

“Parents and Grandparents Program in Canada will open to interested sponsors in early 2019,” by Edward C. Corrigan and Selvin Mejia, Media Monitors Network, November 21, 2018.



<https://www.mediamonitors.net/parents-and-grandparents-program-in-canada-will-open-to-interested-sponsors-in-early-2019/>

Perspectives

By Edward C. Corrigan -November 21, 2018

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has closed its Parents and Grandparents Sponsor Program for Canadian citizens and permanent residents for 2018. The Federal Government in December 2016 decided to change the process for acceptance of an Application to Sponsor a Parent or Grand Parent from a first come first serve basis to a lottery approach. This year the online submission form to show interest closed at noon EST on February 1, 2018

In 2017 more than 90,000 applications were submitted for the lottery. However, a reported 90% of the submitted applications did not meet the financial requirements and had to be rejected. This failure to qualify meant that several invitations had issued to meet the target quota of 10,000 accepted parental and grandparent sponsorship for 2017. Early in 2017 and due to the demand for parental and

grandparent sponsorships IRCC decided to increase the quota to 17,000.

IRCC has announced that the quota will be raised to 20,000 in 2019.

Each sponsor has to sign an Undertaking of Assistance to support the Applicants. This undertaking ensures that these persons and their family members do not have to apply for social assistance. The length of undertaking for sponsorship of parents, grandparents and their accompanying dependents is 20 years. The undertaking is an unconditional promise of support which is enforced by the Federal government. This includes dependents under the age of 22.

Online Interest to Sponsor form must be submitted in order to get an Invitation for 2019.

IRCC said those interested in sponsoring their parents and/or grandparents in 2019 will have to complete an Interest to Sponsor form online at the beginning of the year.

The Interest to Sponsor form is not an application to sponsor a parent or grandparent. It is the necessary first step for those who want to participate in the Parents and Grandparents Program, or PGP.

On August 20, 2018, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship the Hon. Ahmed Hussein made the following announcement:

In 2019, as in previous years, the Interest to Sponsor form will be available online, at the beginning of the year, so eligible potential sponsors can let IRCC know they wish to sponsor their parents and grandparents to come to Canada. However, instead of randomly selecting the sponsors to apply, we will invite them to submit an application to sponsor their parents and grandparents based on the order in which we receive their Interest to Sponsor forms. This process will continue until we reach the 2019 cap of 20 000 complete applications.

This process allows selected Canadian citizens and permanent residents over the age of 18 to sponsor their parents and grandparents to come to Canada as Canadian permanent residents.

All interested sponsors are asked to first review the eligibility requirements qualify for the program, including its income requirements.

In order to qualify as a sponsor the following requirements must be met:

- be 18 years of age or older;
- be a Canadian citizen, Registered Indian or permanent resident;
- be sponsoring a member of the family Class;
- live in Canada;
- sign an undertaking promising to provide for the basic requirements of the person being sponsored;
- sign an agreement with the person you are sponsoring that confirms that each of you understands your mutual obligations and responsibilities;
- prove that you have sufficient income to provide the basic requirements for your family members in Canada as well as the persons included in your sponsorship undertaking. You may also have a co-signer.

You CANNOT sponsor if any of the following restrictions apply:

- are in receipt of social assistance for a reason other than disability,
- are in default of an undertaking, an immigration loan, a performance bond, or family support payments,
- are an undischarged bankrupt,
- were convicted of an offense of a sexual nature, a violent criminal offense, an offense against a relative that results in bodily harm or an attempt or threat to commit any such offences—depending on circumstances such as the nature of the offense, how long ago it occurred and whether a pardon was issued
- are under a removal order,
- are detained in a penitentiary, jail, reformatory or prison,

The updated Interest to Sponsor form now asks interested sponsors to declare that they have the Minimum Necessary Income (MNI) to support those they hope to sponsor.

The MNI is as follows for interested sponsors in every Canadian province and territory other than Quebec, which has its own income requirements. Interested

sponsors must provide proof that they meet the minimum income requirements for each of the last three taxation years.

Federal Income Table for sponsors of parents and grandparents

The following table applies to residents of all provinces except Quebec. For each of the three consecutive taxation years preceding the date on which the application is submitted to IRCC. The sponsor (and co-signer, if applicable) must meet the Minimum Necessary Income, which is based on the Low Income Cut-offs (LICO) plus 30%.

Applicants must provide their Notice of Assessment received from Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as proof that they meet the following minimum income requirements for the number of individuals in their family including the individuals being sponsored.

Total number of people for whom

Sponsor(s) would be responsible	MNI 2017	MNI 2016	MNI 2015
2 people	\$39,813	\$39,371	\$38,618
3 people	\$48,945	\$48,404	\$47,476
4 people	\$59,426	\$58,768	\$57,642
5 people	\$67,400	\$66,654	\$65,377
6 people	\$76,015	\$75,174	\$73,733
7 people	\$84,631	\$83,695	\$82,091

Each additional person over 7	\$8,616	\$8,522	\$8,358
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IRCC will select sponsors on a first come basis from the Interest to Sponsor submissions that it receives and invites those selected to apply to sponsor their parents and grandparents until the quota of 20,000 qualified applicants has been met.

Applicants now need to give their fingerprints and photo (biometrics) when they apply for permanent residence if from Europe, the Middle East or Africa.

There is also a “Super Visa” which allows a parent or grandparent to get a visa to

stay in Canada for up to two years. The “Super Visa” is valid for 10 years. Medical insurance is required for a minimum coverage of \$100,000 is also required. This alternative allows parents and grandparents to spend extended periods of time in Canada without the requirement of renewing a Visitor Visa every 6 months. The applicants must have valid passports that covers the duration of their stay in Canada.

This article is a short overview of parental and grandparent sponsorship and should not be considered a comprehensive guide. Please consult a qualified professional if you are interested in sponsoring someone to Immigrate to Canada or for any other Immigration or Citizenship questions.

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