



Application Guide for the Farm Owner/Operator Category Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP)

This Application Guide outlines the requirements for Applicants to the Farm Owner/Operator Category of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP). It includes all the instructions necessary for preparing a complete application package, as well as information about eligibility criteria and program requirements. Please carefully review the application guide before submitting an application.

Effective as of June 26, 2020

For more information, please contact:

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I. What is the SINP?

The **Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP)** is a provincial immigration program made possible through an agreement with the federal government known as the [Canada-Saskatchewan Immigration Agreement, 2005](#).

The SINP can provide newcomers an alternate and quicker means of entry into Canada. It allows Saskatchewan to nominate applicants, who qualify under criteria established by the province, to the federal government for landed immigrant status. The SINP offers:

- The ability to select applicants whose skills and abilities best fit the province's needs;
- Application processing times that are faster than other federal immigration classes; and
- Assistance from Provincial Immigration Officers who are readily available to explain program requirements and processes.

The SINP **Farm Owner/Operator category** offers Applicants and their families the opportunity to purchase and operate a farm in Saskatchewan.

Nominations are granted at the sole discretion of the Province of Saskatchewan. If an Applicant is nominated by the SINP, he or she is eligible to apply for Permanent Residence with [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada \(IRCC\)](#) as a Provincial Nominee. IRCC then reviews health, security and criminality and issues visas to the Nominee and the Nominee's dependent family members. The SINP is not responsible for IRCC's decision to grant or deny Permanent Residence (PR) status.

How the SINP Farm Owner/Operator Category Works

Step 1: The Applicant makes a mandatory exploratory visit to Saskatchewan.

- The visit must be no less than five business days and the applicant must demonstrate completing business research and meeting relevant stakeholders during the visit and provide details of their previous relevant farm operation experience and the research they have conducted into their proposed farming operation. Please see Appendix D.

Step 2: An application that includes all documents outlined in the updated SINP Farm Owner/Operator Category Document Checklist is sent to the SINP office for processing.

- The application is received by the SINP office and is issued an SINP file number. If the application does not include all required documents, it may be closed.
- Once the applicant has received a file number, the applicant then sends all forms and documents outlined in the Third Party Document Checklist that support the claimed net worth and accumulation of funds recorded on SINP form EF-002 and IRCC form IMM008 Schedule 4A to a third party Financial Verification provider identified by the SINP for assessment.
- The Third Party Financial Verification provider assesses this information against the net worth and accumulation of funds criteria.
- If required, the Third Party financial verification provider will request additional documentation and/or an interview to verify information within the application.

- Once the assessment and verification is completed by the Third Party Financial Verification provider, they will provide a Third Party Verification Report to both the applicant and the SINP.

Step 3: Once the SINP has received a Third Party Verification Report from both the applicant and their Third Party Financial Verification provider, the SINP will submit a request for the applicant to pay the \$2,500 Canadian Dollars (CAD) non-refundable processing fee. The applicant must pay this fee within twenty (20) days of the request or the application will be closed.

- Once the non-refundable processing fee is received, the SINP will begin assessment of the application against program criteria.
- The SINP may request additional documentation and/or a follow-up interview to verify information included in the application.
- The SINP may make a decision at any time after Third Party verification report and fee receipt.
- If the application is approved, the SINP will invite the Applicant to sign and date a *Business Performance Agreement* and submit the \$75,000 CAD Good Faith Deposit.
- If the *Business Performance Agreement* and *Good Faith Deposit* have been received prior to the deadline stipulated within the request letter, the SINP will nominate the Applicant and:
 - Send the Applicant's nomination to IRCC;
 - Send a nomination letter to the Applicant with instructions on how to forward their application to the appropriate IRCC visa office; and

If requested, the SINP may issue a Temporary Work Permit (TWP) support letter provided that the applicant is able to demonstrate that they are business ready and will make an immediate and significant positive impact on Saskatchewan's economy.

To be eligible for a TWP Support Letter, the applicant must provide the SINP with:

- a copy of the farmland sale/purchase agreement, or
- proof of exemption from the Farmland Security Board permitting the purchase of land by a foreign national who is not a Permanent Resident or Citizen.

Step 4: After being notified of their nomination, the Applicant applies to IRCC as a provincial nominee.

- IRCC considers the application with the nomination information provided by the SINP.
- If the Applicant meets IRCC's health, security and criminality criteria, they will issue Permanent Resident Visas to the Applicant and their accompanying family members.

Step 5: All approved or nominated applicants must attend an arrival/landing meeting within 90 days of entering Canada.

- Upon arrival/landing the applicant must begin the process of establishing their approved farming operation.
- Approved applicants on TWPs or nominated applicants who can demonstrate a minimum of six (6) months of active farm operation are eligible to apply for the return of their GFD.
- Applicants on TWPs who have been approved for the return of their deposit are required to continue to fulfill the terms of their performance agreement until they have obtained

PR status. Applicants who fail to continue to fulfill their performance agreement terms while waiting for PR may have their nomination revoked.

II. Eligibility Requirements

Farm Owner/Operator Category

Applicants are required to meet SINP Farm Owner/Operator (Farm hereafter) category criteria to be considered for nomination, including:

1. A minimum net worth of \$500,000 CAD verified to a minimum of 80% certainty by a Ministry approved professional third party prior to SINP application;
2. Accumulation of claimed net worth through legal means, verified to a minimum of 80% certainty by a Ministry approved professional third party prior to SINP application;
3. A minimum three years relevant Farm operation knowledge and experience;
4. A minimum score of at least 55 points on the Farm Owner/Operator Category Intent Grid
5. Submission of viable and researched commercial farming proposal where the applicant intends to actively invest a minimum of \$150,000 CAD
 - Applicants must own a minimum of one-third (33.33%) of the business. Applicants proposing a partnership farming operation who will own less than one-third of the business must make a minimum investment of \$1 million CAD.

Young Farmer Stream

Applicants under 40 years of age are eligible to meet the SINP Farm category's amended criteria to be considered for nomination under the Young Farmer Stream, including:

1. A minimum net worth of \$300,000 CAD verified to a minimum of 80% certainty by a Ministry approved professional third party prior to SINP application;
2. Accumulation of claimed net worth through legal means, verified to a minimum of 80% certainty by a Ministry approved professional third party prior to SINP application;
3. A minimum three years relevant Farm operation knowledge and experience;
4. A minimum score of at least 55 points on the Farm Owner/Operator Category Intent Grid
5. Submission of viable and researched commercial farming proposal where the applicant intends to actively invest a minimum of \$150,000 CAD;
 - Applicants must own a minimum of one-third (33.33%) of the business. Applicants proposing a partnership farming operation who will own less than one-third of the business must make a minimum investment of \$1 million CAD.
6. If applicable, the applicant's accompanying spouse/common-law partner must have marketable employment skills, based on education and experience, which will enable the applicant to supplement his or her farming income.

Any Applicant may be ineligible for provincial nomination and/or immigration to Canada, if:

- The Applicant does not meet one or more of the eligibility criteria listed above;
- The Applicant or any dependent family member (accompanying or not) has a serious medical condition;

- The Applicant or any dependent family member over the age of 18 (accompanying or not) has a criminal record;
- The Applicant has unresolved custody or child support disputes affecting any member of his or her family;
- The Applicant has intentionally committed misrepresentation during the application process; and/or
- The Applicant has intentionally committed fraud during the application process.

Verified Net Worth

Net worth refers to the value of an Applicant's total assets, including the value of their spouse or accompanying dependents, less the value of his or her total liabilities. For Applicants to meet this criterion of the Farm category:

- Applicants must have a net worth that retains a value of at least \$500,000 CAD (\$300,000 CAD for Young Farmer Stream); and
- The Third Party Financial Verification provider must substantiate that the claimed net worth exists and is legally owned by the Applicant.

The Third Party Financial Verification provider will assess an Applicant's net worth based on the information requested in the Farm Category Document Checklist.

The Third Party Financial Verification provider will also consider the value of assets and liabilities owned by the Applicant's spouse and any accompanying dependents.

If the Applicant does not meet this criterion, the application will be refused and the Applicant will not be eligible to apply again to the SINP Entrepreneur Category for two (2) years.

Accumulation of Net Worth

Accumulation of net worth refers to the means by which an Applicant obtained his or her entire claimed net worth. "Claimed Net Worth" refers to the amount of net worth indicated by the Applicant in the *Schedule 4A: Economic Classes – Provincial Nominees – Business Nominees*. For Applicants to meet this criterion of the Farm category:

- The Applicant must demonstrate, through documentation, that their claimed net worth was accumulated legally to a minimum of 80% certainty.
- The Third Party Financial Verification provider must substantiate that Applicant's claimed net worth has been obtained by legal means, to a minimum of 80% certainty.

The Third Party Financial Verification provider will assess the accumulation of the Applicant and any spouse or accompanying dependent's net worth based on the information requested in the Farm Category Document Checklist.

If the Applicant does not meet this criterion, the application will be refused and the Applicant will not be eligible to apply again to the SINP Entrepreneur Category for two (2) years.

Relevant Farm Operation Knowledge and Experience

Farm operation knowledge and experience refers to an Applicant's verified experience and/or active ownership of a farming operation. Relevant farm operation knowledge and experience refers to an Applicant's prior experience with actively operating a farm using agricultural practices similar to those utilized in Saskatchewan-based farming. Owning agricultural land, a farming corporation or business related to the agricultural sector without active operation does not qualify as relevant farm knowledge and experience, but may qualify as relevant experience under the SINP Entrepreneur category. Such farming experience must reflect at least one of the variations of farming identified by the Ministry of Agriculture, including:

Crops

Cereals

- Wheat
- Barley
- Oats
- Rye
- Triticale

Oilseeds

- Canola
- Flax
- Mustard
- Sunflower
- Camelina

Pulse Crops

- Lentil
- Pea
- Chickpea
- Bean
- Faba Bean

Specialty Crops

- Herbs/Spices
- Apiculture
- Canaryseed
- Wild Rice
- Hemp
- Other Crops

Forage

- Annual
- Native
- Perennial

Horticulture

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Potatoes

Livestock

- Cattle
- Cow/Calf
- Backgrounding
- Finishing
- Dairy

Monogastric

- Pork

Other Livestock

- Bison
- Sheep/Goats
- Elk/Deer
- Poultry

Forage

- Pastures/Grazing
- Hay/Silage

For Applicants to meet this criterion of the Farm category:

- The Applicant must demonstrate, through documentation (e.g. education and training, work experience, financial documents), that they have experience as a knowledgeable farm owner/operator. Farm labour experience does not qualify unless accompanied by ownership and management experience;
- The Applicant must demonstrate how their farm knowledge and experience relate to owning and actively operating a farm in Saskatchewan through the submitted *Résumé* (see [Appendix A](#)) and *Farm Establishment Plan* (see [Appendix B](#)); and

- The Applicant's other work experience (if applicable) including job title, place of employment, responsibilities and business skills must be described clearly in the *Résumé*.

The SINP will assess the Applicant's claimed farm knowledge and experience based on the *Résumé*, *Farm Establishment Plan*, and the supporting documentation provided by the Applicant.

If the Applicant is deemed to have not met the minimum farm operation knowledge and experience criterion, the Applicant is deemed "ineligible".

Applicants that are deemed ineligible based on this criterion should only re-apply once they have satisfied the requirements of this criterion.

Farm Proposal Viability and Eligibility

Farm proposal viability refers to the feasibility of establishing the proposed farming operation in Saskatchewan. For Applicants to meet this criterion of the Farm category:

- The Applicant's proposal must be deemed to illustrate intent to reside in Saskatchewan, as per the requirements of the [Farm Land Security Board's](#) farm ownership exemption qualifications¹.
- The Applicant's proposal eligibility must align with the farm variations/sectors practiced in Saskatchewan, outlined in Relevant Farm Experience and Knowledge section.
 - Applicant's proposing agri-businesses not included in the list of Saskatchewan farm variations, such as Greenhouses or hydroponic/aquaponics operations are not eligible under the Farm category, but may be eligible under the Entrepreneur category.
- The Applicant's proposal must also illustrate the applicant's understanding of the proposed agricultural sector in Saskatchewan, demonstrating research and consultations conducted with relevant stakeholders relating to accepted farming practices, current industry conditions and outlook, and broad expectations of outcomes.

The SINP will assess an Applicant's Farm proposal's viability based on the information provided in the *Farm Establishment Plan* as well as the supporting documentation provided by the Applicant. This information must be verified by SINP officials to merit eligibility.

Non-Canadian residents may own land only if approved for exemption from the [Saskatchewan Farm Security Act, 1988](#) by the Farm Land Security Board.

Note: Farms that have been owned and/or operated by a current or former SINP Nominee are not eligible for the SINP Farm Owner/Operator Category.

Intent

Intent refers to the Applicant's demonstrated genuine interest to actively invest and operate a Farm in Saskatchewan and to reside in Saskatchewan. For Applicants to meet this criterion of the Farm Owner/Operator category:

¹ Non-Canadian residents may own land only if approved for exemption from the [Saskatchewan Farm Security Act, 1988](#) by the Farm Land Security Board.

- The Applicant must be assessed to have earned a minimum of fifty-five (55) “points” using the *Farm Applicant Intent Grading Criteria* (see Appendix C).

The SINP will assess an Applicant’s intent based on the information provided their *Farm Establishment Plan* as well as the supporting documentation provided by the Applicant. This information must be verified by SINP officials to merit the award of “points”.

If the Applicant is deemed to have not met the minimum point score, the Applicant is deemed “ineligible” and able to re-apply when they choose. Please note that Applicants that are deemed ineligible based on this criterion should only re-apply once they have satisfied the requirements of this criterion

III. Application Process

Before formally applying to the SINP, the Applicant should thoroughly review this *Application Guide* to ensure that he or she:

- Meets the eligibility criteria;
- Is able to access and prepare the required forms and documents for the application; and;
- Is prepared to comply with the requirements and steps involved in the application process, including the non-refundable \$2,500 CAD processing fee, the \$75,000 CAD deposit, and fulfilling the requirements of the program.

Make an Exploratory Visit to Saskatchewan

Before applying to the SINP, the Applicant must make an exploratory visit to Saskatchewan. During the exploratory visit, the Applicant is required to:

- Stay in Saskatchewan for no less than five (5) business days;
- Conduct comprehensive research through meetings with service professionals; and

Applicants must submit an Exploratory Visit Report (Appendix D) within their application that documents the activities and research completed during their visit.

The exploratory visit must have been completed within no longer than one (1) year prior to application submission.

The SINP will not provide the Applicant a Letter of Invitation for this visit.

Prepare the Application

The Applicant is required to submit **all** documents listed in the SINP Farm Category [Application Document Checklist](#). The Applicant must use this checklist as he or she prepares the application.

If the Applicant is a resident or citizen of a country within the [Country Specific Checklist](#), he or she must also include the documents required for this country in the application.

Document Translation

All documentation must be provided in either English or French. When documents are in a language other than English or French, the Applicant must submit a photocopy of the original document as well as a photocopy of its translation.

To be eligible for application, translations must be conducted by any person other than the Principal Applicant's spouse, a member of the Principal Applicant's family, or a paid third party that has prepared the Principal Applicant's application to the SINP. A [Translator Affidavit](#) that describes the ability of the translator must also be included in the application.

Some Canadian immigration visa offices may require that documents be translated by a certified translator. While the SINP does not make the same requirement, it is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that translations meet all federal requirements.

Who to include in an Application

The Principal Applicant is the individual who is applying to the SINP to own and operate a farm in Saskatchewan.

Family members of the Principal Applicant may be included as part of his or her application for nomination. The following family members are eligible for consideration:

- Spouse
 - The individual married to the Principal Applicant.

If married in Canada, the application must include a marriage certificate issued by the province or territory where the marriage took place.

If married outside of Canada, The marriage must be valid under the law of the country where it took place and under Canadian law².

- Common-Law Partner (either of the opposite sex or same sex)
 - The Principal Applicant and their common-law partner has been living with in a conjugal relationship for at least one year in a continuous 12-month period that was not interrupted.

² A marriage performed in an embassy or consulate must comply with the law of the country where it took place, not the country of nationality of the embassy or consulate.

The application must include proof that the Principal Applicant and his or her common-law partner have combined their affairs and established a household together.

- Dependent Children
 - A dependent son or daughter of the Principal Applicant

A child is considered dependent if he or she:

- Is under the age of 22 and does not have a spouse or common-law partner; and,
- Is over the age of 22 and has depended largely on the parent's financial support since before the age of 22 because of a physical or mental condition.

After nomination, an employee of the Principal Applicant's current farming operation can apply as an accompanying Farm Employee. This is a separate online application to the SINP Skilled Worker category. Only those employees that are currently employed by the Principal Applicant and can provide documentation supporting their employment are eligible.

- An accompanying employee must submit a skilled worker application as the Principal Applicant that includes all the required documents and information within the [SINP Skilled Workers Category Checklist](#) to the SINP.
 - The Principal Applicant of the Farm category application must provide a letter of offer to the accompanying employee, for application processing. The letter of offer should include a reference to the employer's nomination as an SINP Farm Owner/Operator.
 - The skilled worker application will only be processed after the Farm Category Principal Applicant has been approved and has received an SINP Nomination number.

Passports

Passports for the Principal Applicant and all accompanying family members must be submitted as **photocopies**. These photocopies must include passport pages showing the passport number, date of issue and expiry date, photo, name, date, place of birth, and all pages showing exit and entry stamps.

If the Applicant or a dependent family member lives in a country that is different than his or her nationality, a photocopy of his or her valid travel document for the current country of residence must be included.

The expiry date of each passport should be at least two (2) years from the date that the application is received by the SINP.

Submit the Application

Applications may be submitted by courier or in person to:

**Government of Saskatchewan
Immigration Services Division**
Farm Unit
Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program
225 – 1st Avenue North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan CANADA S7K 0K1

Applicants are required to provide an active personal email address that can be used to communicate with SINP Officials.

SINP Application Review and Assessment

Intake

The Applicant will receive a *Letter of Receipt* and file number once the SINP has received his or her application.

Pre-Screening

The application is screened for completeness to ensure that only those applications that are complete in accordance with the *Application Document Checklist* and *Country Specific Checklist* (where applicable) are accepted for assessment by the SINP.

- If an application is considered complete, the Applicant will receive a letter with an SINP file number and directions for submitting the required documents to the Third Party Financial Verification provider, as per the Third Party Farm Category Checklist, for assessment. by the applicant's chosen Third Party Financial Verification provider.
- Applicants will have one (1) year from the date of this letter to have their Third Party Financial Verification provider complete the assessment of their finances and submit the final Third Party Verification Report to the SINP. Third Party Verification Reports not received by this date will be closed.
- If an application is considered to be incomplete, the Applicant is sent an *Incomplete Application* letter. This letter will indicate what documents are needed to meet pre-screening requirements. The application will not be returned to the Applicant.

Application Processing Fee

Once the SINP receives the final Third Party Verification Report from both the applicant and the applicant's chosen Third Party Financial Verification provider that confirms the applicant meets net worth and legal accumulation criteria, the SINP will send the Applicant a letter with instructions on how to submit the \$2,500 CAD non-refundable application process fee. Once the SINP receives confirmation that the application fee has been paid, the application is accepted for assessment.

Assessment and Interview

The SINP assesses the application and supporting documents, including the Third Party Verification Report, against program, policy, eligibility criteria and requirements in place at the time of application submission. The SINP may make a decision at any time after the receipt of the application fee and complete application materials.

The SINP may request additional information, if further documentation is required to assess the application. The Applicant will receive a letter outlining what information must be provided, with a deadline to submit the required information or documents. If the required documentation is not received by the deadline, the application will be closed.

The SINP may issue a request for an interview with the Applicant, if further information or clarification is required to assess the application. Interview requests will be made at the discretion of the reviewing Officer.

The SINP will provide as much notice of the required interview as possible, and will provide two available interview dates. The Applicant must respond to the interview request within the time stipulated in the request. If an in-person interview is not possible and the Applicant has provided information detailing the reasons they are not able to attend the interview in-person, alternative arrangements can be made at the discretion of the SINP, on a case-by-case basis.

Following the review process, the SINP will notify the Applicant of the outcome of the assessment.

- If an application is approved for nomination, the Applicant is sent a *Nomination Approval and Request for Deposit* letter and a *Business Performance Agreement*. This letter will provide instruction on how to make the refundable \$75,000 CAD *Good Faith Deposit* by wire transfer and details with regard to the requirements of the *Business Performance Agreement*.
- Applicants are refused if they fail to meet program criteria related to net worth and legal accumulation of funds. Applicants that are refused are sent a *Letter of Refusal* and are prohibited from reapplying for a period of two (2) years.
- Applicants are ineligible if they fail to meet program criteria related to relevant experience and/or intent. Applicants that are ineligible are sent a *Letter of Ineligibility* and are eligible to reapply at any time.

The deposit must be received within three (3) months of the issuance of the *Nomination Approval and Request for Deposit* letter, or the application will be close.

Nomination

Once the Applicant returns the signed and dated *Business Performance Agreement* to the SINP and the SINP confirms that the *Good Faith Deposit* has been received, the Applicant is nominated.

The SINP will send the Applicant a nomination package including a *Confirmation of Nomination* letter and information on how to proceed with an Application for Permanent Resident Status with IRCC. If requested by the Applicant, the SINP may also issue a *Temporary Work Permit*

Support letter, which will provide the Applicant the opportunity to land in Saskatchewan earlier to begin preparations for his or her farm establishment.

The SINP sends a *Nomination Certificate* to the appropriate IRCC Visa Post. Certificates are valid for six (6) months and nominees are encouraged to apply for Permanent Resident status immediately upon receiving the SINP nomination package. Nominees who fail to apply for PR before the expiration of their certificate may have their nomination revoked and their application closed.

After Nomination

Applying for Permanent Residence

After receiving a notification of nomination from the SINP, the Applicant is responsible for submitting an Application for Permanent Residence to IRCC.

The *Confirmation of Nomination* letter includes detailed instructions on how to apply to the appropriate Visa Post. The Applicant must submit his or her Application for Permanent Residence to IRCC at the Visa Post specified in the *Confirmation of Nomination* letter.

IRCC conducts security, criminality and health checks and screens applications for misrepresentation. IRCC will send instructions on medical examinations and may require additional documentation. In some cases, the Applicant may be required to attend an interview.

If the Applicant meets all federal requirements, IRCC issues Permanent Residence Visas for the Applicant and his or her accompanying family members.

Landing in Saskatchewan

Once an Applicant has arrived in Saskatchewan, they are required to attend a *Landing Interview* with an SINP Official or designated service provider within 90 days of landing. The Applicant can request this interview by emailing saskentrepreneur@gov.sk.ca.

Following the interview, the SINP continues to be available to the Applicant and provides referrals to information and guidance related to the establishment their farm from relevant business service providers.

The Applicant is encouraged to use the settlement services available in Saskatchewan. Applicants can access government funded settlement services through various [Regional Newcomer Gateways](#). These organizations are welcoming centers for newcomers to Saskatchewan that provide language assessment services, career and employment services (for the Applicant's accompanying family members), and guidance and advice from a Settlement Coordinator. These Regional Newcomer Gateways can also connect the Applicant to community and ethno-cultural groups.

Changes to Business Performance Agreements

Applicants may request to change the terms of their Business Performance Agreement (BPA)

after arriving and completing the Landed Meeting. Applicants must complete the *Application to Change Business Performance Agreement* form found on the website and include all required supporting documentation. Any changes to the BPA must be approved by the SINP in writing to be eligible. Applicants who fail to fulfill the terms of their SINP-approved BPA, or receive approval to amend the terms of their original BPA will have their Deposit retained.

BPA change requests will only be considered when the proposed new farming venture has been adequately researched and detailed documentation is provided. A sector change will only be eligible if it will still be considered within the Farm category. A change request to a sector in the Entrepreneur category will not be approved.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate genuine attempts to purchase or establish the farm as per their original BPA and must provide detailed documentation to demonstrate that they have made a fair attempt to fulfil their original BPA, or clearly outline why the original business proposal is no longer viable in their intended location.

Applicants will also be required to explain what obstacles they have encountered and what they have done to try to overcome these obstacles.

The SINP is not required to approve BPA change requests and applicants are not guaranteed to receive approval for a BPA change despite meeting program criteria.

BPA change requests must continue to meet program criteria to be eligible.

- If the Applicant requires an extension to their *Business Performance Agreement*, the application form must be submitted no later than 90 days prior to the deadline set forth in the agreement.
- Changes to the investment amount cannot be less than 70% of the original amount.

BPA change requests are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Return of the Good Faith Deposit

An Applicant must apply for their *Good Faith Deposit* to be returned. Application for the Return of the Good Faith Deposit may be made:

- Within two (2) years of the nominee Applicant landing in Saskatchewan;
- When all terms of the *Business Performance Agreement* have been met; and
- When the Applicant can demonstrate that he or she has actively operated the relevant Saskatchewan-based farm for a minimum period of six (6) months.
 - Active and ongoing management must be demonstrated. Any break in management or leave from Saskatchewan for an extended period of time may result in the Application for Deposit Refund to be closed.

The Applicant must submit an [Application for Deposit Refund Request](#) as well as all required documentation to verify that the terms of the *Business Performance Agreement* have been met. The SINP assesses the *Application for Deposit Refund Request* using the criteria set within the *Business Performance Agreement*.

- If the SINP determines that all conditions for deposit return have been met, it will return to the Applicant the \$75,000 Good Faith Deposit and any interest accumulated on the deposit. The Applicant is responsible for providing updated contact information to the financial institution to facilitate this transaction.
- If the SINP determines that the conditions for return have not been met, the Applicant will be advised of the outstanding criteria that she or he must meet before the deposit will be returned.
- If the SINP determines that the Applicant, through fault of their own, does not complete the process to become a Permanent Resident, land in Saskatchewan, or meet the conditions of the *Business Performance Agreement*, the SINP will retain the *Good Faith Deposit* and any interest accumulated on the deposit.
- If the SINP determines that the Applicant purposefully misrepresented him or herself and/or committed fraud to obtain permanent residence, the SINP will retain the *Good Faith Deposit* and any interest accumulated on the deposit.

In the event that the Applicant has not applied for the return of the *Good Faith Deposit* before the deadline set forth in their *Business Performance Agreement*, the SINP sends the Applicant a *Procedural Fairness* letter, 60 days prior to the expiration of the agreement. This letter alerts the Applicant to the deadline and states the *Good Faith Deposit* will be retained by the SINP if the Applicant fails to fulfill the terms of their *Business Performance Agreement*.

This deposit is also refundable should the Applicant be approved for Nomination and they are unable to accept the Nomination for Humanitarian reasons. Humanitarian reasons include, but are not limited to, circumstances in which:

- The Applicant and/or accompanying family members would endure hardship if they were to travel and/or leave their home country due to circumstances related to personal divorce, a death in the immediate family or other mitigating circumstances;
- The Applicant and/or accompanying family members would endure hardship if they were to travel and/or leave their home country due to personal or family related medical circumstances; or,
- The Applicant and/or accompanying family members would endure financial hardship if they were to travel and/or leave their home country due to circumstances related to contractual agreements regarding the sale or divestment of current financial holdings.

IV. Immigration Representatives and Designated Individuals

A representative is someone who has the Applicant's permission to conduct business on his or her behalf, including assistance with his or her application to IRCC once the SINP has approved the Applicant as a Provincial Nominee and continuing to work on behalf of the Applicant until the end of the SINP Farm process, when the *Good Faith Deposit* is released or retained.

Representatives can be either paid or unpaid. An unpaid representative is a person or organization that does not charge a fee for their representation. This could be a friend or family member. A paid representative must be either a lawyer or a consultant who is registered with the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC).

An Applicant does **NOT** need to hire a lawyer, an immigration consultant, or a representative to access this immigration program. An immigration representative may be of assistance in completing an application or advising an Applicant on the application process if he or she feels such guidance is required. The hiring of a representative will **NOT** lead to any special prioritization or different handling of an application to the SINP.

The SINP *Ethical Conduct Disclosure and Declaration Form* is a contract between a representative (whether paid or unpaid) and the Government of Saskatchewan. It specifies the minimum standards that can be expected of anyone who is acting as a representative under the SINP. All Applicants must complete and sign Section C of the *Ethical Conduct Disclosure and Declaration Form* to declare whether or not they are appointing a representative to act on their behalf with the SINP and whether or not they obtained assistance from anyone in completing the application form. If an Applicant has appointed a representative, they must also complete and sign Section B of the form.

It is against the law to give false or misleading information to the Government of Saskatchewan or any of its officials. If an Applicant has a representative and does not disclose the name of their representative to the SINP, their application may be refused. A representative who advises an Applicant to provide false or misleading information is also breaking the law. The SINP reserves the right to not recognize or communicate with a representative who has violated any terms of the *Ethical Conduct Disclosure and Declaration Form*.

An Applicant may appoint only one paid or unpaid representative to conduct business on his or her behalf at any time. If an Applicant wishes to cancel the appointment of this representative, he or she must communicate this in writing to the SINP by letter, fax, or email. If an Applicant wishes to appoint another representative, the Applicant and his or her new representative must submit an updated *Ethical Conduct Disclosure and Declaration Form*.

The SINP will not serve as a mediator in disputes between an Applicant and his or her representative. All matters of dispute are to be addressed by the professional association to which the representative belongs (i.e. ICCRC or a Canadian law society).

The SINP encourages all Applicants to visit the [SINP website](#) or [IRCC website](#) to learn more about how to choose a licensed, reputable and trustworthy representative and how to protect themselves from scams and immigration fraud.

Designated Individuals

In addition to an Applicant's paid or unpaid representative, he or she may choose to let someone else have access to information about the application. For example, if an Applicant hires a lawyer to assist with the application, he or she may also want a family member to have access to information about the application.

If an Applicant wishes to have personal information released to someone who is not his or her representative, he or she must Complete [IMM-5475: Authority to Release Personal Information to a Designated Individual](#); and submit it with the application to the SINP.

Designated individuals will not receive any written communication from the SINP, but they can contact the SINP to receive information about the application by emailing saskentrepreneur@gov.sk.ca.

Appendix A: Résumé Template

The farm and employment history should cover the Applicant's experience for the last ten years (if applicable).

Principal Applicant Information

(Applicant's Name)
(Mailing Address)
(Telephone)
(E-mail)
(DOB)
(Accompanying Family member's names)

Education / Training

(Educational Institution)
(Month, year – month, year)
(Degree/certificate/diploma attained)

Farm and Employment History

Current Company/Farm Name: Shares / Ownership %:
A brief synopsis of the farm/business (i.e., products or services and the number of employees)

(Applicant's Current Title)
(Month, year – month, year)
Number of employees that report directly to the Applicant
Duties and responsibilities:

(Applicant's Previous Title)
(Month, year – month, year)
Number of employees that report directly to the Applicant
Duties and responsibilities:

Previous Company/Farm Name: Shares / Ownership %:
Brief information about the farm/business, such as products or services and the number of employees.

(Applicant's Title #1)
(Month, year – month, year)
Number of employees that report directly to the Applicant
Duties and responsibilities:

(Applicant's Title #2)
(Month, year – month, year)
Number of employees that report directly to the Applicant
Duties and responsibilities:

Appendix B: Farm Establishment Plan

The Farm Establishment Plan (FEP) must be a coherent and considered plan for successful settlement and farm development in Saskatchewan. In developing this FEP the Applicant must conduct extensive research and consider relevant economic and market factors. The Applicant must also take into account his or her management strengths and weaknesses.

The FEP must include all of the following information:

- Proposed industry/sector (NAICS Code);
- Proposed investment amount;
- Number of jobs to be created for Saskatchewan Residents;
- Management contribution the nominee will make with respect to the proposed business (e.g., sales, distribution, production, research and development, etc.);
- Forecasted startup funds and expenses;
- Business ownership information – partnership, proprietorship, corporation, acquisition;
 - If proposing a partnership, applicants proposing to own less than one-third (1/3) of the farming operation must invest a minimum of \$1 million CAD
- Proposed location for the business (i.e., city/town);
- Preparation and training for farm operation in Saskatchewan (including course titles and institution names, if applicable);
- A list of planned past and/or future visits to Saskatchewan, if applicable (please provide: Dates, purposes, agendas, inviting organizations, etc.);
- Plans for establishing residence in Saskatchewan; and
- Name, organizations, mailing addresses, phone numbers, and emails of professional business service providers whom the Applicant has contacted and/or the Applicant has established an active working relationship or paid contractual agreement.

The SINP does not require a formal farm business plan, and recognizes that the FEP is a business proposal and it is therefore possible that market conditions and opportunities may change over the course of the immigration application process. The profitability of the business plan will not be evaluated however the applicant is expected to demonstrate an understanding of general industry trends and outlooks that may impact business establishment and profitability. The SINP will assess the Applicant's intent demonstrated in the FEP through the relevant research conducted and stakeholders contacted.

Please also include:

- The name, organization name, mailing address, email, and phone number of person who compiled the business plan; and
- A summary of people contracted or consulted in preparation of Farm Establishment Plan.

A lengthy FEP does not necessarily illustrate strong intent. Quality research and significant business relationships are far more valuable in illustrating intent.

The SINP expects that an Applicant has complete knowledge of his or her FEP. In the event that the Applicant is unaware of his or her FEP's contents, the Applicant will be assessed accordingly on the intent grid.

Appendix C: Farm Applicant Intent Grading Criteria

Intent Criteria	Maximum Points
<i>Visit</i>	15
<i>Business Contacts</i>	20
<i>Business Development</i>	20
<i>Home Ownership</i>	10
<i>English Competency</i>	15
<i>Community/Family Contacts</i>	10
<i>Commitment</i>	10
Total	100

Visit:

Points	Description
0	Applicant has not visited or made plans to visit Saskatchewan
10	Has visited Saskatchewan for less than 10 days and attended one or more relevant business seminars and/or has met with business contacts.
15	Has visited Saskatchewan for ten working days or more and met with relevant business contacts, conducted quality research and attended seminars.

Saskatchewan-based Professional Business/Farm Services:

Points	Description
0	Applicant has not made contact with any professional business/farm service providers in Saskatchewan
5	Applicant has made minimal contact with professional business/farm service providers in Saskatchewan
10	Applicant has received general advice from one or more professional business service providers in Saskatchewan
15	Applicant has received farm business relevant advice from professional business/farm service providers in Saskatchewan
20	Applicant is paying one or more Saskatchewan-based professional business/farm service providers to facilitate farm business establishment in Saskatchewan

Farm Business Development:

Points	Description
0	Applicant demonstrates no knowledge about relevant farm business sectors and business opportunities in Saskatchewan
5	Applicant demonstrates basic knowledge about relevant

	farm business sectors and business opportunities in Saskatchewan
10	Applicant has completed one or more relevant and certified Saskatchewan-based entrepreneurial or farm business management courses, and/or has made a financial commitment to complete a course upon landing in Saskatchewan.
15	Applicant demonstrates strong knowledge about relevant farm business sectors and business opportunities and developed relevant business contacts in Saskatchewan (e.g., potential partners, suppliers, retailers, marketers, communications, human resources, etc.)
20	Applicant has made a legal or financial commitment to establishing a farm business in Saskatchewan

Home Ownership:

Points	Description
0	Applicant has not contacted a real estate agent with regard to personal home purchase in Saskatchewan
4	Applicant has contacted real estate agent with regard to personal home purchase in Saskatchewan
6	Applicant has made an offer on a home in Saskatchewan
10	Applicant has purchased a home in Saskatchewan

English Competency (may be applied to accompanying family members):

Points	Description
0	Applicant has no English skills
3	Applicant has minimal English skills (e.g., grade school language training)
6	Applicant has some English skills (e.g., has taken ESL or equivalent language training)
10	Applicant is currently studying English
15	Applicant is fluent in English

Community/Family Contacts:

Points	Description
0	Applicant previously applied to another PNP other than Saskatchewan
2	Applicant has family / community in Canada other than Saskatchewan
5	Applicant has no family / community in Saskatchewan or Canada
7	Applicant has community/ extended family in Saskatchewan
10	Applicant has immediate family in Saskatchewan

Commitment:

Points	Description
0	Applicant demonstrates no commitment to farm business idea and/or active investment into Saskatchewan
1-3	Applicant demonstrates limited commitment to farm business idea and/or active investment into Saskatchewan
4-7	Applicant demonstrates moderate commitment to farm business idea and/or active investment into Saskatchewan
8-10	Applicant demonstrates substantial commitment to farm business idea and/or active investment into Saskatchewan

Appendix D: Exploratory Visit Report

The exploratory visit is mandatory for all farm category applicants. To be eligible, applicants must complete the visit prior to submitting their application and must complete and submit an Exploratory Visit Report along with their application that details the activities undertaken during their visit. The report must cover the entire length of your stay in Canada, including time spent in other provinces, if any. The information required for the report must be submitted online including attaching any relevant documents. Failure to provide any of the following information may result in your application being closed. The report must include:

- The name of the professional business service providers or settlement organizations visited during your trip, including mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and emails;
- A description of the activity and/or meeting and how it relates to the applicant's farm establishment or settlement;
- Copies of all airline tickets, boarding passes and hotel receipts during your entire stay in Canada and Saskatchewan;
- Copies of business cards collected from relevant contact and business service providers contacted during your visit.
- Details of visit to existing farm locations and meetings with current owners if you are planning to purchase an existing farm. You should include the location and the current owners' names and contact details.

Please do not include photographs, brochures, flyers, maps or other promotional materials collected during the exploratory visit.

General meetings not directly related to your proposed farming operation or industry, or meetings that cannot be verified may result in the SINP determining your visit activities to be ineligible in meeting the requirements for a mandatory visit.

Suggested exploratory visit activities include (but are not limited to):

- meet with relevant service providers such as lawyers, accountants, real estate agents to discuss farm establishment, incorporation, regulations and ideal locations
- identify and meet with relevant suppliers, distributors or wholesalers to discuss logistics, supply chains and local business infrastructure
- visit local immigrant settlement service agencies to learn about available settlement and language supports, programs and services
- visit local economic development agencies and business service providers to discuss local consumer demand, trends, networking and marketing strategies

Appendix E: Landing Meeting Requirements

Applicants are required to submit a request to schedule their mandatory landed meeting within 90 calendar days of their arrival to Canada.

Applicants will submit their landed meeting request by email directly to saskentrepreneur@gov.sk.ca.

The following documents will be required for the landed meeting:

- Principal Applicant's Passport – photocopy of pages containing photo and biographical data, stamp of entry into Canada, and signature page
- Permanent Resident visa
- Saskatchewan Driver's License – photocopy
- Saskatchewan Health Card - photocopy
- Proof of address in Saskatchewan. This can include;
 - A scanned copy of utility bills in your name
 - A scanned copy of any lease agreement you have signed
 - A scanned copy of your mortgage or purchase agreement if you have purchased a house

Please also include your preferred meeting location (Regina or Saskatoon).

Please know that recognized service providers DO NOT accommodate requests for specific meeting dates and times and applicants are expected to attend one of the times proposed by the service provider.

Appendix F: Glossary

The following definitions will help in understanding this application guide:

Accumulation of Net Worth: The means by which an Applicant obtained his or her entire claimed net worth.

Active Ownership: Responsible for day-to-day operational activities and management of a farm.

Affidavit: A sworn statement in writing. It is a written promise that this is the Principal Applicant's statement.

Business Performance Agreement: After an application is approved for nomination, the Applicant must sign a contract with the Province of Saskatchewan which details the terms and conditions under which the Applicant's deposit will be held and subsequently released or retained. This document will specify the Applicant's intended level of investment and specific type of Farm (as defined by the NAICS – North American Industry Classification System code).

Claimed Net Worth: The amount of net worth indicated by the Applicant in the *Schedule 4A: Economic Classes – Provincial Nominees – Business Nominees*, **not** the amount verified by the third party.

Farm Establishment Plan (FEP): A plan summarizing the Applicant's intention for establishing a commercial Saskatchewan farming operation based on research, consultations or formal coursework relevant to Saskatchewan agricultural conditions. A FEP should include enough information to outline the most important details of the Applicant's Farm idea: the type of farm, how it will be run, current industry conditions and outlook, and broad expectations of outcomes.

Good Faith Deposit: A specified amount of money that must be placed in trust with a trust company appointed by the Government of Saskatchewan. The Applicant's deposit will be held in trust until the Applicant has met the terms and conditions of the *Business Performance Agreement*.

Immigration Representative: Someone who has the Applicant's permission to conduct business on his or her behalf, including assistance with his or her application to IRCC once the SINP has approved the Applicant as a Provincial Nominee and continuing to work on behalf of the Applicant until the end of the SINP Farm category process, when the *Good Faith Deposit* is released or retained.

Intent: The Applicant's demonstrated genuine interest to actively investing in a farming operation in Saskatchewan and to reside in Saskatchewan, as illustrated by the activities listed in the *Farm Applicant Intent Grading Criteria*.

Net Worth: The value of an Applicant's total assets, less the value of his or her total liabilities.

Nominate: The term used by the Province of Saskatchewan to describe the selection of Applicants for the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program to recommend for permanent residence to IRCC. Permanent resident status is dependent on health, security, and criminality screening by IRCC.

Paid Representative: An individual who is a member in good standing of either the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC) or a Canadian Provincial Law Society who acts on behalf of the Applicant applying for immigration under the SINP. Only members of this action are authorized to charge fees for immigration advice and/or services under the SINP.

Permanent Resident: An individual who lives legally in Canada as a landed immigrant but is not yet eligible to apply for Canadian citizenship or does not yet have Canadian citizenship.

Relevant Farm Knowledge and Experience: An Applicant's prior experience with the day-to-day operation of a farm using agricultural practices similar to those utilized in Saskatchewan-based farming. This knowledge and experience must be substantiated through the Applicant's *Résumé, Farm Establishment Plan*, and pertinent supporting documents. Owning agricultural land, a farming corporation or business related to the agricultural sector does not qualify as relevant farm knowledge and experience.

Supporting Documents: Documents and forms that can be used to support an Applicant's claims regarding the Applicant's ability to meet SINP criteria. These are documents required for all immigration applications (e.g. documents that prove identity, work experience, language ability, finances, etc.).

Unpaid Representative: A person who provides assistance, information, counseling, or advice to the Applicant about the application without charging a fee or receiving any kind of payment. The term "unpaid representative" does not necessarily include a friend or family member with whom the Applicant discusses his or her plans in an informal way, but it is intended to include anyone, who provides assistance, advice, or information about the SINP, about Saskatchewan, or about immigration to Canada in a repeated or sustained manner.

If it is unclear whether a person is a representative, the Applicant should treat them as an unpaid representative and ask them to complete the *Code of Conduct for Representatives and Applicant Declaration Form*. This provides an opportunity for your representative to declare that he or she has conscientiously sought to provide accurate information and advice, and has not participated in obtaining or providing any kind of fraudulent or counterfeit document with respect to your application.