#### Background and analysis

Ontario has opened a new EOI system to intake applications for provincial nomination certificates. Prior to this new system, the province used a first come, first served model, and candidates could only register when the OINP opened its online portal to accept applications. Last year, the OINP only accepted applications a handful of times, with each application period closing within a matter of hours as the OINP's quota was quickly filled. The OINP e-filing portal also

experienced technical difficulties due to the high number of applicants seeking to apply. As a result, many eligible applicants were unable to apply.

The new EOI points-based system is intended to help manage intake and should eliminate some of the technical challenges and frustrations faced by prospective OINP applications. Eligible candidates will be able to register an EOI and wait for an invitation from the OINP. The province will conduct draws to invite those with points above a certain threshold to submit an application under the five streams.

#### What this means

The OINP's EOI system is similar to the federal Express Entry intake system and consists of two steps. First, candidates need to register an EOI in the OINP e-Filing Portal, demonstrating their eligibility to apply under one or more of the five streams. They will be awarded points based on established scoring factors. Registering an EOI does not mean the candidate has applied for an OINP certificate. Rather, the OINP will select candidates from the pool who have sufficient points and will invite them to proceed to the second stage of applying for the nomination certificate.

Candidates can now register an EOI profile for the Foreign Worker and the International Student streams through the OINP e-Filing Portal. Candidates can create an EOI for one or more streams depending on their eligibility. However,



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they are allowed only one profile at any given time. There is no fee to register an EOI, and the OINP government fees will be paid at the time of application after an invitation has been received. The registration is valid for up to 12 months or until a candidate receives an invitation to apply for a provincial nomination. After 12 months, the EOI will be deleted automatically. Also, candidates can withdraw and update their profile at any time.

After registration, the profile will be entered into a selection pool and given a score based on the following factors:

- Job offer - National Occupational Code (NOC) level, NOC type and wage level (not for master's Graduate or PhD Graduate Streams)
- Canadian work experience - length, NOC Code, and wage level
- Level of education (Only applies to International Student Stream)
- Education - field of study and Canadian education (not for Foreign Worker or In-Demand Streams)
- Language ability - level and knowledge of 1 or 2 of Canada's official languages (not for Foreign Worker or In-Demand Streams)
- Location of job offer and study
- Province also allocates 10 points at its discretion to respond to labour market needs in the province or region of the province

The OINP has announced that there will be several draws throughout the year when invitations to apply will be issued. Only candidates with a score above a certain level will be given an invitation to apply. At the time of writing, it is unknown how frequent the invitation rounds will be or what score required to be competitive in a particular stream will be. Those who receive an invitation to apply will have 14 days to submit their application.

At this time, eligible candidates for the OINP Employer Job Offer: Foreign Worker and Employer Job Offer: International Student streams can register an EOI. However, neither stream is currently issuing invitations to apply. The OINP has announced that both streams are expected to open in the near future.

While the EOI system should alleviate some of the technical challenges of the existing OINP application process, it does not address the limited quota available through the program. If the available spots in the most popular streams remain limited, candidates with valid EOIs may be faced with long waits between selection rounds and/or a very high points requirement to receive an invitation.

We will continue to monitor and review future developments. For additional information, or if you wish to discuss further, please contact your EY Law LLP professional.

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