

PROGRAMME BROCHURE

RESIDENCY BY INVESTMENT | CANADA

Federal Self-Employed Persons Program – Paused

Intake closed on 30 April 2024 and IRCC extended the pause until further notice on 19 December 2025. No new application can be filed.

XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC
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Updated 1 October 2026
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At a glance

COUNTRY	ROUTE
Canada	**Residency by Investment - Talent Based Residency (Paused)**

LAST UPDATED
1 October 2026

This programme is paused

The **Federal Self-Employed Persons Program** is not accepting applications. IRCC stopped intake on **30 April 2024** to clear its backlog, and on **19 December 2025** extended that pause **"until further notice"**. The status banner on canada.ca reads *Paused*.

The programme has not been formally cancelled, but with no intake and no reopening date, it cannot be applied for.

What happened, and when

Date	What changed
30 April 2024	IRCC stopped accepting new applications, to clear the existing backlog.
19 December 2025	The pause was extended "until further notice" in IRCC's entrepreneur measures notice.
2026 onwards	The 2026-2028 Levels Plan sets the Federal Business category at 500 admissions a year. No reopening date has been published.

What it was, for reference

The programme offered permanent residence to people with relevant experience in **cultural or athletic activities** who intended to be self-employed in Canada and contribute to its cultural or athletic life. It required **no monetary investment**. Eligibility rested on professional achievement, recognition, and the intention and ability to be self-employed, plus enough funds to support the applicant and their family after landing.

If you already have an application in

IRCC continues to process files accepted before 30 April 2024. The pause does not cancel an existing application. Contact us if you need help with a submitted file.

Routes into Canada that are still open

Canada has not closed down — the money-based federal routes closed, while the skills and provincial routes grew. For 2026 the federal government raised Provincial Nominee Program admissions to **91,500** (up from 55,000 in 2025) and held total permanent residence at 380,000.

Provincial business streams still accepting applications:

- British Columbia — Entrepreneur Immigration, Base stream — from CAD $200,000
- British Columbia — Entrepreneur Immigration, Regional stream — from CAD $100,000
- Prince Edward Island — Work Permit Stream — from CAD $150,000
- Newfoundland & Labrador — International Entrepreneur — from CAD $200,000
- Nova Scotia — Entrepreneur stream — from CAD $100,000
- Northwest Territories — Business Stream — from CAD $100,000
- New Brunswick — Business Immigration Stream — from CAD $150,000
- Manitoba — Business Investor Stream, Entrepreneur Pathway
- Alberta — Self-Employed Farmer Stream — net worth and farm equity of CAD $500,000; very limited 2026 allocation
- Yukon — Business Nominee Program — from CAD $300,000

Skilled and employment routes:

- Express Entry — four new occupation categories were added for 2026
- Provincial Nominee Program
- Global Talent Stream — two-week work permit processing

Speak to a XIPHIAS adviser about which of these fits your profile.

Questions clients ask

Can I apply to the Federal Self-Employed Persons Program in 2026?

No. IRCC stopped accepting new applications on 30 April 2024 and extended the pause until further notice on 19 December 2025.

Has the programme been cancelled?

Not formally. It is paused, with no published reopening date. In practice that means no one can file.

Who was it for?

People with relevant experience in cultural or athletic activities who intended to be self-employed in Canada and contribute to its cultural or athletic life. No investment was required.

What happens to applications already submitted?

IRCC continues to process files it accepted before the April 2024 cut-off.

What can artists and athletes do instead?

Express Entry added Researchers and Physicians categories for 2026, and several provincial streams remain open. Speak to an adviser about which fits your profile.

Important notes

- This programme is paused with no reopening date. XIPHIAS is not accepting new clients for it.
- It has not been formally terminated, but with no intake and no reopening date, no new application can be filed.

Compliance

- IRCC stopped accepting new applications on 30 April 2024 to clear the existing backlog.
- On 19 December 2025 IRCC extended the pause 'until further notice'. The status banner on canada.ca reads 'Paused'.
- Applications received before 30 April 2024 continue to be processed.

Official sources: IRCC — Self-employed persons: how to immigrate (status: Paused); IRCC — Immigration measures for entrepreneurs (notice, 19 December 2025); IRCC — Supplementary Information for the 2026-2028 Immigration Levels Plan.



NEXT STEP

Plan your Canada application with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will confirm whether **Federal Self-Employed Persons Program – Paused** fits, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

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CREDENTIALS

- Advising clients on global mobility since 2009; XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC in Dubai since 2017.
- Named Best Immigration Consultant by The Times of India in 2022.
- Canada files handled by a CICC-licensed Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, licence R516194.
- Australia files handled by a registered migration agent, MARA 1680615.

This brochure is produced from the programme information published at www.xiphiasimmigration.ae/residency/canada/federal-self-employed as at 1 October 2026. Rules, fees and processing times are set by the relevant government and can change, and approval is always the authority's decision. Please confirm the current position with us before you apply. XIPHIAS provides immigration consulting and documentation support. It is not a law firm, and nothing in this brochure is legal advice.