



HALIFAX CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

Feedback on Family Business Stream Provincial Nominee Program

Submitted by: Alexandre Pavlovski,
Chairman, Immigration Sub-committee

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BASIC PRINCIPLES:

- The program should be designed to benefit both the sponsoring family businesses and the individuals who are being sponsored
- The program should consider the possibility that the sponsored person might want to (or have to) move out of the family business at some point of his/her personal development

Criteria Question	Comments
<p>Is the \$20,000 salary enough to support the success of the nominee and family members? Is it too high, which could act as a barrier for some family business owners? (An annual salary at minimum wage in Nova Scotia is between \$13,000 and \$14,000.)</p>	<p>“\$20,000 or more income to be confirmed” is considered a sensible requirement consistent with other streams on the Provincial Nominee Program</p>
<p>Is the definition of a family member (sibling, aunt or uncle, son or daughter 22 or older) appropriate, too broad, or too narrow? The proposed definition is intended to prevent overlap with federal family-class sponsorship applicants.</p>	<p>The definition of a family member seems too narrow. Cousins, nieces, nephews may also qualify if relationship is proved. The overlap with the Federal Family Class should be clarified, based on the Sponsorship terms.</p>
<p>Is the range of 18 – 50 years appropriate in Nova Scotia?</p>	<p>Though the range of 18 – 50 years is appropriate in Nova Scotia, it could be beneficial for the province to set the age up to sixty. That will then allow working aunts and uncles to contribute to the family business given that sponsorship agreements are in place.</p>
<p>Education and Training</p>	<p>High school education would enable the sponsored individual to be more flexible if they end up wanting or having to leave the family business.</p>
<p>Will the option of <i>learning</i> English or French upon arrival (as opposed to <i>having</i> these skills upon arrival) enable successful community integration?</p>	<p>Basic English skills should be required as a starting point, and all immigrants should be eligible for publicly funded language training. English as a Second Language (ESL) support should not be left up to the sponsoring family business, because private language training is prohibitively expensive. The provincial government should be prepared to</p>

	contribute to expand the capacity of publicly funded language training to accommodate these newcomers.
Should the mandatory face-to-face interview be waived for the family business category? Or should the policy on interviews be consistent in all categories?	Mandatory face-to-face interviews should be required. It will be consistent with other PNP categories; will provide proof of identity, English skills, the ability to work, etc.
Is the \$1,700 fee in line with the costs of processing the application? Will it be affordable for the applicants?	The provincial non-refundable application fees policy should be consistent with the corresponding federal fee schedules and should have the source of reference.
Should businesses be able to offer jobs to relatives more or less frequently than every two years? If more frequently, how can the ability of the business to retain the nominee be measured?	Proposed two years is a good time frame. The newcomer will gain some knowledge and attachment to NS during that time and is less likely to leave, creating an opening for another family member to fill.

Notes:

Family businesses may want to contact the following as a resource:

Canadian Association of Family Enterprise

President: Ian Wilson (w) 488-7729, (h) 488-7014

Executive Director: Michelle Levangie 465-2535

www.cafemembers.org/cafenational