How easy is it to move to Canada?

Discover some of the easiest ways to move to Canada, including the requirements, processes, and financial considerations, with this article

By Karen Sargsyan
May 29, 2020 | Share: | | |

Contents
1. What are the ways to immigrate to Canada?
2. How easy is it to move to Canada?
3. Family or Spousal Sponsorship
4. Express Entry
5. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)
6. How can an immigration lawyer help a client who wants to immigrate to Canada?
7. How easy is it to move to Canada: easier way out is the Atlantic Immigration Pilot

While the dream of living in the Great White North seems achievable, it's not always that simple. Many immigrants underestimate the time, cost-effort and complex options that come with considerations of immigrating to Canada.

If you're wondering how easy it is to move to Canada, this article is for you. Even if this article provides some key information, hiring an immigration lawyer to your side is still the best option if you're planning to take this route.

What are the ways to immigrate to Canada?

Lawyers from the Vancouver based Elton Chen LLP gives some insights as to the difference between the ways to immigrate to Canada. Immigration to Canada is possible through the economic stream, family class, or humanitarian and refugee options, says Kai Chen, the Principal Canadian Immigration Lawyer at Heron Law Offices.

Recent Articles

Cost-half of in-house counsel seek new jobs with better benefits: in-house compensation report

Are insolvency and bankruptcy the same thing?

How easy is it to move to Canada?

"Each year the Government releases a level plan where the exact target in each category is allocated, but the focus likely will continue to be on economic and family class streams. There is also a current 'in Canada first' for students who obtain a degree in Canada or academic workers."

Hamidreza Ebrahimpur, also a Canadian Immigration & Refugee Lawyer at Heron Law Offices, explained more on these broad streams:

- **Economic immigration**: includes programs managed through Express Entry—the Federal Skilled Worker Program, Federal Skilled Trades Program, Canadian Experience Class—as well as the Provincial Nominee Program (PNPs), which are administered by individual provinces and territories, with Quebec operating its own selection process
- **Family immigration**: Immigration sponsorship **or spousal sponsorship**: like the Start Up Visa and the Atlantic Immigration Program that further support entrepreneurs and skilled workers in specific regions
- **Rural and Francophone Community Immigration Pilots**: recently launched by the IRCC to support economic immigration to communities in Canada that are designated as a francophone minority communities outside Quebec
- **Family class sponsorship**: allows Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or persons registered as Indians to sponsor spouses, partners, children, parents, grandparents, or other eligible relatives
- **Refugee protection**: is available to individuals who apply for asylum within Canada or at the border, while Canada's resettlement program assists those who are outside their country of nationality or habitual residence and are seeking refuge

Laura Szymanski, another Canadian Immigration & Refugee Lawyer at Heron Law Offices, says that the ways in which one can immigrate to Quebec differs from the rest of Canada. As such, it may be best to consult with an immigration lawyer in Montreal in the province.

How easy is it to move to Canada?

The whole deal here is an 'easy' option answer. "Immigrating to Canada is a process that will require at the very least patience and more often than not, tending to first be in Canada to take advantage to most certain immigration options."

Szymanski agrees. However, she adds that some programs are widely regarded as having fewer barriers to entry.

"Among them, family sponsorship, particularly for spouses or common law partners, is often considered relatively straightforward. Provincial Nominee Programs are also considered easier of a genuine relationship and basic requirements, for example. For skilled workers, Express Entry remains the fastest and most accessible economic immigration route."

These "easy" ways to move to Canada may be offered by either the federal or the provincial governments. It will also depend on your skills, age, status, citizenship, and family or employment connections within Canada.

"For some applicants, the main options is clear and for many others there will be no 'easy' option," Szymanski says. "Immigration is a complex process that requires careful and specifically planned and preparation and selection of the best aligned program based on the eligibility criteria."

Easiest options when moving to Canada

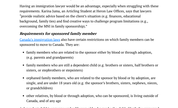
Generally, the easiest ways to move to Canada are through these options:

1. Sponsorship of spouses or family members
2. Express Entry
3. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)

Of course, there are other ways of immigrating to Canada, although these choices would have specific and harder requirements. These other options are:

- Atlantic Immigration Program
- Rural and Francophone Immigration
- Refugee immigration
- Start up visa
- Other pathways by the provinces

To give you an overview of how easy it is to move to Canada, here's a video which explains the general policy in accepting immigrants:



For more information on how easy it is to move to Canada, consult the best immigration lawyers in Canada for more information.

We'll discuss these simple—but still laborious—options to move to Canada. You can also use the table of contents above to skip directly to one of these options.

1. Family or Spousal Sponsorship

Sponsorship is one of the easiest ways to move to Canada, especially if you have a family member who is a Canadian. Also called Family reunification, this process allows a Canadian to sponsor any of the following family members:

- spouse, common law partner, conjugal partner
- dependent child, either by age or because of a disability
- parent or grandparent
- adoptive child
- other relatives

Both the sponsored person and the Canadian sponsor must meet certain requirements and conditions. As reference, these requirements are set by the:

- Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) and the Regulations
- regulations by the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

There are several factors with family sponsorship sponsored by a one of the ways methods to immigrate to Canada:

- **no work permit**: although they can apply for an open work permit after they arrive in Canada, it's not always required that the sponsored person must be ready to work before they arrive in Canada
- **online application**: applications for sponsorship are done online, which makes the process even easier for spouses or family members to be sponsored who are currently living outside Canada
- **lighter requirements**: compared to other methods of immigrating to Canada, the policy goal here is to be somewhat lenient to family reunification, given that of sponsorship and ease

Still, it's important to be in touch with a legal professional before embarking on this immigrating journey. The immigration lawyer can help the client identify and address issues they may not be aware of (i.e. misrepresentation) to prevent issues or delays with their applications. Szymanski says.

Family sponsorship

Both the sponsor and the sponsored foreign spouse must meet a lot of requirements, so that foreign spouse can immigrate to Canada.

Requirements for sponsors

To qualify as a sponsor, the Canadian sponsor, partner, or family member must:

- be 18 years old and above
- be currently living in Canada at the time of the sponsorship
- either be:
  - a Canadian citizen
  - a permanent resident under the Canadian Indian Act
  - a Canadian permanent resident, currently living in Canada
  - not be receiving any social aid, other than for a disability
- be willing to provide the basic needs of the sponsored person and their own selves, which is also called the Minimum Necessary Income (MNI)

Having an immigration lawyer would be an advantage, especially when struggling with these requirements. Karina Jaime, an Articling Student at Heron Law Offices, says that lawyers can help with the following: "Lawyers can help with the application process, provide a background, family law and find creative ways to challenge program limitations, e.g. overcoming the MNI in family sponsorship."

Requirements for sponsored family member

Canada's immigration laws also have certain restrictions on which family members can be sponsored to move to Canada. They are:

- family members who are related to the sponsor either by blood or through adoption, e.g. parents and grandparents
- family members who are still a dependent child (e.g. brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, or grandchildren/nieces/nephews)
- orphaned family members, who are related to the sponsor by blood or by adoption, are single, and are under 18 years old (e.g. the sponsor's brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, or grandchildren)
- other relatives, by blood or through adoption, who can be sponsored, is being outside of Canada and are 18 years old

A dependent child is someone under 22 years old, who can be the child of both the sponsored person and their spouse or common-law partner, or adopted. A child above 22 years old can still be considered a dependent if:

- does dependent on their parents for financial support ever since
- has been financially dependent on their parents since before 22 years old

Sponsorship

A Canadian sponsor is a sponsored sponsorship has the same requirements as that of a Canadian sponsor is a family sponsorship mentioned above.

The sponsored person may be classified into three categories and must meet the following criteria:

- **Spouse**:
  - a person of any sex
  - at least 18 years old
  - legally married to the Canadian sponsor, or in our of Canada
- **Common law partner**:
  - a person of any sex
  - at least 18 years old
  - must be legally married to the Canadian sponsor
  - has lived with the Canadian sponsor for the last 12 months in a marriage-like relationship, without any long periods apart
- **Conjugal partner**:
  - a person of any sex
  - at least 18 years old
  - not legally married, but in a common-law relationship with the Canadian partner
  - has been living with the Canadian partner for at least one year
  - is not in Canada
  - cannot live with or marry the Canadian sponsor in their own country due to legal and immigration reasons

In all three instances, Canadian sponsorship does not discriminate against sex and your sexual orientation. Jaime adds: What's important is that they're not disqualified from being sponsored and/or PR.

Process of sponsoring a family member

Whether it's for a family member or spouse/partner, it will usually follow the same sponsorship process:

1. Getting the proper application lecture, which has all the checklist of requirements and forms to be filled out
2. Using the checklist, upload the specific requirements, such as passports, birth certificates, etc.
3. Complete some specific forms in the portal (e.g. Application to Sponsor, Sponsorship Agreement and Undertaking)
4. Pay the fees, such as the sponsorship fee, biometrics fee, and the permanent residence fee, IRCC says.

While this may sound easy, you'll have to work closely with an immigration law expert to comply with the rules of these requirements.

"The best thing a person can do to make sure their application is as fulsome/complete as possible to prevent pushback from IRCC and unless potential concerns are empathy," Jaime says.

Sponsorship Undertaking and Sponsorship Agreement

For both spousal and family sponsorship, a signed undertaking or agreement must be completed by both the sponsor and the sponsored spouse or family member:

- **as a Canadian sponsor**: must agree to sign a sponsorship undertaking, which compels the sponsor to financially support the sponsored person, whether a spouse, common law, conjugal partner, or family member for a certain period, depending on the sponsorship
- **as a sponsored person**: will also have to complete a sponsorship agreement, which says that the sponsored person will not rely on the government for themselves, and to minimize the obligations placed upon the sponsor (e.g. to look for work after obtaining a work permit).

2. Express Entry

The Express Entry is a system managed by the federal government, which makes it easier for skilled workers to immigrate and find work in Canada. Interested skilled workers can apply to immigrate to Canada through one of three programs:

- **Federal Skilled Worker Program**: for skilled workers with work experience outside Canada
- **Canadian Experience Class**: for skilled workers with previous work experience in Canada
- **Federal Skilled Trades Program**: for skilled workers qualified to work as a skilled trade job

Express Entry's points system

The Express Entry uses a points system called Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS). This system assigns specific points to a person depending on many factors, such as their:

- education and work experience
- age, language proficiency, and ability
- skills, whether job related or not

All applicants are then ranked in the Express Entry pool according to the points they received from the CRS. An invitation to apply for permanent residence will be sent to a person if they're a top candidate or if they ranked up a lot of points.

To learn more about how the points system in the Express Entry works, watch this video:

A smart thing to do is toward a lawyer in the province where you're planning to move to. For instance, if you want to immigrate to Toronto, reach out to one of the Lawyer ranked Best Immigration lawyers in Toronto.

Applying for the Express Entry

Skilled workers looking for employment through Express Entry can apply online. Here's a summary of what happens when you apply with the Express Entry:

1. Create an online profile through the IRCC secure account and enter the Express Entry pool
2. Candidates with the most points will receive an invitation to apply for permanent residence
3. After receiving an invitation, fill out the application and upload the required documents
4. Pay the fees (e.g. processing fee, ARPL and biometrics fee) through your IRCC secure account
5. The IRCC will review the application and decide if the applicant is eligible for the program they've indicated

3. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)

A Canadian province's PNP works like Express Entry, except that it's more specific invitations to move and work in Canada from the provincial government itself. It is an easy way to immigrate to Canada because of the variety of program streams that you can apply for.

These streams are for skilled workers, semi-skilled workers, students, and businesspeople. To be eligible, you must apply to the website of the Canadian province you would like to live and work in.

Canadian provinces with easiest PNP

Through PNP, you can easily move to Canada to live and work in the specific provinces that nominate you. Here's a list of the Canadian provinces and territories to move to, and some examples of their PNP streams that you can choose:

- **Alberta**: Express Entry streams
- **British Columbia**: Skilled Worker streams
- **Nova Scotia**: Labour Market Priorities streams
- **Ontario**: Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program streams
- **Quebec**: Regular Skilled Worker Program

Some PNP streams would require you to have a profile or apply with the Express Entry system of the federal government. This does make it easier for you to be nominated in a lot of programs with just one profile.

How can an immigration lawyer help a client who wants to immigrate to Canada?

The immigration lawyer helps clients navigate the Canadian immigration programs to best aligned with their qualifications, goals, and chances of success," Szymanski says. This is important, since the IRCC and Canada's Visa offices are a problem where the client can be a long process and analysis perspective.

Szymanski adds that lawyers provide critical support at every stage, such as:

- assessing eligibility
- strategizing the application
- preparing documents
- completing forms accurately
- communicating with the immigration authorities on their behalf

"Many refusals arise from applicants' misunderstanding of eligibility requirements or from submitting poorly prepared applications." This is why Szymanski says that an experienced immigration lawyer can protect their clients against these issues.

Tax adds that the most important role played by immigration lawyers is managing risks and providing effective roadmaps.

"The number of applications being refused, returned, or running into processing delays has increased in recent years. Applicants need a lot more level of expertise than when immigration was easier and more facilitative."

More importantly, "a skilled and knowledgeable immigration lawyer can offer so assurance throughout a stressful process," Szymanski adds.

How easy is it to move to Canada: easing your way up to the Great White North

Immigrating to Canada, and eventually applying for a permanent residence, can lead to exhausting and financially draining. However, the many options available out there makes it easier to move to Canada, especially if coupled with the right advice, such as those from an immigration lawyer. Knowing which immigration program is important so that you would know which of these simple options is right for you.

Still want to learn more about how easy it is to move to Canada? Check out our directory of the Lexpert ranked Top Immigration law firms in Canada.

Copyright © 2020 Mindbrook Communications Canada Inc.

We use cookies to make our site work, personalize content and ads, and to analyze our traffic. We also share information about your use of our site with our social media, advertising and analytics partners. Privacy Policy
Preferences
Accept
Decline