

This page provides basic information about the BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration “Regional Pilot” program for Gibsons, Sechelt and the Sunshine Coast Regional District

For full details about this category, please refer to the [BC Provincial Government website for the Entrepreneur Immigration - Regional Pilot](#).

To learn more about the Base Category of Entrepreneur Immigration and other Immigration Pathways, please refer to the [BC Provincial Nominee Program website](#).

The Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Organization (SCREDO) is the sole authority responsible for providing referral letters to the BC PNP Regional Pilot Program for the Sunshine Coast Regional District, Gibsons, and Sechelt. **Please refrain from contacting local government directly, they will simply send you back here.**

Sectors and Industries Identified for Strategic Investment

Parties interested in applying through the Regional Pilot category of the Entrepreneur Immigration pathway must align their planned business under one of the approved NAICS codes listed below. There is a minimum investment of \$100K and applicants must secure a community referral letter.

Parties applying under the Base Category of the Entrepreneur Immigration pathway are not restricted to these approved industries. The required minimum investment is \$200K and while letters of support are helpful, none is required.

Please note, identification of approved sectors does not mean there are gaps in services or supply; these are program-supported sectors that match economic priorities and community values. For most businesses, you are entering a competitive market.

Approved Sectors for the entire Coast:

- 541** Professional, scientific and tech services
- 611** Educational services

Additional Sector for Gibsons and Sechelt:

- 713** Amusement and recreation industries

Additional Code for Regional District Electoral Areas:

- 321** Wood product manufacturing

Approved Sector Information

541 Professional, scientific and technical services (Techs and Designers)

This category includes professional services (accountant, architect, engineer, etc.), science-based services and technological services. For professions that require professional registration in the Province of BC, you may begin the application process without registration, but your application will not be sent for final review until proof of registration is provided.

Please note, professional services is a broad category and only proposals that are complementary and beneficial to the Sunshine Coast economy will be invited to apply.

611 Educational services

Our proximity to Vancouver makes us a suitable location for short-term courses and workshops of all kinds. Especially welcome are providers of customer service, communications, and leadership training.

713 Amusement and recreation industries

The Sunshine Coast has many opportunities for outdoor recreational enterprises and a large urban market for them nearby. Enterprises that cater to off-Coast markets are encouraged. Education is a viable component of amusement and recreation. Our tourism organization has identified a demand for 'adventure tourism': facilities such as zip lines, canopy tours, sailing, hiking/guiding, para-sailing, land and water outfitting.

321 Wood product manufacturing

There is a good supply of a variety of different kinds of timber available on the Sunshine Coast.

Added Value Considerations

Businesses on the Southern Sunshine Coast not only prosper financially but thrive by positively impacting and contributing to the social, cultural, and ecological fabric of the communities they serve. This style of business is welcomed on the Southern Sunshine Coast and aligns with other businesses who operate on these same principles.

As part of SCREDO's community referral process, applicants will be expected to demonstrate how their planned investment will create value beyond the single bottom line. For example, applicants may choose to highlight how their business model advances specific [Sustainable Development Goals](#) or how through the operation of their business they will make a positive impact on [social determinants of health](#) in our community.

Applying to the Regional Pilot category of Entrepreneur Immigration

Before considering the Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot, you should familiarize yourself with the program criteria and check your eligibility. Please refer to the [Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot Program Guide](#) for more information, including details on ineligible businesses.

Participating communities may refer foreign entrepreneurs to the BC PNP whose business concept aligns with the community's economic priorities. The foreign entrepreneur must be invited by the community to conduct an exploratory visit and present their concept to the community's designated contact person prior to receiving a referral.

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In order to facilitate this process, SCREDO has implemented the following process that is mandatory for all applicants:

Step 1

Please provide all the following information as **a single downloadable document** (not in the body of an email) and send directly to pnp@scredo.ca. The document should be titled "Regional Pilot: Information Package" and must include:

- Contact information of the applicant (or their agent) including name, email, phone number and address
- IELTS or CELPIP English Test Score
- Applicant's resume
- A brief description (250 words or less) of the type of business the applicant is planning to start in our community (including the 3-digit NAICS and any added value considerations).
- The applicant's self-declared scores from BC PNP Online Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot Registration

*NOTE: The applicant **must** have passed the English language test with the required score **prior** to submitting the information package. Information packages received without the passing score indicated, will be rejected outright.*

After we receive your information package, we will inform you within 7-10 business days if we consider the information package complete.

Applicants are advised to consult the socio-economic data available at investsunshinecoast.ca. The Sunshine Coast has a population of 30,000. It is too small a market for most businesses, meaning markets will have to be found elsewhere.

Step 2

If your package is deemed complete **and if we are interested in your application**, we will send the listed contact an invoice for a \$500 administrative fee.

This fee:

- is **not** refundable;
- is **not** a guarantee of receiving a referral letter; and
- does **not** facilitate access to elected officials.

The fee is a cost recovery requirement so that we have the resources to respond in a timely manner to the large volume of interest we are receiving and to provide the applicant with the attention they deserve while learning about our community's business needs. This fee allows us to assign a business analyst to your request who will review your business plan and provide you with feedback and advice to assist you with your research and planning.

Step 3

Upon receipt of your administration fee, we will contact you to arrange an exploratory visit. This visit is a key part of the application process; it is your opportunity to do primary research about the business you are planning to start and the community your family will call home. To ensure that your visit is productive and helps you to gather the information you need to prepare an effective business plan, it is particularly important that you are clear in Step 1 about the type of business you intend to start. Depending on the nature of your business, we will assist you to contact relevant professionals and business organizations. We will also assist you to find sources of information required for completing the required business plan. Socio-economic information on the Sunshine Coast is available at investsunshinecoast.ca

Step 4

Following the exploratory visit, applicants must submit a business plan. The business plan will be received in confidence and reviewed by our staff, business analyst and review committee. Our review may include recommendations for revisions. Plans that do not pass the first review may be resubmitted after incorporating recommended revisions. If a plan does not pass the second time, no further assistance will be provided by SCREDO, but applicants may enlist the services of a business consultant, at their own expense, for the purpose of improving their business plan.

Step 5

Upon receipt of an approved business plan, SCREDO will, in a timely manner, make its final decision whether to provide a community referral letter to the applicant.