

Canadian Economic Migration Policies and Programs – A Current Snapshot

May 2019



Symposium on Migration and Socioeconomic Development, Policy Challenges and Options



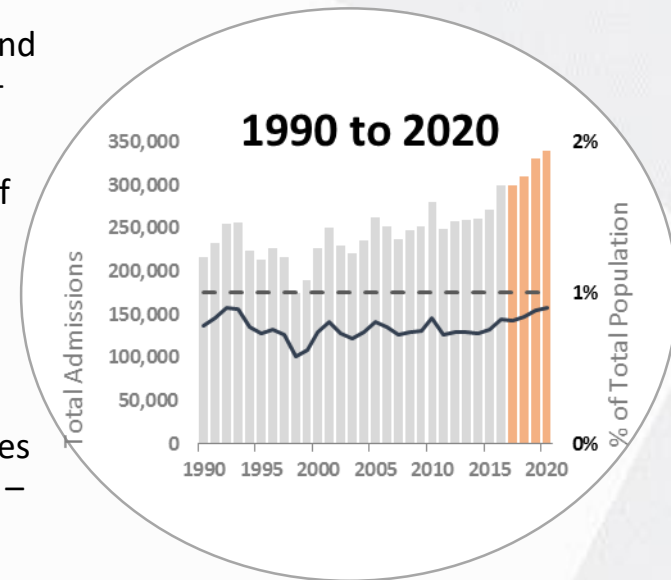
Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

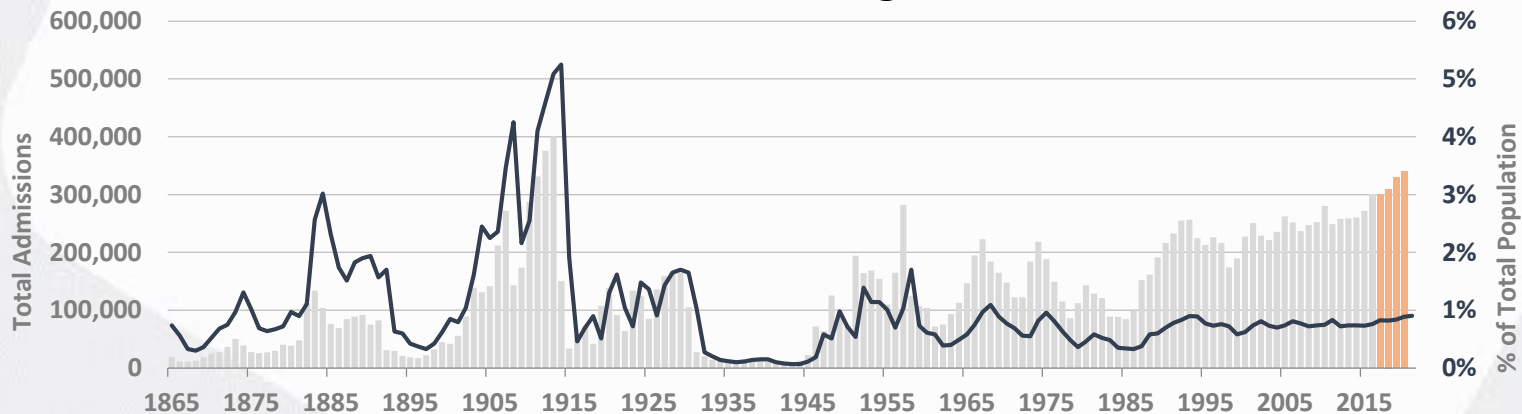
Canada


Canada takes a managed migration approach to immigration


- Canada has a **managed migration** model with formal pathways to permanent residence and annual admissions targets to achieve a pace and mix of immigration that will best contribute to economic and social well-being.
- Immigration is a **defining feature** of Canada: Immigrants (born outside of Canada) currently represent 1 in 5 people in Canada. Over 6 million new immigrants have arrived in Canada since 1990.
- Canada's position is that immigration **enriches Canada** economically, socially and culturally.
- Immigrants are all potential future Canadian citizens – settlement services are provided to support their economic and social integration in Canada – 86% of permanent residents obtain citizenship.



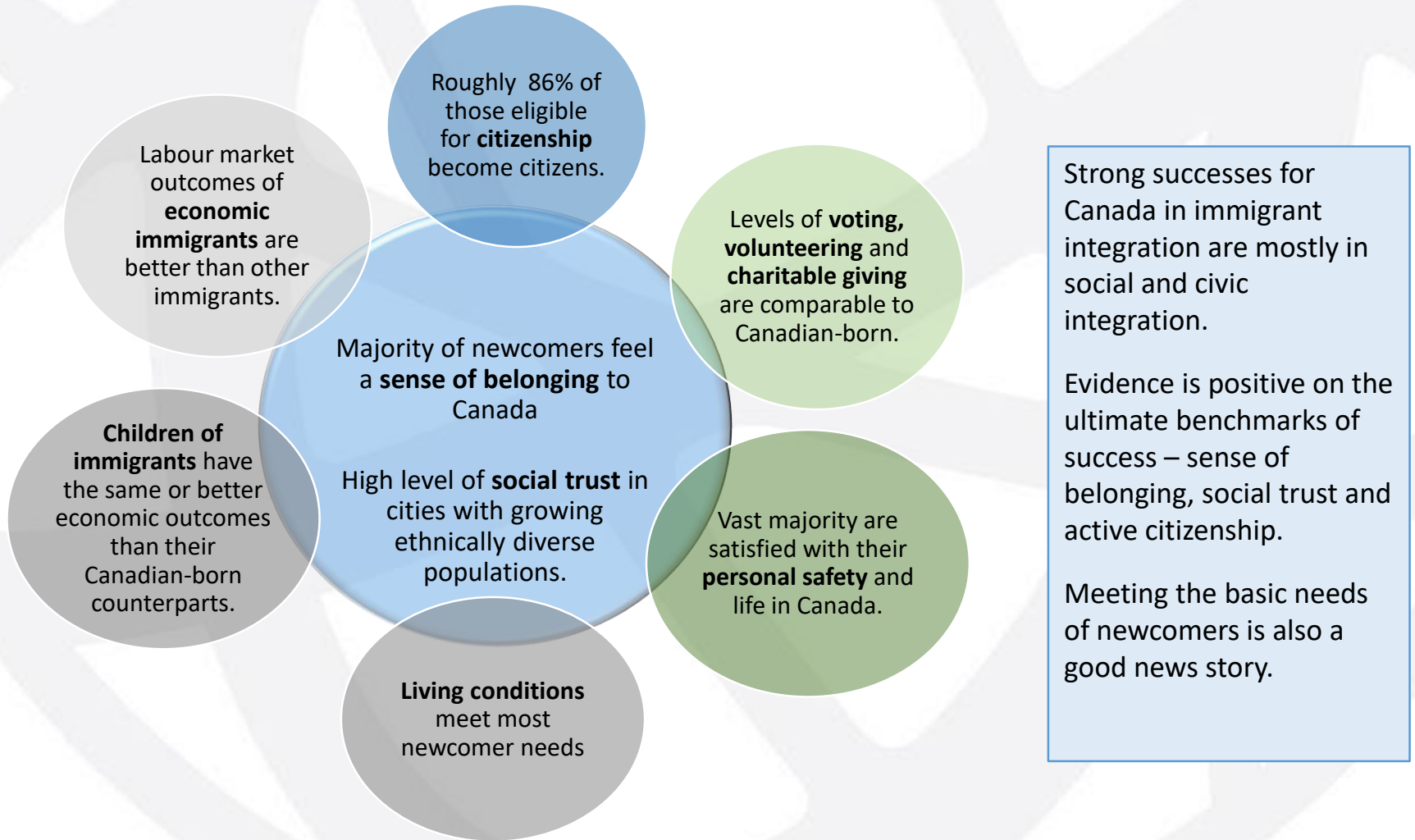
Permanent Resident Landings 1865 to 2020



 Total Permanent Resident admissions
(2017-2020 are projected)

 % of total Canadian population

Overall Canada's immigration story is positive...



Defined legal pathways to come and live in Canada

Permanent residents: Foreign nationals who settle in Canada as **economic immigrants** (and their immediate family); **spouses and family members**; or **refugees and protected persons**, and are eligible for citizenship.

They have the right to live, work or study anywhere in Canada

They must pay taxes, and have the right to get most social benefits that Canadian citizens receive, including health care coverage

They must adhere to and are protected under Canadian law and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

Temporary residents: Foreign nationals who visit, study or work in Canada for a limited time.

Most visitors are allowed a six-month stay, unless otherwise specified. Foreign nationals need either a visa or an electronic travel authorization (eTA) to come to Canada.

Work permit can be tied to a particular employer, but permit holders are allowed to change employers. Others, mostly high-skilled, may have “open” work permits.

Study permit holders must have been accepted by a designated learning institution in Canada, but they can amend their permit if they change schools. They can work off campus for a limited number of hours, or on campus (no limit on hours).

Temporary Residents can access many government programs and benefits, and are protected under Canadian law and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

Immigration drives Canada's economic prosperity and nation building

Economic Immigrants

- Canada admits immigrants who have the potential to contribute to Canada's economy, along with their spouses and dependents. The **Federal Skilled Workers/Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSW/FST)**, which is subject to the points system, is the cornerstone of economic immigration. **Provincial nominees**, who are nominated by provinces/territories based on their economic and demographic priorities, account for a rising portion of economic immigrants. Other economic categories include: **Canadian Experience Class, entrepreneur, investor and self-employed**.

Family Class Immigrants

- Family re-unification has been an important pillar of Canada's immigration policy. Citizens and permanent residents are able to sponsor immediate family members (i.e. **spouses/partners, sons/daughters, parents/grandparents**). The majority of sponsored family class immigrants are spouses/partners.

Refugees

- Canada has a strong commitment to its humanitarian goals by resettling refugees either as **government-assisted refugees (GARs), privately sponsored refugees (PSRs) or blended visa office-referred refugees (BVORs)**. Many asylum seekers have also been successful refugee claimants (i.e. **refugees landed in Canada**). Considerations include both the need for protection based on the *1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees* and the ability to establish in Canada.

*Temporary residents also contribute to Canada's economy. Many **temporary foreign workers and foreign students** become permanent residents.*

The 2019-2021 Immigration Levels Plan

- The Minister **tables a plan in Parliament** each year by November 1 setting out intended ranges for the admission of permanent residents (economic immigrants, family and humanitarian class immigrants, including refugees).
- The Government of Canada has adopted a **multi-year levels plan** for 2019 to 2021. A longer planning horizon will help all partners better prepare for future admissions and reflects a commitment to a well-managed system.
- This plan builds on an increase to **330,800 in 2019, 341,000 in 2020 and 350,000 in 2021**. These are the most ambitious immigration levels in recent history.



Supporting **economic growth**, help spur innovation, and help employers address labour market needs across the country.

- 58% of the increase in levels is in economic programs.



Planning for the future and help address **demographic challenges** related to an aging population.



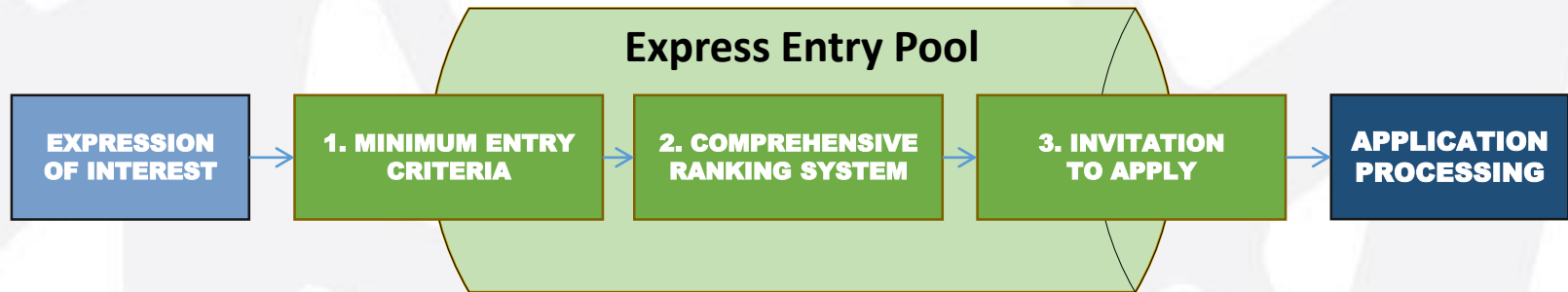
Creating the space needed to **reduce backlogs and decrease processing times**, such as for families.



Demonstrating leadership in a rules-based international migration environment – **openness to trade, talent, and protecting those in need**.

Economic Immigration

Express Entry Step-by-Step



Express Entry introduces an element of competition in the economic programs as only the highest ranked candidates are invited to apply for permanent residence:

- Potential candidates submit an online Express Entry profile. Those who meet the **Minimum Entry Criteria** of one of the federal economic immigration programs subject to Express Entry are accepted into the **Express Entry pool**.
- Candidates in the pool are assessed and assigned a score according to the **Comprehensive Ranking System**, a skills based ranking system. Candidates in the pool are ranked against others in the pool according to their score.
- Candidates with the highest rankings in the pool are invited to apply during **rounds of invitations** that occur approximately every two weeks.

Not all candidates who successfully enter the Express Entry pool are invited to apply.

The system actively and purposefully issues invitations only to the candidates who are best positioned for economic success in Canada – not the first in line.

How Express Entry's *Comprehensive Ranking System* works

Developed to reflect factors that are **empirically shown** to contribute to better wage outcomes for immigrants

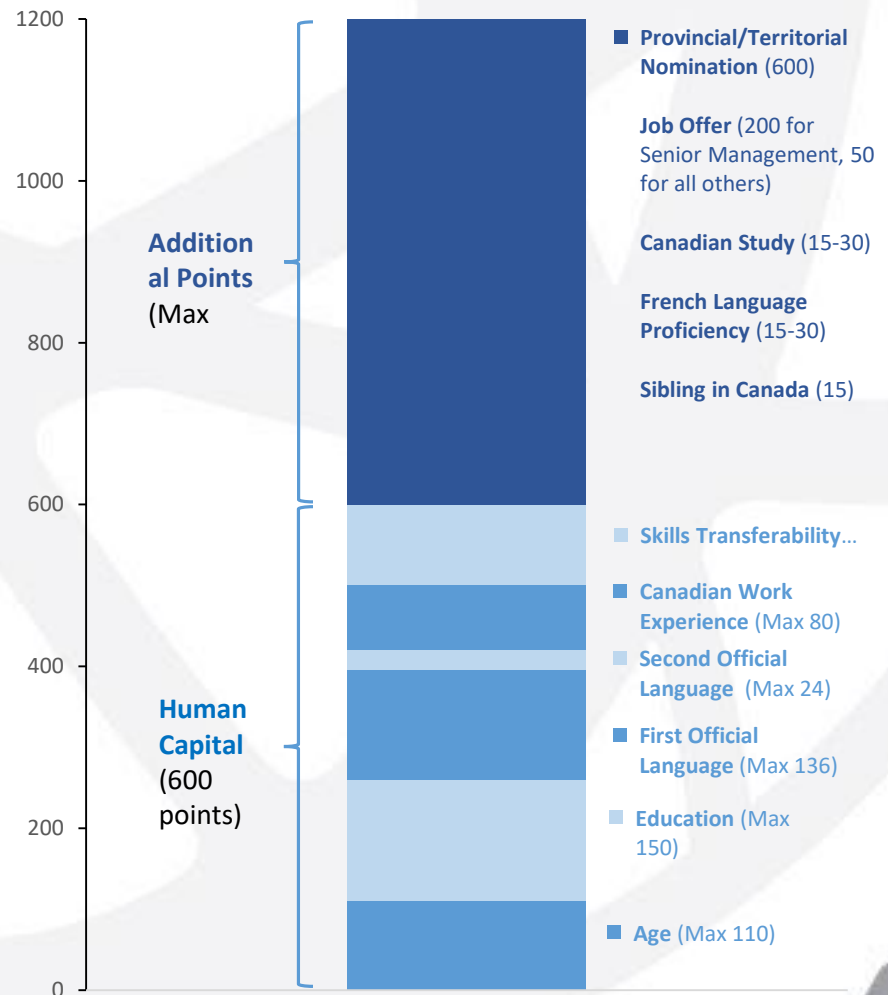
Provides up to 600 points for **factors most closely linked to economic outcomes** (e.g. immigrant employment earnings)

- For example: education, official language proficiency and work experience

Provides a maximum of 600 points for **additional policy considerations**, including **labour market** considerations (e.g. a provincial nomination or job offer)

Takes into account the **interaction effects** of certain factors (e.g. strong official language skills and a post-secondary degree)

Comprehensive Ranking System: Points Available



Temporary Resident Programs that Support Economic Growth

Global Skills Strategy

- Facilitates faster access to top global talent for companies doing business in Canada.
- Sets an ambitious two-week standard for processing visas and work permits for low-risk, high-skill talent for companies doing business in Canada.
- Implement a new work permit exemption for short-duration work terms (fewer than 30 days in a year, or brief academic stays).

Temporary Resident Programs that Support Economic Growth (continued)

International Mobility Program

- Work Permits exempt from Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) under [Free Trade Agreements](#) ; [Intra-Company Transfers](#); and [Graduates of Canadian post-secondary institutions](#)

Temporary Foreign Worker Program

- General work permit category for employers unable to recruit qualified workers locally. TFWP uses a Labour Market Impact Assessment to make a determination about work permit approval and includes advertising and recruiting requirements as well as other compliance obligations.

Multi-Lateral Engagement – Encouraging global innovation for migration and refugees

Canada recognizes the significant contribution that migrants and refugees make to sustainable economic growth and to building dynamic and inclusive societies.

Canadian objectives for the global compact on migration are:

- Urge states to put in place more comprehensive, planned national migration systems, and to create more regular channels for mobility
- Encourage states to implement the migration-related conventions and treaties, resolutions, and agreements to which they are already party.
- Address the gender dimensions of international migration and mobility.

Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) promotes a constructive and positive narrative on international responses to migration and refugees.

- Canada is moving forward on GRSI to promote increased global resettlement spaces.
- Under GRSI Canada works to share its experience on private refugees sponsorship and support other countries in developing their own models.

Conclusion

- Canada has developed an immigration system that is central to government policy planning on the future of the economy and social development.
- Overall a large majority of the public support immigration in Canada, but this continuing support cannot be taken for granted.
- Future success will depend on:
 - ✓ Being attentive to economic drivers,
 - ✓ Maintaining social cohesion, and
 - ✓ Sustaining credibility and confidence.