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. 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.

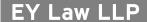
Processing times

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





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.

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EYG no. 000550-22Gbl

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