C11 Business Owner Work Permit: Process Flowchart

The main steps from checking eligibility to running your business in Canada. See the full Neximm guide for details.

1 Check that C11 fits you
You will own at least 51% of the business, run it yourself, and seek only temporary residence

Will the business bring a significant benefit to Canada?

YES

2 Set up or buy the business
Register it, secure premises, and invest or commit the funds

NOT YET

Strengthen the plan first
Jobs, local spending, exports or a regional need. Or ask about other options

3 Write a strong business plan
Steps, costs, hiring, market and a plan for the business to run without you

4 Submit your offer in the Employer Portal
Choose C11 Business Owner, NOC 88888 Entrepreneur or your own code, and pay the $230 fee

5 Gather your documents
Offer number, ownership proof, business plan, personal funds and experience

Where are you now?

OUTSIDE CANADA

6 Apply online from outside Canada
Visitor visa or eTA comes with the approval if needed

WORK OR STUDY PERMIT

6 Apply online from inside Canada
Apply before your permit expires and keep to its conditions

VISITOR IN CANADA

6 Apply as an outside-Canada application
No inside-Canada option and no flagpoling. Do not start the business yet

7 Pay the fee and give biometrics
$155 work permit fee, plus biometrics if IRCC asks

IRCC decision

APPROVED

8 Get your work permit
At the border when you arrive, or by mail if you are inside Canada

9 Run your business
Keep records of jobs, spending and growth for any extension

REFUSED

Read the refusal reasons
Fix the gaps, such as the plan, funds or benefit, then reapply or get advice