



# Key Immigration Terms

**Accompanying Dependent:** A spouse or dependent child of the principal applicant who intends to immigrate to Canada.

**Canadian Citizen:** A person who is Canadian by birth, or who has applied for citizenship through Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and has received a citizenship certificate.

**CIC:** Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the federal department mandated to develop and implement policies, programs and services that facilitate the arrival of people and their integration into Canada.

**Economic Immigrant:** People selected for their skills and ability to contribute to Canada's economy. Skilled workers, entrepreneurs, investors, and provincial nominees make up the economic category.

**Family Class:** A class of immigrants to Canada made up of close relatives of a sponsor in Canada, including a spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner; dependent children; parents and grandparents; children under age 18 whom the sponsor intends to adopt in Canada; children of whom the sponsor is the guardian; brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, and grandchildren who are orphans under age 18; and any other relative, if the sponsor has no relative as described above, either abroad or in Canada.

**Government-Assisted Refugees:** People who are selected for resettlement to Canada as Convention Refugees under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act or as members of the Humanitarian-protected Persons Abroad Classes, and who received resettlement assistance from the federal government.

**Nova Scotia Nominee Program:**

An immigration selection program that allows the Province of Nova Scotia to recommend foreign nationals to CIC for permanent residence. Commonly referred to as NSNP.

**Nova Scotia Provincial Nominee:**

A person to whom the NSNP has issued a Certificate of Nomination following an assessment of their application.

**Permanent Resident:** A person who has been approved to live in Canada permanently through Canada's Immigration program.

**Principal Applicant:** The individual who must meet the immigration selection criteria. The spouse, commonlaw, or conjugal partner should apply as a dependent.

**Provincial Nominee:** An immigrant selected by the provinces and territories for specific skills that will contribute to the local economy. The regulations establish a provincial nominee class, allowing provinces and territories that have agreements with CIC to nominate a certain number of workers. A nominee must meet federal admissibility requirements, such as those related to health and security.

**Privately Sponsored Refugees:**

Refugees selected abroad for resettlement to Canada who receive resettlement assistance from private sources.

**Refugee Protection Claimant:** A person who has arrived in Canada and who seeks the protection of Canada. If such a person receives a final determination that they are a Protected Person, they may then apply for permanent residence.



Office of Immigration

1741 Brunswick Street,  
Unit 110A, PO Box 1535

Halifax, NS B3J 2Y3

E: [n SNP@gov.ns.ca](mailto:n SNP@gov.ns.ca)

T: (902) 424-5230

F: (902) 424-7936

## Key Immigration Terms

**Skill Level:** Skill levels for foreign worker occupations are derived from the National Occupational Classification (NOC) system. They are:

- O – Managerial
- A – Professionals
- B – Skilled and Technical
- C – Intermediate and Clerical
- D – Elemental and Labour
- E – Not Stated

**Skilled Worker:** Immigrants selected for their skills, which will ensure their success in a fast-changing labour market and benefit the Canadian economy. The regulations stress education, English- or French language abilities, and work experience involving certain skills, rather than specific occupations.

**Temporary Resident:** A foreign national who is legally in Canada on a temporary basis as a visitor, student, worker, or under a Temporary Resident permit.

**Temporary Resident Entries:** This number is the number of temporary residents identified as entering the CIC administrative system over a period of time, usually a year.

**Temporary Residents Present:** This number is the number of temporary residents present in the CIC administrative system on a specific date (usually reported as of December 1st).

**Temporary Work/Study Permit:** A document issued by a CIC visa or immigration officer allowing a foreign national to work/study temporarily in Canada according to the conditions indicated in the permit.