

## **Entrepreneur Immigration**

So you want to come to Canada to do business? Despite what the Governments, and immigration promoters will tell you, you're betting against the odds. 50% of all businesses fail within the first 3 years...and most of those are started by Canadians!

Differences in language, cultures, ways of doing business, as well as lack of business contacts make it even more difficult for Entrepreneurs to establish businesses. If you are not committed to staying here to overcome these difficulties, you should seriously consider Investor Immigration.

At Lowe & Company, we've helped Entrepreneurs from all over the world to immigrate to Canada. After they arrive, we've used our business law background and local business contacts to help them purchase, invest in, or set up businesses to fulfill their immigration conditions. If you persevere, you can make it!

An Entrepreneur is an immigrant who is willing and able to invest in, and manage, a business which will benefit Canada's economy and employ Canadians. This is a 2 stage application process.

Firstly, you must apply to immigrate as an Entrepreneur at a Canadian immigration office outside of Canada; this process can take 1 to 3 years. If you qualify, you and your family members will be granted Conditional visas for 3 years.

Secondly, after you land in Canada, you must make an investment, manage the business, and then make a second application to Canada Immigration to remove the terms and conditions of landing.

You will need to file regular reports with Canada Immigration as to the status of your business investigations and operations, after you commence business. If you do not do so within the 2 years, you and your family may lose your permanent resident status.

### **HOW TO QUALIFY**

To qualify as an Entrepreneur, you must show that:

- a) Have "Business Experience";
- b) Have a legally earned net worth of \$300,000 CDN; and
- c) Agree in writing that for one year in the first 3 years after you arrive in Canada, you will:
  - i) Invest in and control at least 33 1/3% of a qualifying Canadian Business;
  - ii) provide active and ongoing management of the qualifying Canadian Business, and
  - iii) create at least one additional full-time job in that business for Canadian citizens or permanent residents, other than you and your family.

In addition, Entrepreneurs must obtain an assessment of at least 35 points, in accordance with the Investor/Entrepreneur Point Grid.

Entrepreneurs will also have to report to CIC of their efforts to comply with their conditions. Family members will have to comply with the conditions as well.

**BUSINESS EXPERIENCE**

“Business Experience” for Entrepreneurs means the management of a “qualifying business” and ownership of shares in a qualifying business for at least two years in the past 5 years. A “qualifying business” must meet 2 of the following criteria, depending on the percentage of shares that you own:

<b>Percentage owned</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>10%</b>
Annual Sales	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,000,000
Net Profit	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$500,000
Net Assets	\$125,000	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$1,250,000
Full time Employees	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>