

Office of Immigration

Vision

Our vision is a welcoming province that sees greater numbers of immigrants each year and recognizes the important contributions they make to Nova Scotia.

Mission

To attract, integrate and retain immigrants to the province by taking a lead role in engaging and working with partners to ensure Nova Scotia is well-positioned for growth.

Mandate

In order to achieve the vision and mission, the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration (NSOI) will work to:

- Market the Province as an attractive immigration destination and promote all immigration pathways to Nova Scotia;
- Select immigrants through the Nova Scotia Nominee Program who fulfil a labour market need and who will make a contribution to Nova Scotia's economy;
- Strengthen immigration and settlement planning, policy and programming in the Province in order to encourage integration and retention; and
- Promote welcoming communities, including raising awareness and understanding of immigration and diversity issues.

Key Responsibilities

IMMIGRATION PROGRAMMING

Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP)

The Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP) was established in 2003, under the Canada-Nova Scotia Agreement on Provincial Nominees. In September 2007, the province and the federal government signed the Agreement on Canada-Nova Scotia Cooperation on Immigration that included Annex A on Provincial Nominees. Under the NSNP, the province provides immigration pathways that assist employers to address their labour needs; address skill gaps and labour shortages in the province; and target foreign nationals who want to start or purchase and actively manage a business in Nova Scotia.

Atlantic Immigration Pilot

The Atlantic Immigration Pilot (AIP), launched March 2017, is a three-year pilot that is part of the Atlantic Growth Strategy. The AIP is a federal program with an identified role for provinces to designate and endorse employers. The Pilot assists employers address their labour needs through three streams focussed on high-skilled and intermediate skilled occupations and international graduates. The federal government is responsible for assessment of individual applications made following provincial endorsement.

SETTLEMENT

Settlement funding and support provided by NSOI facilitate successful integration and retention of immigrants in Nova Scotia. Settlement programming includes pre-arrival services; employment and entrepreneurship programs; language training; employer engagement; family crisis programming; computer training; welcoming communities; temporary foreign worker protection; and programming for immigrant children.

ATTRACTION AND MARKETING

Promotion of Nova Scotia as an immigration destination both internationally and nationally includes working with local employers, attending recruitment missions and events, and partnering with Atlantic colleagues on promoting Atlantic Canada.

POLICY & EXTERNAL RELATIONS**Federal, Provincial and Territorial Relations**

The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration (NSOI) works closely with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), provincial and territorial counterparts and other provincial departments. NSOI engages in collaborative policy research and development, agreement negotiations, and ongoing information sharing to improve the immigration system.

Stakeholder Engagement

NSOI works closely with local businesses, industries, community organizations and settlement service provider organizations to raise awareness about immigration, assist with navigating immigration programming and encourage a shared understanding of the immigration system.

Acts Administered

NSOI is not responsible for any provincial legislation. NSOI's mandate is outlined in the Nova Scotia *Public Service Act*.

Under Canada's Constitution, responsibility for immigration is shared between the federal and provincial/territorial governments. Federal legislation is paramount. The federal government leads decision-making and is responsible for immigration policy in Canada. Only the federal government has authority to permit people to immigrate to Canada as well as become Canadian Citizens. NSOI operates under the federal *Immigration Refugees and Protection Act* and Regulations.

Administrative update: **June 12, 2019**
