

An Introduction to: Canada's Start-up Visa Program

Presented by **STARTUP&GROW™**, a BLG initiative that offers practical, efficient legal solutions tailored to meet the needs of entrepreneurs, startups, early-stage, and growth-stage companies.

What is the Start-up Visa Program?

Canada's **Start-up Visa Program** targets immigrant entrepreneurs with the skills and potential to build businesses in Canada that are innovative, can create jobs for Canadians, and can compete on a global scale.

The **Start-up Visa Program** grants Canadian permanent residence to qualified immigrant entrepreneurs. The program aims to recruit innovative entrepreneurs to Canada and link them with the Canadian private sector businesses, including angel investor groups, venture capital funds or business incubators.

The **Start-up Visa Program**, which was launched in 2013 as a five-year pilot project, will become a permanent program in Canada on March 31, 2018.

Eligibility Requirements

- Before you can apply for the Start-up Visa Program, you must have the support of a **designated organization**. These are business groups that have been approved to invest in or support possible start-ups. If a designated organization decides to support your business, it will give you a **Letter of Support**. A list of designated business organizations is included on the back cover of this brochure.
- Your business must meet the **ownership requirements**. Up to five people can apply for the Start-up Visa Program as owners of a single business. However, to meet the ownership requirements each applicant must hold at least 10 percent of the voting rights in the business and the designated organization and the applicants must jointly hold more than 50 per cent of the voting rights in the business.
- You must meet the **language requirements** by demonstrating sufficient proficiency in English or French through standardized testing (Canadian Language Benchmark level 5).
- You must bring enough **money to settle** in Canada. At the time of this brochure, the amount of funds required begins at \$12,300 for one family member and increases with additional family members.

How to Apply

To apply for the **Start-up Visa Program**, your business idea or venture must get the support of a designated organization and meet all of the eligibility criteria. An application package can be obtained from the following Government of Canada website: www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/business/start-up/apply.asp

STARTUP&GROW™ – We Can Help!

BLG is a leading, national full-service Canadian law firm and one of the country's largest law firms with more than 700 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals in five cities across Canada. The **STARTUP&GROW™** program draws on this incredible depth of expertise to provide practical legal solutions across all areas of law critical to the success of entrepreneurs, startups, early-stage and growth-stage companies, including business applying under Canada's **Start-up Visa Program**.

1 CORPORATE STRUCTURING

Our flexible legal solutions are designed to provide your business with strong business structure for growth. We routinely assist entrepreneurs, startups, and growth-stage companies with every aspect of structuring and organizing a corporation, partnership, or other business structure.

2 CORPORATE FINANCE

We can provide you with the advice you need to fund your business, while protecting your investment, at every stage of your business growth, from structuring your initial founder shares, through to your public listing or exit.

3 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

BLG boasts one of the strongest Intellectual Property groups in the country, and our Intellectual Property professionals provide advice on the development, protection, exploitation and use of the intellectual property and information technology.

4 LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

BLG has a national, full service labour and employment practice offering a complete suit of services ranging from the legal impacts of proposed workplace changes to labour and employment disputes.

5 TAX

Our seasoned tax professionals can provide you with advice and assistance in domestic and international transactions. We offer specialized services in corporate tax and estate planning, and advise clients with domestic and international transactions.

6 SPECIALIZED EXPERTISE

We offer specialized expertise in a wide range of emerging industries, including Fintech, Cleantech and Greentech, Biotech and Life Science, Health Law, Privacy Law and Cyber Risk and Cybersecurity.

Designated Organizations

Designated organizations are business groups that have been approved to invest in or support possible startups under Canada's **Start-up Visa Program**. The entities approved to act as designated organizations at the time of this brochure are listed below. You must have the support of at least one of these organizations to be eligible to apply to the **Start-up Visa Program**.

Designated Venture Capital Funds

If you work with a Designated Venture Capital Fund, you must get one or more of these groups to agree to invest a minimum of \$200,000:

BDC Venture Capital	Lumira Capital	Tandem Expansion Management Inc.
Blackberry Partners Fund II LP (doing business as Relay Ventures Fund II)	New Brunswick Innovation Foundation Inc.	Top Renergy Inc.
Celtic House Venture Partners Fund IV LP	OMERS Ventures Management Inc.	Vanedge Capital Limited Partnership
Extreme Venture Partners LLP	Pangaea Ventures Fund III, LP	Version One Ventures
Golden Opportunities Fund Inc.	PRIVEQ Capital Funds	Wellington Financial LP
iNovia Capital Inc.	Real Ventures	Westcap Mgt. Ltd.
	Rho Canada Ventures	Yaletown Venture Partners Inc.

Designated Angel Investor Groups

If you work with a Designated Angel Investor Group, you must get one or more investors connected to these groups to agree to invest a minimum of \$75,000:

Angel One Network Inc.	First Angel Network Association	VANTEC Angel Network Inc.
Canadian International Angel Investors	Golden Triangle Angel Network	
Oak Mason Investments Inc.	TenX Angel Investors Inc.	

Designated Business Incubators

If you work with a designated Business Incubator, you must be accepted into one of these programs:

Alacrity Foundation	INcubes Inc.	NEXT Canada
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	Innovacorp	Real Investment Fund III L.P. o/a FounderFuel
Bioenterprise Corporation	Innovate Calgary	Ryerson Futures Inc.
Communitech	Interactive Niagara Media Cluster o/a	Spark Centre
Creative Destruction Lab	Innovate Niagara	Spring Activator
The DMZ at Ryerson University	Invest Ottawa	TSRV Canada Inc. (operating as Techstars Canada)
Empowered Startups Ltd.	Istuary Idea Labs	Waterloo Accelerator Centre
Extreme Innovations	Knowledge Park o/a Planet Hatch	York Entrepreneurship Development Institute
Genesis Centre	Launch Academy	
Highline BETA Inc.	LaunchPad PEI Inc	

STARTUP&GROW™ Legal Package

Our “Startup&Grow” Legal Package provides the following documents for a set fee:

- Incorporation and organization company documents
- Shareholders agreements
- Intellectual property assignment agreement
- Employment/consulting agreement
- Preparation and filing of one trademark application
- Website terms of use
- Confidentiality/non-disclosure agreement
- Strategy adiscussions

About Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) is a leading, national, full-service Canadian law firm focusing on business law, commercial litigation and arbitration, and intellectual property solutions for our clients. BLG is one of the country’s largest law firms with more than 700 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals in five cities across Canada. We assist clients with their legal needs, from major litigation to financing to trademark and patent registration.

Contact us for more information about BLG’s services, set fee packages or events:

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