Thinking of Applying to Canada via QUEBEC? Think Again

(An Evaluation of Quebec’s Skilled Worker Program for Filipino Applicants)

Nurses: “The Quebec option” is marketed by some immigration agencies here in Cebu and throughout the Philippines. While agencies are free to market programs as they wish, I strongly recommend against Quebec applications, and find it hard to understand why everyone isn’t on the same page about this. There are ways for nurses to get into Canada but Quebec and Express Entry are not your best options in most cases.

Before you “bite” on the idea of spending your pesos on a provincial nomination for Quebec (or any other province) there are a few things you should know. This article focuses on Quebec, for more information on why Express Entry is generally NOT a good option for nurses wait for next week’s article.

Extremely Limited Number

First of all like ALL provincial nomination programs (PNP), the intake of people through these programs is VERY limited. Provinces receive many tens of thousands of applications each year, but only take in a few thousand each. Provinces are strictly limited to the number of provincial nominations (selections) they can make each year by the Federal Government, in other words there is a quota. The numbers of provincial nominations accepted by a province is further limited by divisions within each quota meaning that there are a certain number of seats designated specifically to people under the following typical categories.

People with job offers in the province (the largest number of available places),

Investors,

Entrepreneurs,

International student graduating within the province,

People with family members in the province,

People with particular skills but NO JOB offers (ALWAYS the smallest number of available places).

Most provincial nomination programs only allow for a few hundred people without a job offer to come to their province by way of PNP. A few hundred spots available to applicants around the world is a hard squeeze to fit into and VERY long odds that you will make it. Know that these numbers fill up in the first few months of the year (most PNP programs reset their quota number on January 01 – if your application is not ready to mail at that time, forget about it). As you can see Quebec’s program was completely full half way through the year, the only spots that remain are for placing people with job offers.

http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/informations/rules-procedures.html

If you are not French Quebec does not want you. How can you work and function in a province where you can’t speak the language? This is not only going to be hard on your pocket book- but it is going to make you the last choice for people administering Quebec’s PNP. You should know that the provincial nomination system (Canada wide) was born in Quebec. Quebec became the first province to assert its right to choose its own immigrants (later other Canadian provinces followed) , Quebec did so BECAUSE they wanted to preserve their culture and language by ensuring the SELECTION of FRENCH . SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS. They may take you, but only if they have to- you are far from first choice. The link below (page 10- bottom) shows you where most of Quebec’s immigrants come from, and it sure isn’t the Philippines.

<http://www.midi.gouv.qc.ca/publications/fr/recherches-statistiques/Portraits_categories_2009-2013.pdf>

With the exception of China (mainly -investor class immigrants) what do you notice about ALL of the other countries on the list? Yes, that's right they ALL are French speaking countries (and applicants). The few exceptions (mainly Egypt) which was in history occupied by France and has significant pockets of Frenchable speakers. It is true that about 3,000 Filipinos migrate to Quebec yearly, so it can be done (page 13), but as you will see (on page 44) 90 + % of these people come to Quebec via family sponsorship NOT the QSW.

I was surprised to read that 25% of the immigrants coming to Quebec spoke neither FR nor English. However please understand that a significant portion of these non-official language speakers were family sponsorship cases (mainly Chinese).

<http://www.midi.gouv.qc.ca/publications/fr/recherches-statistiques/BulletinStatistique-2014trimestre3-ImmigrationQuebec.pdf>

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Lastly often Provincial Nomination is mentioned in association with Express Entry. You must know that provinces have only been given a VERY SMALL additional number of invitations that can be used within the Express Entry system (most provinces were allocated about 500 nominations that could be used under the Express Entry system), this makes the chances of being selected under Express Entry by a province relatively small. However, If you do apply to a province through non-express entry means and are accepted it would be wise to enter Express entry as it would save you considerable processing time. A reminder the Quebec does not participate in Express Entry.

Overall the QSW (Quebec Skilled Worker Program) gets a big thumbs down from me as it relates to the selection of Filipino clients.

Earl Blaney (RCIC)

The Canada Network

[www.thecanadanetwork.com](http://www.thecanadanetwork.com)

[info@thecanadanetwork.com](mailto:info@thecanadanetwork.com)

Cebu City, Philippines