

Supporting the Success of the Technology and Creative Sectors By Making the BC PNP Tech Pilot Permanent

Summary:

Burnaby businesses in the innovation and creative economies, and their related sectors such as technology, digital media, and film/television, need access to skilled international talent to support their growth. The successful BC PNP Tech Pilot, which provides dedicated and expedited service for the technology and creative sectors to fill their labour needs with skilled immigration, should be extended past its June 2019 expiration and made a permanent feature of the immigration system.

Background:

The most important input for business is talent. While it is crucial for the success of any business that it have the workers it needs, in certain industries such as the technology, digital media, and film and television sectors, having the right talent and skills is fundamental. As Burnaby and British Columbia continues to grow as a hub for these sectors, the demand for this talent will continue to grow.

BC's immigration system is one critical avenue for businesses to source this skilled talent needed to innovate and grow. And with many businesses experiencing difficulties in finding local talent to fill vacancies, having an efficient system of skilled immigration is important to the viability and success of our economy.

The Government of BC has responded to this need for access to international skilled talent by the tech sector with the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) Tech Pilot. The program is dedicated to finding talent for a select list of 29 skilled jobs¹ mainly related to the technology, digital media, and film/television sectors. The Tech Pilot has several features that address the unique needs of the technology/creative sector, including dedicated staff to work with technology employers, prioritized and expedited applications, and more flexible eligibility requirements, in particular reducing the requirement for a permanent full-time job offer to just a one-year full-time job offer which reflects the nature of some employment in these sectors.

"The BC PNP Tech Pilot fits the unique needs of our industry and has made such a positive difference to both our company, and to a large group of our artists who are now able to apply to come and live in BC."

- BRON Animation Inc.

Burnaby Film/TV Animation Studio

Burnaby Board of Trade members who utilize the BC PNP Tech Pilot report timely and efficient processing of applications which allows them to quickly fill positions that may otherwise have remained vacant. To the Burnaby business community, the BC PNP Tech Pilot has been a

¹ For a list of the 29 occupations eligible for this program, visit <https://www.welcomebc.ca/getmedia/0c9acee2-06ea-471b-bc9e-c7547d60d092/BC-PNP-Tech-Pilot-Key-Technology-Occupations.pdf.aspx>

tremendous success and is a valuable tool to support the tech sector and its continued growth in Burnaby and across BC.

Recommendations:

The Burnaby Board of Trade supports the extension of the BC PNP Tech Pilot past June 2019 and recommends that the provincial government incorporate the pilot into the Provincial Nominee Program as a permanent feature.