

Exploring Immigration Solutions for Community Economic Challenges

UBCM Convention

September 14, 2022



Approach



Welcome & Introductions



Immigration: Introduction and Context on BC Provincial Nominee Program

Spotlight



Panel Sharing:

Supporting immigration and economic development through examples of attracting Entrepreneurs, International Students and Skilled Workers



Discussion, Closing, Networking

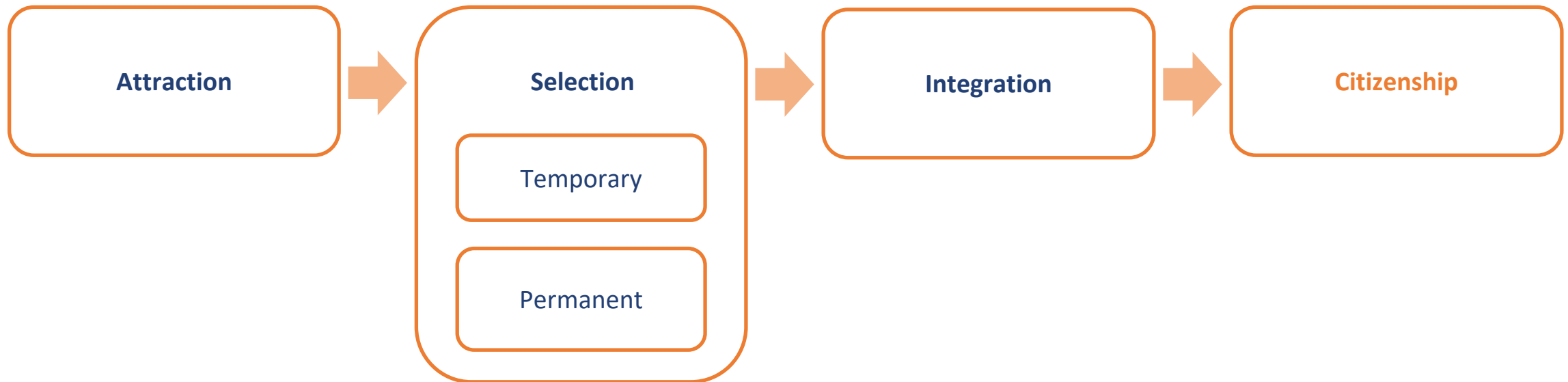
Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Deb Zehr, Executive Director

Immigration Programs Branch

BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP)

Immigration is the movement of people across international borders for economic, family reunification or humanitarian reasons



Immigration is a very complex landscape; many players with federal and provincial jurisdiction

BC Provincial Nominee Program

**B.C.'s only direct
immigrant selection
tool**

- Provincial role: criteria design, outreach, assessment and nomination for permanent residence, program integrity
- Federal government makes final decisions and issues all visas
- In 2022, B.C. allocated 7,000 nominations

Two Streams, Numerous Categories, Various Criteria

Skills Immigration

(BC PNP Tech, Priority Occupations, International Students and others)

Entrepreneur Immigration

(Base and Regional Pilot)

Links to program information: [BC Provincial Nominee Program](#) [BC PNP Stats Report 2021](#)

CITY OF CAMPBELL RIVER PNP REGIONAL PILOT PROGRAM

Rose Klukas
Manager of Economic Development

 campbellriver.ca



Campbell River signed onto the PNP Regional Pilot Program to diversify the economy through entrepreneurship.

The NAICS codes were:

- 321 – Wood Product Manufacturing
- 541 – Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
- 722 - Food Services and Drinking Places

Early findings:

- Significant amount of interest in program
- Limited interest in NAICS codes 541 and 321
- Vetting applications for success in the program can be time consuming





Case Study: Frejya - the croissant story

- Geza and Emese's country of origin is Hungary
- Applied April 2021
- Exploratory visit delayed by boarder closure due to pandemic
- Waiting for entry into Canada and then the delay in attaining the work visa once in the country was expensive, which was detrimental to the start-up finances available

Findings:

- Housing is a challenge
- Applicants are often moving from very large cities
- No access to credit in Canada
- Post arrival relationship is critical

Program outcomes to date and lessons learned:

- Program is an opportunity to diversify the economy
- 2 businesses have opened in the community with 1 more set to open
- Currently 1 entrepreneur working through the final steps of the referral process and is planning his arrival in the community within the next year
- Administration of program is time consuming
- Changing NAICS codes to be more specific has significantly reduced the number of applicants in the past 6 months
- Relationship building is key to success of the business arriving in the community
- When applicants family arrives at the same time there seems to be more success at integration into the community



North Island College

Diane Naugler, Director

Future Students and Community Engagement

North Island College

International Students Registered (all programs)

Anticipated 2022-23 (New / Total)

Comox Valley Fall	95 / 300+
Comox Valley Winter	50 / 350+
Campbell River Fall	28 / 35+
Campbell River Winter	40 / 80+
Port Alberni Fall/Winter	14 / 24+

**All numbers above estimates only.*

- **Global Business Management Post Degree Diploma program**

- 2-year program
- PGWP eligible
- Runs on our Comox Valley and Campbell River campuses

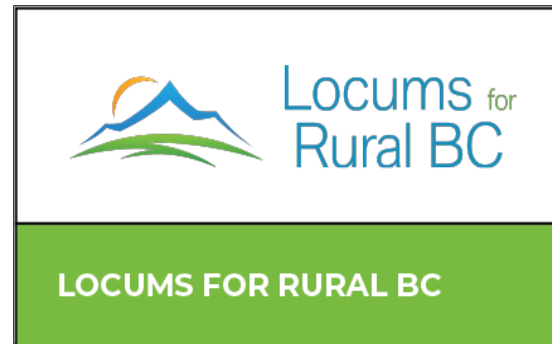
- **Potential Enhancements:**

- Expand rural and northern pilot
- Develop concierge capacity for int'l student to PR support
- Develop data across provincial, federal and post-secondary systems to track international student outcomes.

Health Employers Association of BC

**Audra Fediurek, Vice President
HR Strategy and Services**

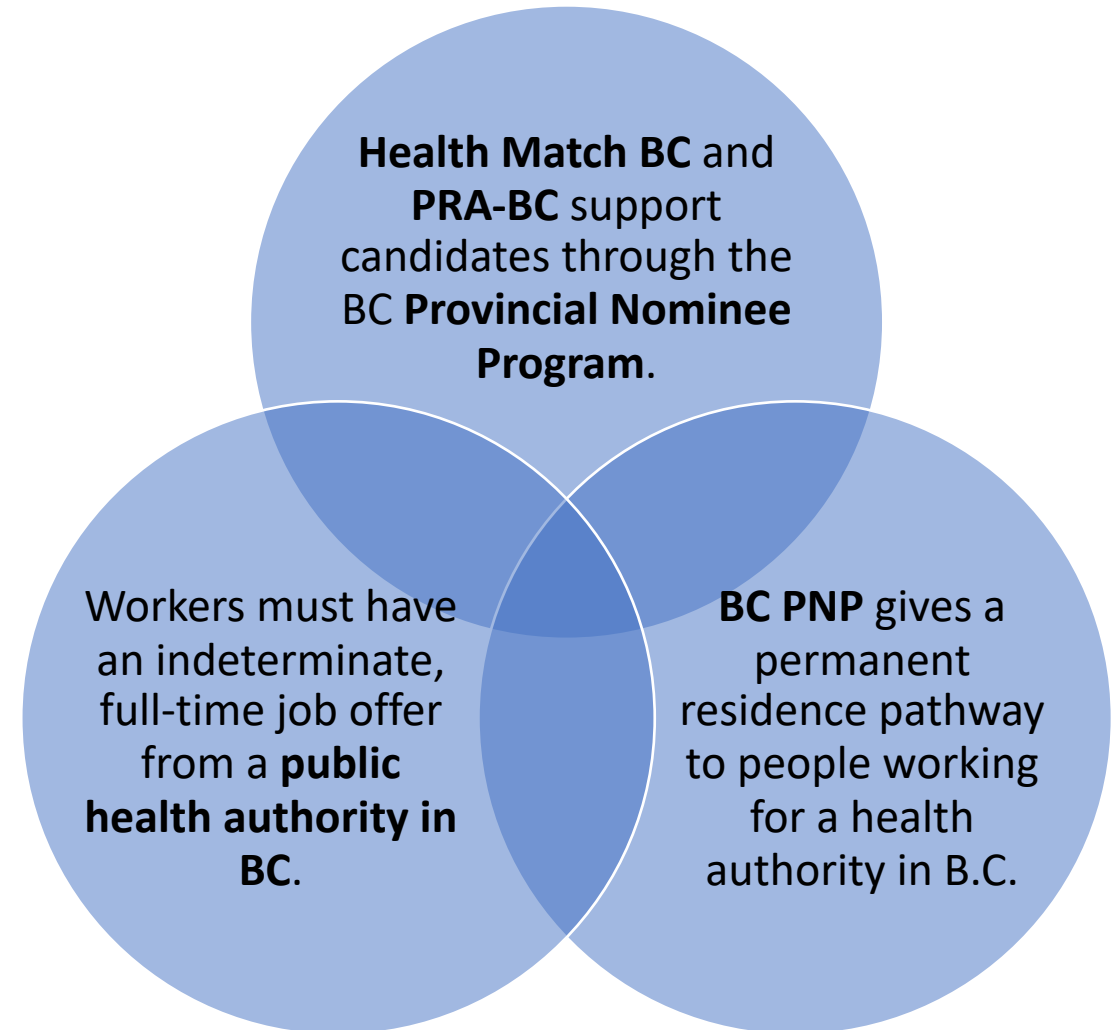
Health Employers Association of BC (HEABC): Who are We?



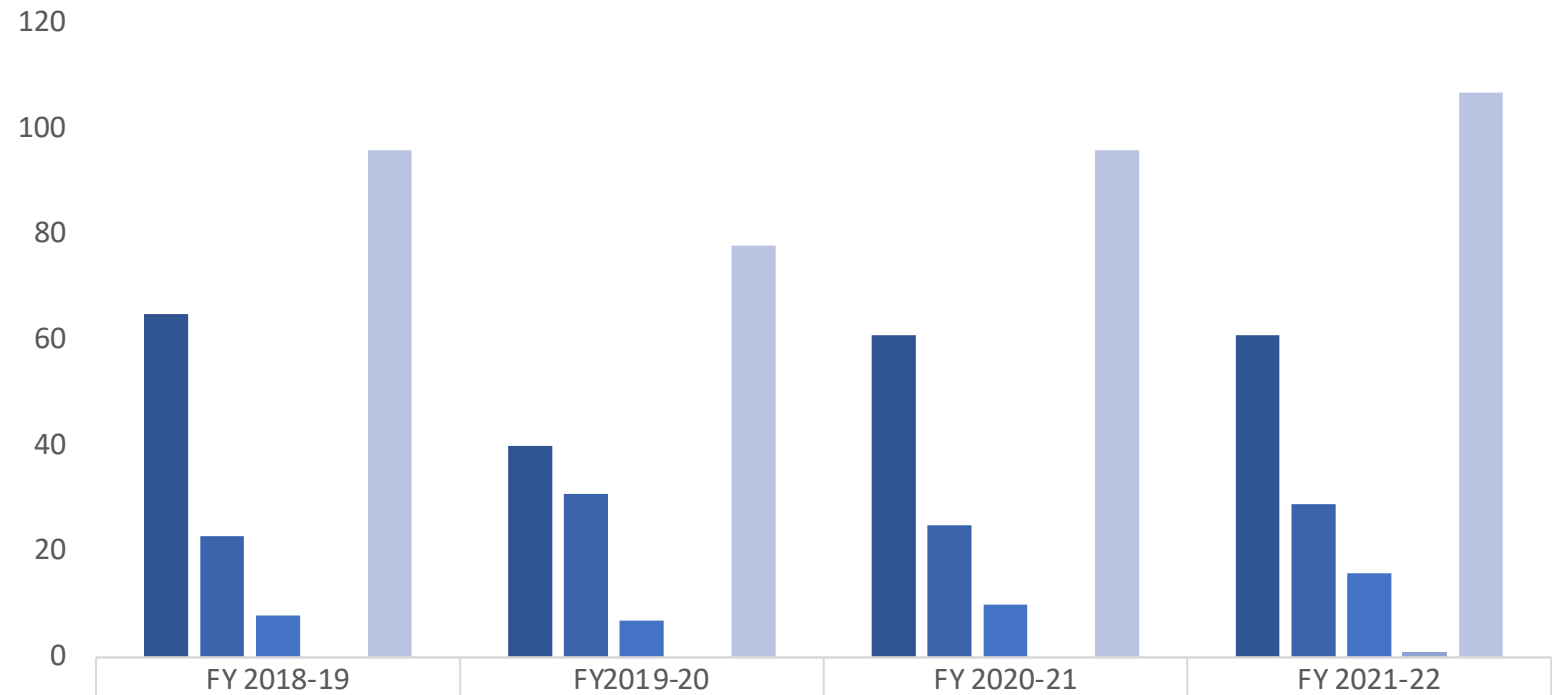
How Does Healthcare Recruitment Support a Health Economy?

1. Healthier working age people are more likely to remain in the workforce and be more productive while working
2. Access to health services helps to attract and keep people and employers within a community
3. Immigration of IEHPs not only fills gaps in the healthcare labour force, but they also pay taxes and spend money on goods and services.

Sector Specific Workers: HEABC and Health Care Professions Immigration



BC PNP candidates supported from FY 2018-19 to FY 2021-22

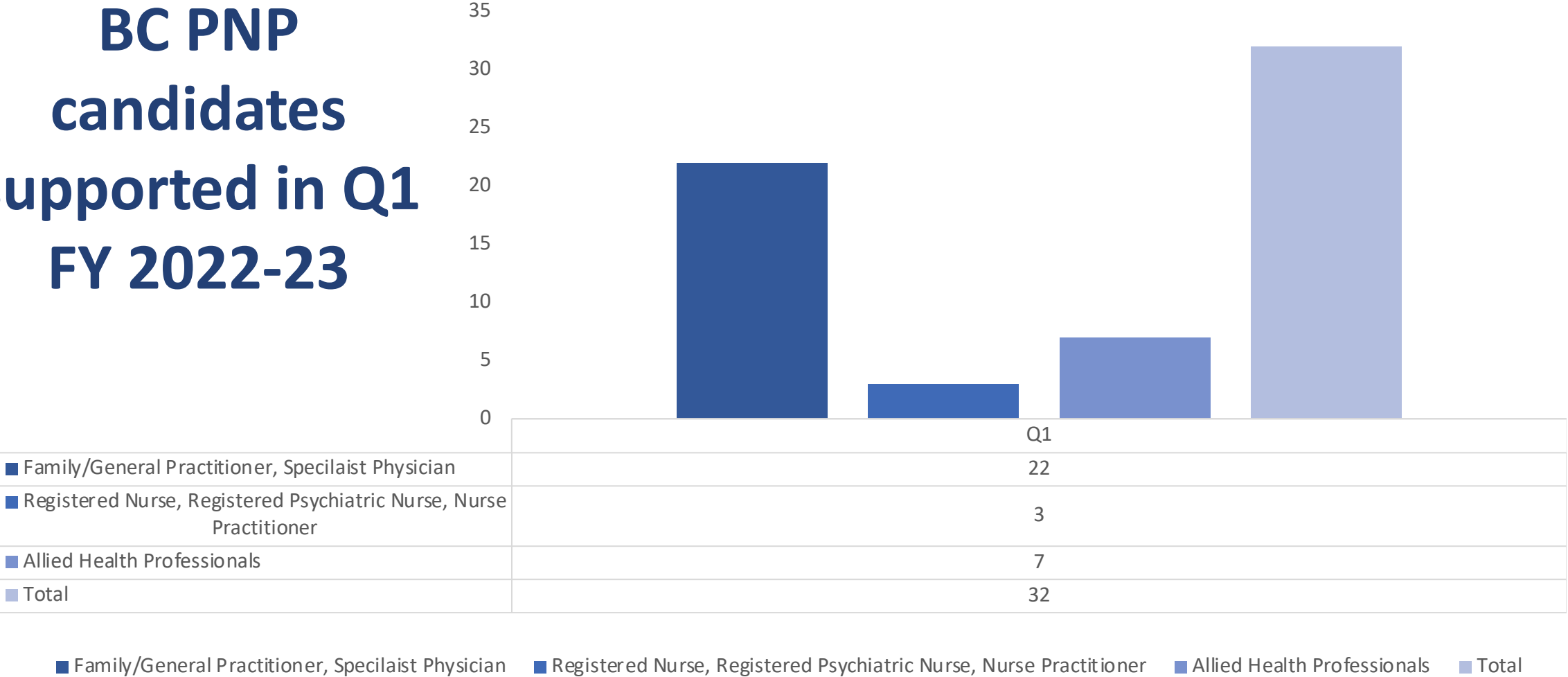


	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
■ General/Family Practitioner, Specialist Physician	65	40	61	61
■ Registered Nurse, Registered Psychiatric Nurse, Nurse Practitioner	23	31	25	29
■ Allied Health Professionals	8	7	10	16
■ Midwife	0	0	0	1
■ Total	96	78	96	107

■ General/Family Practitioner, Specialist Physician
 ■ Allied Health Professionals
 ■ Total

■ Registered Nurse, Registered Psychiatric Nurse, Nurse Practitioner
 ■ Midwife

BC PNP candidates supported in Q1 FY 2022-23



Supporting Healthcare Workforce Needs with the BC PNP



Support the needs of Healthcare Employers in all regions of B.C. by prioritizing access for employees working in select healthcare occupations



Health Care Assistants are eligible and prioritized



BC Health Authorities have the flexibility to hire who they need (all occupations and skill levels) and are prioritized

Other BC PNP enhancements:

Support to navigate immigration process

Access to global talent

Supporting health care workforce needs across all regions of the Province

(under development)

Immigration Solutions for Community Economic Challenges



How can we engage further?

Outreach / Info sessions: e.g. sessions for employers / sectors on current pathways and immigration options (in person or virtual)

Creating innovative approaches: e.g. discussions/forums on particular barriers or limitations, and explore solutions

Collaborating and engaging to build responsive immigration programs

Other?



Questions Discussion Networking

BC Provincial Nominee Program Contact Information:



Community Partners & Employers:

PNPConcierge@gov.bc.ca

Applicants:

PNPInfo@gov.bc.ca

Resources are available at www.WelcomeBC.ca/pnp