



Yukon Nominee Program 2026

Operational Guidance



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Introduction

The Yukon Nominee Program (YNP) is administered by the Government of Yukon's Department of Economic Development, in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). The YNP responds to Yukon's labour market needs while safeguarding opportunities for Canadians and Permanent Residents.

The YNP is an employer-driven program, meaning only employers can submit applications for year-round and full-time (35-40 hours per week) positions.

There are three streams available:

- Critical Impact Worker – for entry-level jobs
- Skilled Worker – for management positions or jobs that require more education
- Express Entry – for those foreign nationals accepted into the IRCC Express Entry pool.

Employers must:

- Be a permanent resident or citizen of Canada
- Have been operating in the Yukon for at least one year
- Have all current and valid required licences
- Pay the foreign national candidate median wage for the position
- Demonstrate that they have tried to hire Canadians or permanent residents but have been unsuccessful

Foreign nationals must:

- Have valid status to work in Canada
- Have the necessary and documented education, skills and experience to perform the role
- Meet minimum language proficiency requirements for the stream

Note: For all requirements, refer to the [YNP Policy](#).

Allocation

For 2026, the Yukon has received an allocation from IRCC of 282 nominations. These must be used by December 31, 2026 and cannot be carried forward for a future year.

After accounting for Temporary Measure Letter of Support recipients, 85 per cent of remaining nominations will go to Whitehorse-based employers, and 15 per cent to employers in rural communities.

In the first intake period, 75 per cent of the allocation will be allocated, with 25 per cent distributed through the second intake period. Any slots that were not used during the first intake due to withdrawals or refusals, will be reallocated during the second intake.

Example of possible 2026 allocations



2026 Intake Process

1. Eligible employers advertise the position locally and nationally; no qualified Canadian or permanent resident is available.
2. Employer offers full-time, permanent position to eligible foreign national.
3. Employer submits an Expression of Interest (EOI) indicating their interest in applying for the YNP.

4. Government of Yukon assesses all EOIs submitted within the intake period. Points are assigned based on how many priorities the employer and foreign national candidate meet.
5. All employers who submitted EOIs will receive correspondence from Government of Yukon about the outcome of their EOI and whether they are invited to submit an application.
6. If the employer does not receive an invitation to apply, they may submit an EOI during the second intake period.
7. Employers who are invited to apply are required to attend an information session outlining how to fill out the application and meet all requirements.
8. Employers and foreign nationals work together to gather all required documentation, including information to support the statements made in the EOI, to submit a completed application before the deadline.
9. Government of Yukon assesses the application and may request additional information.
10. If Government of Yukon determines that the application does not meet eligibility criteria, or that fraud, misrepresentation or misleading information was submitted, the application may be refused.
11. If the application is approved, both the employer and nominee must attend an in-person meeting to sign a Tri-Partite Agreement (TPA) with the Government of Yukon.
12. Nominee applies for permanent residency to IRCC within 6 months.
13. Employer and nominee must respond and adhere to any requests for monitoring by Government of Yukon and provide timely updates to any change in the employment relationship.
14. Once the nominee gains permanent residency, the YNP file is closed.

Priorities

The following priorities have been set for the YNP for 2026.

1. Yukon's rural communities

Employers in the Yukon's rural communities have unique challenges when seeking to fill critical labour needs. These employers provide the goods and services that keep these communities alive and thriving. However, not everyone is suited to living in a small community, which can make it harder for employers to find the workers they need locally.

New in 2026: We are creating a separate process for Whitehorse and the surrounding area¹ and for rural communities, ensuring that rural employers continue to have access to the program and to the labour they need.

2. Foreign nationals who have settled and established themselves in the Yukon

Retention of individuals who obtain their permanent residency through the YNP is critical to reducing staff turnover rates, creating stability in our labour market and recognizing the value that individuals bring to our communities. Individuals who have lived and worked in the Yukon in full-time employment (35 – 40 hours per week) for at least one year have created a life here; they have created connections in the community and found housing. These individuals are Yukoners, and we want to ensure they can continue to make the Yukon their home.

New in 2026: Those foreign national candidates who have lived and worked in the Yukon for a longer period of time will receive additional points and increase their chances of being invited to apply to the YNP.

3. Yukon University graduates

International students who have completed a program at Yukon University, like those who have lived and worked in the territory for more than a year, are settled in our communities. Studies have shown that those who seek permanent residency in the province or territory that they attended a post-secondary institution are more likely to remain in the territory.

¹ Including Ibex Valley, Marsh Lake, Mount Lorne, Hidden Valley, Grizzly Valley, Mendenhall

4. Francophone/French-speaking

In January 2024, Canada announced several initiatives to support Francophone immigration outside of Québec, including the *Policy on Francophone Immigration*². This policy seeks to have expanded presence of thriving Francophone communities across Canada. This policy led to the following targets for the number of French-speaking permanent residents outside Québec in the 2026-2028 Immigration Levels Plan: 9% in 2026, 9.5% in 2027 and 10.5% in 2028.

In addition, the Yukon has long recognized the economic, social, cultural and demographic opportunities that French-speaking immigrants bring to the territory. As the third-most bilingual jurisdiction in Canada, the vibrant Yukon Francophone community is a valued and important part of our thriving and diverse multicultural population. The ongoing attraction of bilingual nominees is important to provide services to support our Francophone community.

New in 2026: IRCC has indicated that any nominees that meet a minimum requirement of CLB/NCLC 5 in French across all four competencies (i.e. speaking, reading, listening and writing) through the *Test d'évaluation du français* or *Test de connaissance du français* will not be counted as part of the YNP allocation.

5. Temporary Measure Letter of Support recipients

Through collaboration with IRCC, the Yukon was able to offer a temporary measure for prospective YNP candidates that allowed them to seek a new, up to 2-year, Yukon-specific work permit. This allowed foreign nationals who have settled in the territory to remain here until they are able to apply to the YNP.

As part of our agreement with the Government of Canada, the Government of Yukon must nominate eligible foreign nationals who received a Temporary Measure Letter of Support from the territory and used it to receive a new work permit from IRCC, in 2025 or 2026.

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/francophone-immigration-strategy-2024.html>



New in 2026: Temporary Measure Letter of Support recipients will have a separate intake period where they can submit their applications for the YNP.

6. Regulated healthcare professions

To help meet the healthcare needs of Yukoners, recruitment of internationally educated health professionals may play a role in maintaining and expanding local services.

New in 2026: Employers seeking to use the YNP for [Yukon-regulated healthcare professions](#) will need to submit an Expression of Interest.

Expression of Interest Intakes

Note: Expressions of interest must be filled out by the employer.

In response to feedback received in 2025, there will be two EOI intakes in 2026:

January 19 – 9:00 am Yukon Time until January 30 – 4:30 pm Yukon Time

July 6 – 9:00 am Yukon Time until July 17 – 4:30 pm Yukon Time

The EOI online web form will ask the employer to indicate the following:

Question	Documentation required to be provided with the YNP application – detailed instructions are in the Application Handbook
Did the employer submit an expression of interest in 2025?	[To be confirmed by YNP]
Did the employer receive an invitation to apply in 2025?	[To be confirmed by YNP]
Select the municipality or unincorporated community where the foreign national will work.	Business licence, Yukon Corporate Online Registry, business insurance

Which Yukon Nominee Program stream do you intend to apply to?	
Enter the National Occupational Classification that applies to this position	
When did the foreign national start living and working full-time hours (35 to 40 hours per week) without interruption in the Yukon?	Paystubs by a Yukon-based employer
Is the foreign national francophone/French-speaking?	Language test results taken in French achieving at least CLB/NCLC 5 across all four competencies
Is the foreign national a Yukon University graduate?	Yukon University certificate/diploma/degree
Is the foreign national currently in Canada on a work or study permit?	Work or study permit and/or IRCC letter
Is the foreign national a health care worker, under one of the Yukon-regulated healthcare professions?	

Any discrepancies between information submitted during the EOI and full YNP applications, if invited to apply, may be grounds for refusal of your application and future restriction from using the YNP.



Assessment of EOIs

The following scoring grid will be used for all EOIs received:

Francophone/French-speaking	5
YukonU graduates	1
Resident (living & working)	
>1 yr	1
>2 yr	2
>3 yr	3
>4 yr	4
2025	
EOI, but not invited	2
No EOI	1
EOI, invited to apply	0
Regulated healthcare	8

The top scoring EOIs will be invited to apply in each round.

When selecting between submissions that receive an equal score, those who have been living and working for the longest consecutive time in the Yukon will be selected first. If a further “tie breaker” is required, those with work permits that expire the soonest will be selected.

Dates	
January 19 – 30	EOI Intake #1
February 9 – 13	First round of invitations to apply sent.
February 16 or February 18	Information session for those employers invited to apply in Round #1

March 4	Applications from first round due.
July 6 – 17	EOI Intake #2
August 3 - 7	Second round of invitations to apply sent.
August 10 or August 12	Information session for those employers invited to apply in Round #2 ³
August 26	Applications from second round due.

Invitations to Apply

If you receive an invitation to apply (ITA) to the YNP for 2026, you must submit a full and complete application that supports the information in your EOI within the identified timeline. If we do not receive your application by the deadline, your invitation to apply will be withdrawn.

The ability to assess your application is based on whether you have provided the required and relevant documents and information. If you do not respond to requests for additional information and documents within identified timelines, your application may be refused.

Applications will only be accepted for the specific foreign national that was identified in the invitation to apply.

Invitations are only valid for the specific 2026 intake noted in the invitation to apply and cannot be deferred, transferred or applied to any future intake.

³ All employers who receive an invitation to apply in Round #2 must attend the information session, regardless of if they attended a Round #1 information session.

Compliance and monitoring

The Department of Economic Development may undertake monitoring for the purposes of ensuring program integrity, protecting worker rights, supporting employers and meeting reporting requirements with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Foreign nationals and employers are expected to provide requested information in a timely manner.

Any information provided by a foreign national or employer that is found to be falsified or purposely incorrect will result in the foreign national no longer being eligible for nomination under the YNP. Any fraud, misrepresentation or misleading information from an employer or foreign national will disqualify them from participating in Yukon immigration programs.

Q&As

Who can submit an Expression of Interest?

EOIs are submitted by Yukon employers who are interested in submitting a YNP application in 2026. Foreign nationals are not eligible to apply, even if they have the consent of their employer.

How can I submit an application if I, or my foreign national candidate, don't receive an invitation to apply?

Only those employers selected through the EOI may submit applications to the YNP in 2026. Given the demand for nominations and the need to apply the same eligibility criteria for all employers, which is essential for fairness and program integrity, we are unable to consider exceptions to this approach.



How long will it take for you to process my application after I submit it?

We do not have an estimated time for how long an application takes for processing. This intake approach results in a large volume of applications being received at the same time. This means that some applications will be assessed sooner than others. All applications received in 2026 must be assessed by December 31, 2026.

In order to ensure your application is processed as quickly as possible, make sure to include all required information and documents with your application when you submit. If we request additional information/documents, it is critical that you provide the information/documents within the identified timeline. If we do not have all the information/documents required to assess your application, it may be refused.

I received a temporary measure letter of support for a new work permit. How do I submit my application?

Separate intakes will be available to those who received a temporary measure letter of support. Monitor your email and yukon.ca for updates on when this will occur.

I'm a foreign national. Can the Immigration Branch give me an update on the status of an EOI or a YNP application?

EOIs and applications are submitted by employers. We are unable to speak to foreign nationals about the status of an application. Only an employer or their designated representative may inquire about this information.

How do I show that I've tried to hire Canadians or permanent residents but have been unsuccessful?

The application will ask you about recruitment efforts, including:

- what platforms you used to advertise
- how many Canadians/permanent residents applied
- how many Canadians/permanent residents were interviewed
- why the Canadians/permanent residents not hired

The application will also ask how many of your full-time employees are foreign workers, active YNP nominees, and whether you have released any Canadian, permanent resident, or foreign workers from this position in the last 12 months.

It is the employer's responsibility to demonstrate that they have adequately considered alternate hiring options, such as hiring part-time employees and offering training opportunities for those who are under-skilled.

Will I be notified if I am not selected to receive an Invitation to Apply?

All employers who submit an EOI will be notified of the outcome of scoring and whether they have been invited to submit a YNP application for this intake.

How do I extend my work permit?

Work permits and visas are the responsibility of the Government of Canada, IRCC. Government of Yukon and the YNP are unable to provide guidance or support related to federally administered authorizations.

Is there a fee to apply for this program?

There is not a fee to apply to the YNP in 2026.

I'm a foreign national who works for Government of Yukon. Can they submit a YNP application for me?

Government of Yukon does not currently use the YNP to recruit for government positions.

I received an invitation to apply; how do I submit my application?

Follow the instructions provided in the invitation to apply. Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be accepted.



Can I submit the application in-person or is it online only?

All applications must be submitted in hard copy format, either in-person or by mail.

Follow the instructions provided in the invitation to apply.

Can I edit the application once I have submitted it?

If any information submitted in the application has changed, employers should contact the YNP by emailing yukon.nominee@yukon.ca. This includes changes to contact information or new documents received by IRCC.

Can I withdraw my application after submitting it?

If you wish to withdraw an application that has been submitted, email yukon.nominee@yukon.ca.

Can I change my employer during the process?

Invitations to apply are sent to an employer for a specific foreign national. If the foreign national no longer works for that employer, that invitation cannot be used. Employers cannot substitute the invitation for an alternate individual, nor can a foreign national change employers and use the same invitation to apply.

What if my employer refuses to submit an EOI or YNP application for me? Can I submit my own?

The YNP is an employer-driven program and does not influence whether an employer decides to submit an EOI or an application to the program. All EOIs and applications must be submitted by the employer. Foreign nationals without a sponsoring employer are not eligible for the YNP.

What happens if my application is rejected?

Each application is different. You may be able to apply again in a future intake period.

Please confirm your specific circumstances with the Immigration Branch.



Can the foreign national change positions within the company?

Yes, the foreign national may change positions within the organization. However, the minimum required experience for the position must be met (6 months for Critical Impact Workers, 12 months for Skilled Workers).

