



# Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program

CERC Conference  
November 29, 2017

# Outline

1. Overview of Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program
2. OINP Success
3. OINP Modernization
4. OINP Stream Categories
5. Current Status and Priorities
6. Appendices

# Overview of Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program

- The federal government has responsibility for immigration selection. Through provincial nominee programs, provinces and territories are able to “nominate” a number of prospective immigrants for permanent residence.
- The Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) is Ontario’s provincial nominee program, which nominates immigrants based on their ability to economically establish in the province.
- The program requirements target skilled immigrants who would readily contribute to Ontario’s economy and labour market.
  - These include both low/semi-skilled and high-skilled workers, international students, entrepreneurs, and key staff of established foreign corporations.
- Ontario determines eligibility criteria for the OINP and assesses applications to ensure candidates meet these criteria. Once nominated, individuals can then apply to the federal government for permanent residence.
  - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada screens nominees for admissibility (health, security, and criminality) when they apply for permanent residence.
- Each year the federal government determines how many individuals Ontario can nominate to the federal government for permanent residence.
  - Ontario's nomination allocation for 2017 was 6,000. Ontario fulfilled its allocation on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017
- The OINP operates on a cost-recovery basis through fees charged to nominee and business immigration applicants.

# Success of the OINP

- The OINP has demonstrated positive results and the popularity of the program continues to grow. A review of the OINP found that:
  - 98% of nominees with a job offer selected by Ontario remain in the province and participate in our labour market.
  - 86% of businesses have seen tangible benefits from their nominees, including increased revenues, new contracts and new customers.
- The federal government has recognized the importance of the program to Ontario's economy, by increasing our allocation to **6,000** nominees for 2017. Ontario fulfilled its allocation on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.
- Ontario continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to immigration. The OINP has the demand and capacity to effectively support and enhance economic immigration to Ontario.
- To ensure its continued success, the ministry has been busy **modernizing** program delivery and ensuring that the program continues to attract **new business ideas, highly skilled workers, international students** and **investment** to the province.

# Modernizing the OINP: What's New in 2017

## **Helping employers retain foreign workers, particularly in the skilled trades and NOC C and D occupations**

- The OINP introduced two new streams in 2017: the Ontario Express Entry Skilled Trades Stream and the Employer Job Offer In-Demand Skills Stream.
  - The new programs have enabled the province to better respond to labour market demands and to support employers in attracting and retaining foreign workers. These streams provide immigration pathways for workers in in-demand and skilled trade occupations in the construction and agricultural sectors.

## **Faster processing times**

- The employer stream was redesigned as the Employer Job Offer Stream and streamlined from a two-step paper application to a one-step online application process and the employer pre-screen has been eliminated.

## **Streamlined application process for employers job offer streams**

- The ministry has transitioned all of its OINP streams to an online application system (e-filing). The early results of the move to e-filing have shown an increase in processing efficiencies and a significant decrease in processing times.

## **Posting our application processing times**

- The OINP now posts its application processing times by stream on its website. This information is updated monthly. Applicants and/or their representatives can check the status of their application online through the OINP e-Filing portal, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

# OINP Stream Categories

The OINP has three program categories:

1. An **Employer Job Offer Category** that allows Ontario businesses to fill HR needs in professional, managerial, skilled trades and certain low/semi-skilled occupations with foreign workers and international students. Recruited workers may be hired from within or outside Canada.
  - There are three streams under the Employer Job Offer category:
    - Foreign Worker
    - International Student
    - In-Demand Skills (introduced in 2017!)
2. A **Human Capital Category** for individuals with the skills, education, and language ability in English and/or French needed to succeed in Ontario's labour market. A job offer is not required for this category.
  - There are five streams under the Human Capital Category:
    - Ontario's Express Entry Human Capital Priorities
    - Ontario's Express Entry French-Speaking Skilled Worker
    - Ontario's Express Entry Skilled Trades (introduced in 2017!)
    - International Students - Masters Graduate
    - International Students - PhD Graduate



# OINP Stream Categories, cont'd

3. A **Business Category** targeting individuals and corporations with a viable business activity that will bring significant economic benefit to Ontario. There are two streams under this category:
- Corporate Stream:
    - Targets established international corporations looking to expand into Ontario or buy an existing business.
    - Key staff have the opportunity to be nominated for permanent residence once their business has been successfully established.
  - Entrepreneur Stream:
    - Targets experienced entrepreneurs from outside Canada who are looking to implement a new business initiative or buy an existing business in Ontario.
    - Entrepreneurs have the opportunity to be nominated for permanent residence once their new business has been successfully established in Ontario.

# Current Status and Priorities

## 1. The OINP reached its 2017 nomination allocation

- On November 22, 2017, the OINP met its 2017 nomination allocation.
- The OINP continues to process applications received in 2017 – nominations for these applications will be issued in early 2018.

## 2. Planning for 2018 – Growing the OINP

- In response to increased demand for the OINP, the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) has engaged in discussions with the federal government to request an increase to Ontario's nomination allocation for 2018.

## 3. The *Ontario Immigration Act* - Preparing for proclamation

- The *Ontario Immigration Act* (OIA) and its regulations will come into effect on January 1, 2018.
- The Act introduces a regulatory framework to respond to Ontario's responsibilities in the immigration system. By setting out the OINP's eligibility criteria in regulations, the Act enhances transparency and accountability measures, and improves consistency across selection program eligibility. Further information about the OIA will be shared in the coming weeks.

## 4. Global Skills Strategy – Designated Referral Partner

- Companies making significant investments or hiring for highly-skilled occupations in the ICT sector, and innovative companies hiring individuals with highly specialized and unique expertise, can access the Global Skills Strategy (GSS), a federal pilot program that can provide a temporary work permit and labour market impact assessment (if needed) within 10-business days, respectively.
- MCI is a designated referral partner for the GSS and would be able to refer companies to IRCC/ESDC for the GSS.



# Questions?



## Appendix: Stream Criteria: Employer Job Offer and Human Capital Streams

Requirement	Employer Job Offer			Int'l Graduates (Masters and PhD)	Express Entry		
	Foreign Workers	Int'l Students	In-Demand Skills		French-Speaking CEC/FSW	Human Capital CEC/FSW	Skilled Trades CEC
<b>Legal Status</b> (if in Canada)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Job Offer</b>	Full-time/ permanent in NOC 0, A or B occupation	Full-time/ permanent in NOC 0, A or B occupation	Full-time/ permanent in select NOC C or D occupations	✗	✗	✗	✗
<b>Work Experience</b>	Two years in last 5 in NOC 0, A or B occupation	✗	One year in last 3 in select NOC C or D occupations	✗	One year in last 3 (CEC) or 5 (FSW) in NOC 0, A or B occupation	One year in last 3 (CEC) or 5 (FSW) in NOC 0, A or B occupation	One year in last 2 (CEC) in select NOC B occupations
<b>Education</b>	✗	Min. College Diploma	Min. Secondary school	Masters or PhD Degree in Ontario	Min. Bachelor's Degree	Min. Bachelor's Degree	✗
<b>Language Testing</b>	✗	✗	Min. CLB 4 in English or French	Min. CLB 7 in English or French (Only for Masters)	Min. CLB 7 in French <b>and</b> CLB 6 in English	Min. CLB 7 in English or French	Min. CLB 5 in English or French

## Appendix: Employer Job Offer Streams: Employer Criteria

Requirement	Employer Criteria (Applies to all Employer Job Offer Streams)	
	Job Offer Inside the Greater Toronto Area	Job Offer Outside the Greater Toronto Area
<b>Active Business</b>	Employer must be a corporation, limited liability partnership or sole proprietorship that has been in active business for at least 3 years	
<b>Business Premises in Ontario</b>	Employer must have business premises in Ontario where applicant will work	
<b>Regulatory Compliance</b>	Employer must be in compliance with all provincial labour laws (employment standards, health and safety, and labour relations legislation)	
<b>Gross Annual Revenue</b>	Min. \$1,000,000 in gross annual revenue	Min. \$500,000 in gross annual revenue
<b>Number of Employees</b>	5 permanent/full-time employees (Canadian citizen or permanent resident) at the location where the applicant will work	3 permanent/full-time employees (Canadian citizen or permanent resident) at the location where the applicant will work
<b>Recruitment Efforts</b>	Employer must demonstrate that sufficient efforts were made to recruit a Canadian citizen or permanent resident for the position if applicant is currently living and working outside of Canada, or working in Canada but outside of Ontario	

## Appendix: OINP Stream Criteria: Business Streams

Design Elements/Criteria	Corporate Stream	Entrepreneur Stream
Target Applicant	Established foreign corporations	Experienced entrepreneurs
Minimum investment	\$5 million	\$500K to \$1 million (minimum net worth requirement of \$1-1.5M depending on location and sector)
Job Creation	5 net new full-time, permanent jobs for Canadian citizens/permanent residents <u>per key staff nominee</u>	2 net new full-time, permanent full-time jobs for Canadian citizens/permanent residents, per entrepreneur
Maximum Number of Prospective nominees	5 key staff	1 entrepreneur and 1 business partner
Language Requirement	CLB 4 at time of nomination	CLB 4 at time of nomination
Previous Business Experience	Existing business with track record of at least 3 years. Key staff must have at least 3 years of work experience with the parent company within the last 5 years.	At least 3 years of business owner or management experience in the last 5 years

### Two-Stage Nomination Process:

- MCI will assess business proposals. If their business proposal is approved, MCI will provide prospective nominees (key staff of corporations and entrepreneur and business partner) with a temporary work permit support letter so they can establish their business in Ontario.
- Once business is established and investment/job creation commitments under performance agreement are met, prospective nominees are eligible for nomination for permanent residence.