

Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration 2005



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Message from the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration



I am pleased to present the 2005 edition of my department's *Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration*.

For almost a century and a half, immigration has been an engine for the economic and social development of our country. Since 1967, the employees of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)—whether they worked in this country or in our offices abroad—have played a crucial role in welcoming newcomers to join our work force and participate as community leaders. Each year unveils new programs and activities—as well as successes and areas for improvement—and 2004 was one of the most demanding our department has ever seen.

The year under review was characterized in large part by organizational renewal and an increasingly challenging mandate, one tailored toward making ours an ever more accommodating host nation for the talent we need. We take pride in the fact that our department met its immigration target for the fifth year in a row: Canada became home to 235,824 new permanent residents in 2004. CIC facilitated 2,000 international adoptions, and reunited 6,000 spouses and children of Convention refugees with their families in Canada (a 50% increase over 2003).

The number of provincial/territorial nominees rose by 41% in 2004, a tangible result of our joint efforts with various partners to spread more widely the benefits of immigration across the country. As well, 179,501 permanent residents took the oath of citizenship, celebrating this important milestone toward full participation in Canadian civil society.

We also took time to observe an important milestone in the nation's immigration history: the 25th anniversary of CIC's Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program, which enjoys worldwide renown for increasing Canada's capacity to offer protection and for its track record in offering settlement assistance to refugees during their initial period of integration into community life.

The Department continued to strengthen its partnerships with other federal bodies and with the provinces and territories in such matters as language training, labour market integration, and opportunities for international students to study and work. We also furthered our commitment to cooperate with global agencies involved in migration, family reunification, migrant health, and the integrity of the refugee determination system.

The year concluded with an undertaking that involved almost every division of CIC in Canada and our missions in South Asia. When the tsunami struck, CIC mobilized the first stage of disaster relief within hours. Many employees offered up Christmas holiday time to expedite applications from homeless tsunami victims seeking to join relatives here, and emergency operations lasted well into 2005. I have never witnessed such a widespread mission of hope in the wake of tragedy. CIC staff truly reflects the “human face” of public service.

Building on the commitment of the men and women who work for CIC and the Department’s achievements to date, I am confident we can realize even more. The government has a vision for our country and the role CIC can play in supporting the vision—one that sees us grow as a nation and expand our capacity to welcome newcomers. Our continued economic prosperity depends on it; enhancing our unique model of multiculturalism and diversity is central to it; and our ability to be engaged global citizens is supported by it.

To succeed, we must make the system work better; it is not enough to have people come to our country. Equally important, we need them to be successful once they are here to ensure that both immigrants and Canada fully benefit from the skills and talents newcomers bring.

A first step in moving forward is to have more effective, long-term planning to set the direction for the future while providing the Department with the time to make the necessary adjustments to get there. In partnership with provinces, territories and stakeholders, we will take steps to achieve this nation-building vision. We will work together to better identify the nation’s human resource needs, attract immigrants, promote Canada as a destination of choice, and ensure the systems and supports are in place to welcome and successfully integrate newcomers.

Let the nations of the world hear our call—while Wilfrid Laurier said the 20th century would belong to Canada, we now extend that promise to this 21st century. We are building a stronger Canada, and I dedicate the launch of this Annual Report to my employees at the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, at home and overseas. I thank them for their efforts during the past year and I am proud to be their Minister.

This year will test us again, but we will be stronger for the effort.

The Honourable Joe Volpe, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

Introduction to the Report



The *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)* came into effect on June 28, 2002, replacing the *Immigration Act* of 1976. By introducing a wide range of provisions to modernize Canada's immigration policy, IRPA and its Regulations offer a comprehensive and coherent approach to achieving the maximum social, cultural and economic impact from the immigration program. In addition to new tools to facilitate the entry of admissible persons and to attract workers with flexible skills, IRPA includes new measures to prevent persons who pose potential threats to the safety and security of Canadians from entering the country.

Under section 94 of IRPA, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration is required to table in Parliament an annual report on the Department's immigration activities and initiatives (see Annex A). The report focuses primarily on the selection of foreign nationals as permanent and temporary residents during the preceding calendar year (2004 in this case). The legislation also requires an overview of federal-provincial/territorial agreements and joint initiatives, as well as a gender-based analysis of the impact of IRPA. The annual report also serves as the vehicle for announcing Canada's immigration plan for the upcoming calendar year (2006 in this case).

This year's report builds on previous reports and provides expanded information on key activities relating to immigration. It is divided into seven sections based on CIC's new strategic outcomes.

Section 1 outlines the vision for building Canada's future and the role of immigration and the immigration program in nation building and ensuring Canada's future economic prosperity. This section also provides a summary of Canada's immigration levels plan, and indicates a target range for the number of permanent residents that CIC expects to welcome in each immigration class in 2006.

Section 2 focuses on CIC's partnerships with the provinces and territories. It outlines the bilateral agreements currently in force between the federal and provincial/territorial governments and describes major joint initiatives.

Section 3 summarizes activities and initiatives relating to the selection of permanent and temporary residents. It provides information on the economic and family classes of immigration; key statistics relating to the new permanent residents admitted in 2004 (by selection category, source country, province of destination and linguistic profile); the status of landings for the first half of 2005 (from January to June); and the projected number of permanent residents for the entire year. This section also explains the basic categories of temporary residents (foreign workers, international students and visitors), describes temporary resident permits and provides a statistical overview of the temporary residents admitted in 2004.

Section 4 focuses on Canada's humanitarian tradition and the protection of refugees and others in need of protection resettlement, including a statistical overview of the refugees and protected persons admitted in 2004.

Section 5 addresses the settlement and resettlement programs, special initiatives to facilitate the economic and social integration of newcomers, and activities relating to the promotion of Canadian citizenship.

Section 6 describes CIC's policy framework for gender-based analysis (GBA), reports on key GBA activities, and provides a statistical overview of gender differences relating to key immigration statistics.

Section 7 offers concluding remarks.

Canadian Immigration: Building Canada's Future



A Vision for Building Canada's Future

Global migration is a phenomenon of modern times. According to recent estimates, up to 200 million people now live outside their country of origin,¹ either on a permanent or temporary basis. A number of factors have influenced migration in recent decades: population growth; market globalization; advances in communication technology; relatively inexpensive transportation; and political, economic and social conditions and trends at the national and international levels.

Immigration has been fundamental to the growth of Canada and to our history of achievement. From our earliest days through to the global transformations of recent years, hardworking people and their families have come to Canada from all over the world. Collectively, they have made a significant contribution to the development of our economy, our society and our culture.

Immigration will play a key role in building the Canada of tomorrow by addressing future labour market and demographic needs, and supporting the country's international role and geopolitical presence. Looking to the future, Canada needs the talent and dynamism that immigrants bring to this country. Immigration is key to nation building and to our economic prosperity.

In economic terms, immigration supports Canada's future prosperity by contributing to the continued growth in the country's standard of living. Immigration will help maintain labour force growth and the necessary skilled labour supply in different sectors and regions across the country.

In social terms, immigration will enhance the Canadian approach to multiculturalism and diversity, lending social and cultural richness to communities across the country and providing a source of comparative advantage in attracting and retaining talent.

In global terms, immigration will help to ensure Canada's influence in the world and support the ongoing humanitarian commitment to the protection of refugees.

¹ Karlsson and Ramphela, "The Challenge of International Migration Policy" in *Metropolis World Bulletin*, Volume 4, September 2004, page 3.

At the same time, the international environment will increasingly challenge Canada's ability to meet its future economic, social and cultural needs through immigration. On the one hand, as a result of local and global events, unprecedented numbers of people are on the move. There is growing recognition of the need for international cooperation to ensure the management of migration, and Canada participates in several international fora to lend its expertise in this area and to advance Canadian immigration and humanitarian objectives.

On the other hand, the global environment is also one in which competition for skill and talent will intensify with the declining population growth in the world's developed regions and the emergence of developing countries as economic powers. Canada has an overall record of success in attracting and integrating immigrants, but challenges to remaining globally competitive are undeniable. Ensuring Canada remains a destination of choice is imperative when, within the next 10 years, our country will experience slowing labour force growth and labour supply shortages in certain regions and sectors, and all net labour force growth will come from immigration. Canada's relative share of the North American population is also expected to decline over time.

Canada needs to prepare itself to compete in this changing and more challenging international environment and needs to move now to start putting the conditions in place to ensure more successful immigration to Canada.

Canada's Immigration Program

Canada is a multicultural and diverse country that is open to the world, with an immigration program that enjoys public support and a track record of successfully integrating generations of newcomers. Canada is one of the few countries in the world with a proactive policy of encouraging immigration. According to the most recent Census results, 18.4% (5.4 million) of the Canadian population in 2001 was foreign-born, representing a sizable and growing proportion of our population. Future success requires that program-related challenges be addressed to ensure that the immigration system works better in support of Canada's continued economic prosperity and global competitiveness.

Key among these challenges are improving client service, improving the economic outcomes of immigrants, and ensuring the benefits of immigration are better shared across Canada through regionalization efforts. Work is already under way, but more needs to be done to transform the program and make it more responsive.

CIC has met the overall target for immigration for the past five years as established in the Annual Immigration Plan tabled in Parliament, with over 220,000 people obtaining permanent resident status annually since 2000. CIC has successfully delivered the targeted levels for permanent residents while simultaneously managing its processing capacity effectively in other demand-driven programs such as temporary residence (temporary foreign workers, foreign students, visitors) and citizenship.

Notwithstanding this success, CIC faces growing inventories and longer processing times both at its missions abroad and in Canada. Demand continues to exceed the Annual Immigration Plan and this, in turn, puts increased pressure on CIC's overall processing capacity. For example, the total number of applications for permanent resident status in the inventory is approximately 700,000 persons,² with particular pressure in the economic class and in the parent and grandparent category of the family class. Longer processing times, in turn, result in more inquiries about applications to CIC's Call Centre, more appeals for assistance to members of Parliament and more client complaints.

The upcoming implementation of CIC's new Global Case Management System (GCMS) may create some added service challenges as old systems are replaced. In the longer term, however, the GCMS will integrate all client information into a single Client Relationship Management (CRM) system accessible to all employees around the world. It will directly benefit our clients by providing access to more detailed information on the status of their applications, and will become a critical platform to support CIC in service transformation.

Funding announced by the government in the 2005 Budget will improve client access to CIC information and services. In April 2005, the Minister also announced significant financial investments to alleviate inventory pressures in several programs. These investments focus on accelerating the processing of citizenship applications, processing more sponsored parents and grandparents, and allowing international students to work off campus. CIC will address short-term pressures by accelerating the processing of applications to renew temporary resident status for visitors, students and temporary workers already in Canada. Beyond these efforts, improving client service will require fundamental transformation of the service delivery system.

Declining economic outcomes for immigrants who arrived in Canada in the 1990s were matched with a rise in low-income rates among new immigrants. Employment earnings of immigrants rise with time in Canada, and since the mid-1990s, there has been much stronger growth in earnings than in previous years. The government is taking action to support newcomer integration, but more needs to be done.

For example, in the 2005 Budget, the government announced a \$298 million investment over five years for settlement services to facilitate newcomer integration into the economy and society. In addition, the federal government and the Province of Ontario have made significant progress toward a first-ever Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement. At the same time, action is being taken through the Internationally Trained Workers Initiative (ITWI) to provide newcomers with enhanced language training that is labour market and job specific, and to improve the availability of information and tools for immigrants before and after they arrive in Canada through the *Going to Canada* Internet portal.

² Inventories as of December 31, 2004. Source: CIC Data Warehouse and Case Processing Centre (CPC)-Mississauga for the period ending on December 31, 2004.

Moving forward, CIC will engage a broader range of partners and stakeholders to explore the development and implementation of innovative measures to improve labour market integration and social outcomes for newcomers, to ensure a better match between immigrant supply and local demand, and to develop strategies to increase regionalization and share the benefits of immigration across the country.

Critical Partnerships

The successful management of Canada's immigration program depends on ongoing collaboration with a wide range of partners. CIC works actively with partners on a range of immigration issues both internationally and domestically. However, more and broader engagement is needed to build toward Canada's future.

On the international front, for example, the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM), which consists of 20 member states including Canada, was established in late 2003 to develop a comprehensive and global response to major migration issues. CIC is involved in setting the international migration agenda through regular sessions of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR's) Working Group on Resettlement. CIC is also examining cross-cutting issues on the international migration agenda through the Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) on Asylum, Refugees and Migration Policies and through the Puebla Process, and is helping to move migration issues from informal and regional perspectives to global perspectives through the GCIM. The Department also maintains strategic alliances with key countries around the world on a wide range of issues. For example, CIC works to facilitate the movement of workers under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and negotiates with Mexico and several Caribbean countries regarding seasonal agricultural workers.

Domestically, CIC partners include other federal departments and agencies, provincial and territorial governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), voluntary organizations, community-based service provider organizations, researchers and other stakeholders. The Department works closely with the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) on issues relating to the overall management of the refugee and immigration portfolio. The IRB is an independent administrative tribunal that adjudicates immigration inadmissibility, detention, appeals and refugee protection claims made within Canada. While the independence of the IRB and its decision makers is always maintained, there is close collaboration with CIC.

Since the creation of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) on December 12, 2003, CIC shares responsibility for administering the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA) with the CBSA. CIC is responsible for immigrant selection, settlement and integration, while also offering Canada's protection to those in need. CIC also retains responsibility for admissibility policies with the exception of policies related to security, war crimes and organized crime. The CBSA is responsible for the management and operation of our nation's borders, including preventing people who should not be in Canada from reaching our borders, detecting those who are in Canada but who are in contravention of IRPA, and removing these individuals in a timely manner. In October 2004, the additional transfer of port-of-entry functions to the CBSA was announced, as was the transfer back to CIC from the CBSA of the Pre-Removal Risk Assessment (PRRA) function.

Overseas, CIC's program delivery network is co-located with Foreign Affairs Canada. In Canada, CIC works with Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada and key agencies involved in managing access to Canada such as the CBSA, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and with Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada on immigrant health issues. The Temporary Foreign Workers Program is an integrated government program that involves both CIC and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). CIC and Canadian Heritage share citizenship promotion activities. CIC also participates in numerous research activities with federal partners and has forged strategic alliances with policy makers and researchers both in Canada and abroad.

With the passing of regulations on authorized representatives in April 2004, CIC also recognized the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC) as the authorized regulatory body for immigration consultants. In the short time since its creation, CSIC has put in place all the hallmarks of a professional regulatory body to carry out its consumer protection mandate.

Moving forward, CIC will expand this network of partnerships and work more effectively with other government departments, other levels of government, NGOs, employers, unions and others to ensure that the immigration program supports Canada's future growth and prosperity and allows newcomers to integrate easily into the labour market and our communities.

Canada's Immigration Plan for 2006

Putting the vision for Canada's future into action requires a new way of doing business built around a new approach to levels planning supported by more dynamic engagement with a broader range of partners. CIC will engage partners more broadly on both levels planning as well as how best to address program and operational challenges that will be key to success in the future.

As part of this new approach, the commitment is to admit between 225,000 and 255,000 newcomers to Canada as permanent residents in 2006 with a 56:44 ratio between the economic and non-economic categories.³ This includes more parents and grandparents, as announced in the spring of 2005. CIC will engage partner departments, provinces and territories, and stakeholders on future levels planning with a view to developing a shared and mutually supported plan for the future. See Table 1 for further information.

³ While these figures are projections for the entire country, the Government of Quebec is responsible for developing and managing its own immigration plan under the Canada-Quebec Accord and also publishes its plan annually. For further details, see www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/anglais/index.html.

Table 1: Immigration Levels Plan 2006

Immigrant Category	2006 Ranges Lower/Upper	RATIO
Skilled workers	105,000 – 116,000	
Business	9,000 – 11,000	
<i>Entrepreneur</i>		
<i>Self-employed</i>		
<i>Investor</i>		
Live-in caregiver	3,000 – 5,000	
Provincial nominees	9,000 – 11,000	
TOTAL ECONOMIC	126,000 – 143,000	56%
Spouses, partners and children	44,000 – 46,000	
Parents and grandparents*	17,000 – 19,000	
Total Family	61,000 – 65,000	
Government-assisted refugees	7,300 – 7,500	
Privately sponsored refugees	3,000 – 4,000	
Inland protected persons	19,500 – 22,000	
Dependants abroad	3,000 – 6,800	
Total Refugee	32,800 – 40,300	
Humanitarian and Compassionate/ Public Policy	5,100 – 6,500	
Permit holders	100 – 200	
TOTAL NON-ECONOMIC	99,000 – 112,000	44%
TOTAL	225,000 – 255,000	

* This number includes 12,000 parents and grandparents as announced by the Minister on April 18, 2005.

Federal-Provincial/Territorial Partnerships



Jurisdiction over immigration is shared between the federal government and the provinces and territories. Ongoing intergovernmental consultation and cooperation are critical aspects of managing the immigration program, related policies and legislative initiatives.

Under IRPA, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration has the authority to sign agreements with the provinces and territories to facilitate the coordination and implementation of immigration and refugee protection policies and programs. The provinces and territories also have legislation enabling them to enter into such agreements. CIC has signed comprehensive framework agreements with six provinces and one territory. These agreements outline responsibilities and include mechanisms for provincial and territorial involvement. In addition, they include a variety of annexes that provide for such measures as provincial delivery of settlement services (Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia); full provincial powers of selection (Quebec); and provincial nomination of an agreed-upon number of individuals to fill regional or local economic and social needs (Manitoba, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island and Yukon). Bilateral agreements relating exclusively to provincial nominees are also in place with New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta and Nova Scotia. Table 2 provides a list of these agreements, together with their signature dates and expiry dates.

The Canada-Quebec Accord relating to immigration and the admission of temporary residents, signed in 1991, is the most comprehensive bilateral agreement on immigration. Under the Accord, Quebec has the authority to set its own annual immigration targets, has sole responsibility for selecting immigrants who want to settle in the province (with the exception of members of the family class and refugees whose status is determined in Canada), and has full responsibility for providing orientation and integration services to new permanent residents.

There was considerable federal-provincial/territorial activity in 2004. The Agreement for Canada-British Columbia Co-operation on Immigration was signed on April 5, 2004, and amended on June 15, 2005. The Agreement, which replaces the original signed in 1998, recognizes the importance of immigration to British Columbia's economic and social development, and commits the two levels of government to working together on the recruitment, selection, admission and control of immigrants, refugees, international students and temporary workers who settle in British Columbia. The Canada-Saskatchewan Immigration Agreement, originally signed in 1998, was renewed on May 7, 2005.

In May 2004, a Letter of Intent was signed between CIC and the Government of Ontario, highlighting immigration as a key area for bilateral collaboration. As a result of the Canada-Ontario Letter of Intent, negotiations toward a first-ever immigration agreement with Canada's largest immigrant-receiving province were intensively pursued. The agreement with Ontario is expected to break new ground by confirming program objectives and investment priorities to address the full range of integration needs, including pre-arrival information and orientation, basic settlement services and language training.

In terms of international students, CIC has continued to expand the availability of a second year of post-graduation work, begun in 2003 through pilot projects with New Brunswick and Alberta. In the past year, CIC concluded agreements on pilot projects that make it easier for international students who graduate from a college or university in Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador, to work in those provinces for an extra year. The Department also signed new pilot projects to allow international students in New Brunswick and Quebec (except for those in Montréal and Québec City) to work off campus, building on the original pilot with Manitoba in 2003. In addition, CIC supported small regional projects in British Columbia and Manitoba, the results of which will be shared with other jurisdictions.

In an effort to enhance the integration of immigrants into the Canadian work force, CIC entered into bilateral arrangements with Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia and the Yukon to jointly fund new labour market language initiatives. Alberta and CIC agreed on establishing a joint process for reviewing and funding Enhanced Language Training (ELT) projects in the province in 2004–2005. The Department also joined with several provinces in leading workshops across the country to help further define a comprehensive and complementary strategy on the development of an immigration portal which can help to disseminate information about working in Canada to immigrants and potential immigrants abroad. (See Section 5 for further details on these special integration initiatives.)

Through regular bilateral and multilateral interaction at the ministerial and official levels, CIC continues to maintain solid partnerships with the provinces and territories. Federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for immigration met in November 2004 and July 2005 to discuss plans to develop the foundations for a more responsive immigration program that includes stronger partnerships between federal and provincial/territorial governments, and opportunities for increased participation from large and small cities and communities, employers and other interested parties. Program and policy questions were also broached at meetings of federal, provincial and territorial working groups considering a range of issues, including promotion and recruitment, provincial nominees, settlement and integration, business immigration and international students.

Table 2: Federal-Provincial/Territorial Agreements

	Date Signed	Expiry Date
Canada-Quebec Accord	February 5, 1991	Permanent
Canada-Manitoba Immigration Agreement	October 22, 1996 Renewed June 6, 2003	Permanent
Canada-Saskatchewan Immigration Agreement	March 16, 1998 Renewed May 7, 2005	Permanent
Agreement for Canada-British Columbia Co-operation on Immigration	May 19, 1998 Amended June 15, 2005	April 5, 2009
Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on Provincial Nominees	February 22, 1999 Amended March 29, 2005	Permanent
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on Provincial Nominees	September 1, 1999 Letter of Extension: January 10, 2005	December 31, 2005
Agreement for Canada-Prince Edward Island Co-operation on Immigration	March 29, 2001	March 29, 2006
Agreement for Canada-Yukon Co-operation on Immigration	April 2, 2001	April 2, 2006
Canada-Alberta Agreement on Provincial Nominees	March 2, 2002 Letter of Extension: April 11, 2005	March 2, 2006
Canada-Nova Scotia Agreement on Provincial Nominees	August 27, 2002	August 27, 2007

Selecting Foreign Nationals as Permanent and Temporary Residents



Canada's immigration program is based on non-discriminatory principles—foreign nationals are assessed according to the same criteria regardless of race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or gender. CIC aims to ensure that the movement of people into Canada contributes to Canada's social and economic interests, and meets Canada's humanitarian

commitments. The Department undertakes a wide range of activities to bring foreign nationals to Canada, both as permanent and temporary residents.

3.1 Selecting Permanent Residents

A permanent resident is someone who has been allowed to enter Canada as an immigrant but who has not become a Canadian citizen. IRPA defines three basic classes of permanent residents: economic, family and protected persons.⁴ In addition, in exceptional circumstances, CIC has the authority to accept as permanent residents foreign nationals who do not meet the usual selection criteria.

Overall, CIC strives to maintain a balanced immigration program that contributes to meeting Canada's labour market needs, while fostering family reunification and honouring humanitarian principles of refugee protection. Please consult Table 3 for the number of new permanent residents admitted in 2004 under the various immigration categories.

Economic Class Immigrants

IRPA and its regulations modernized Canada's immigration policy by facilitating the entry into Canada of immigrants who are better prepared to adapt to Canada's labour market needs and those who can make a contribution to the economy through investments and the establishment of new businesses. The economic class includes skilled workers, business immigrants, provincial nominees and live-in caregivers, as well as members of their immediate family. In recent years, approximately 55% to 60% of new permanent residents have been in the economic class.⁵

⁴ The protected persons category is discussed in Section 4.

⁵ Note that the figures in the economic class include the applicants' spouses and children.

■ Skilled Workers

To address the current and future demands of the Canadian labour market, the IRPA criteria introduced in June 2002 for the skilled worker category are linked to the selection of immigrants who are capable of adapting and contributing to an evolving labour market. The focus is now on selecting immigrants with the flexible and transferable skills needed to succeed in a rapidly changing, knowledge-based economy, rather than on qualifications for specific occupations. The current criteria place more emphasis on the applicants' level of education and previous work experience, and there is greater importance attached to their knowledge of English or French. In addition, applicants with pre-arranged employment are awarded extra points. These skilled workers are also expected to have enough money to support themselves and their dependants as they settle in Canada.

While the 2001 Census data indicate a general decline in the economic performance of recent immigrants as a whole, the Department expects that the changes made to the skilled worker selection grid will have an impact on the overall economic performance of skilled worker immigrants once larger numbers of immigrants selected under these criteria begin to arrive and establish themselves in Canada. CIC has developed an evaluation framework to monitor and evaluate the impact of these changes over the next few years as well as over the longer term. Regulatory changes were also introduced in 2004 to give more foreign nationals authorized to work temporarily in Canada credit for arranged employment under the skilled worker grid when they apply for permanent residence.

Having addressed concerns related to program integrity in the arranged employment process, CIC initiated administrative measures to enable immigrant applicants with valid offers of permanent employment to begin work as soon as possible.

■ Business Immigrants

Business immigrants are selected on the basis of their ability to create jobs for themselves and other Canadian residents, to contribute capital to the Canadian economy and to stimulate economic activity. In 2002, IRPA introduced changes to the Business Immigration Program that were designed to make the selection criteria more objective and to enhance the economic benefits derived from the program.

The three categories of business immigrants are as follows:

- (1) **The Immigrant Investor Program (IIP)** seeks to attract immigrants with business and capital management experience. Applicants must demonstrate that they have business experience and a minimum net worth of CAN\$800,000. They are required to make an investment of CAN\$400,000 that is used for economic development and job creation.
- (2) **The Entrepreneurial Immigration Program** is designed to attract immigrants with business experience that can be utilized in Canada. Within two years of their arrival, immigrants must hold at least one-third of the equity of a Canadian business, be actively involved in the management of that business, and employ at least one Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

- (3) **Self-employed persons** must demonstrate their ability and their intention to be self-employed upon arrival and to make a significant contribution to specified economic activities in Canada in the area of culture, athletics or farm management.

In 2004, CIC took a number of steps to revitalize its operational and policy partnerships with business immigration stakeholders both inside and outside the Department. These included workshops and training sessions with inland and overseas immigration officers, federal-provincial consultations via the Business Immigration Working Group, and participation in the second annual investor facilitators meeting. CIC maintained ongoing consultations with Quebec, which has the authority under the Canada-Quebec Accord to select its own business immigrants, and provided detailed business immigration training to Quebec selection officers. The Department also completed negotiations related to a pilot project with British Columbia that will test a cooperative model for the more effective delivery of the Business Immigration Program.

A number of initiatives were also put in place to strengthen the Immigrant Investor Program (IIP). CIC met its commitment to finalize 1,000 investor applications. This resulted in a total gross allocation in 2004 of \$211 million to the five participating provinces and territories to fund activities intended to increase or maintain employment opportunities for Canadians in those geographic areas by stimulating economic activity. In addition to making presentations to other provinces interested in the IIP, CIC participated in promotional events with partners in Asia; undertook formal negotiations to expand marketing of the IIP in Taiwan; initiated a comprehensive review of the CIC business immigration Web site; and partnered with Investment Partners Canada to align information regarding business immigration opportunities in support of the broader government objective of encouraging business contacts of all kinds.

In addition, CIC began developing a framework for a comprehensive program evaluation to measure the effectiveness of the Business Immigration Program more concretely. Performance indicators and data sources have been identified, and benchmarking is expected to begin in fiscal year 2005–2006.

■ **Provincial Nominees**

The Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) allows provincial and territorial governments to actively participate in the immigration process. As mentioned earlier in Section 2, a number of provinces have entered into agreements with the Government of Canada to identify and designate the number of nominees needed to meet their local economic needs. While these nominees must meet federal health and security admission criteria, they are not subject to the skilled worker selection grid for determining eligibility. This program has grown five-fold in the past five years.

The PNP has proven to be a model with great potential for supporting the regionalization of immigrants to centres outside Canada's three largest cities. The most active PNP, that of Manitoba, accounted for over 4,000 landings in 2004, representing more than half of the 7,427 landings in that province that year. It is interesting to note that even in an immigrant-rich province like British Columbia, the provincial nominee population is more evenly distributed outside the Greater Vancouver Area than immigration to British Columbia in general.

■ Live-in Caregivers

The Live-in Caregiver Program allows individuals residing in Canada to employ a qualified foreign worker in their private residence when there are not enough Canadians and permanent residents to fill the available positions. Live-in caregivers must be qualified to provide care for children, sick or elderly people or persons with a disability. Initially, successful candidates are granted temporary resident status and, after two years, they are eligible to apply for permanent resident status.

In 2004, CIC planned a national round table to consult stakeholders on the future of the Live-in Caregiver Program. During the round table, which took place in January 2005, representatives of foreign workers, employers and provincial governments had the opportunity to express their concerns and give detailed feedback on the program. The core issues were the conditions of the work permit, eligibility criteria and transition to permanent residence. Based on discussions at the round table, CIC is developing measures to improve the program's effectiveness.

Family Class Immigrants

Reuniting families is an important principle of Canada's immigration policy. Long-standing policy allows Canadians and permanent residents to bring their family with them when they immigrate or to sponsor close family members for immigration to Canada.⁶ Family reunification is a priority of IRPA and is reinforced by research which suggests that immigrants tend to establish themselves more easily if they are supported by their families.⁷

The family class is made up of people who join family members already settled in Canada. Canadian citizens and permanent residents who are 18 years of age or older may sponsor family members who want to become permanent residents of Canada. Eligible family members include the following: spouses/partners, dependent children, parents and grandparents, grandchildren, orphaned brothers/sisters, and orphaned nephews/nieces of the sponsor.

Throughout 2003 and 2004, CIC placed particular priority on ensuring prompt and efficient processing to facilitate family reunification. As a result, the number of family class priority cases (sponsored spouses, partners and dependent children) processed within 6 months rose from 38% in fiscal 2002–2003 to 59% in 2004–2005. Nevertheless, inventories have been building up in the parents and grandparents category. To address this issue, on April 18, 2005, the Minister announced measures totaling \$72 million over two years to reduce this inventory by 12,000 people per year.

⁶ For more information, see www.cic.gc.ca/english/sponsor/index.html.

⁷ There is a growing interest in the field of social capital and immigration. For further information on the subject, see the *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, Volume 5, No. 2, 2004, and the results of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) discussed in the September 4, 2004, edition of Statistics Canada's *The Daily*, which can be found at www.statcan.ca/english/dai-quo/.

Sponsors are responsible for providing for the essential needs of their family members upon arrival and for ensuring that they do not become dependent on the Canadian social assistance system for a period of three to 10 years, depending on their age and relationship to the sponsor.

CIC is committed to ensuring that only those Canadian residents who meet the IRPA eligibility criteria are permitted to sponsor relatives for permanent residence in Canada. Since 2002, sponsors in arrears of court-ordered support payments have been ineligible to sponsor. In 2004, CIC initiated a pilot project with the Department of Justice and the Province of Ontario to verify that sponsors meet this requirement. Preliminary reports support broader implementation of this verification process.

Sponsors who default on their undertaking to support a family member cannot usually sponsor again unless they repay the province the amount of social assistance received by a sponsored immigrant. IRPA establishes equal authority for the federal and provincial governments to collect payments from sponsors in cases of default.⁸ In December 2004, a pilot project was launched with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and the Province of Ontario to facilitate the collection of debts owed by defaulting sponsors. Sponsors in Ontario who default on sponsorship commitments may now have their income tax or GST refunds withheld to pay back the province for social assistance costs incurred by family members they have sponsored. The intention is to expand this pilot nationwide. CIC is also continuing to work with the CRA and the provinces on additional measures to collect debts owing from sponsors.

Permanent Resident Status on Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds

On an exceptional basis, IRPA gives CIC the authority to grant permanent resident status to individuals and families who would not otherwise qualify in any category, and in cases where there are strong humanitarian, compassionate or public policy reasons to do so. The purpose of these discretionary provisions in IRPA is to provide the flexibility to approve deserving cases not anticipated in the legislation.

⁸ Quebec and British Columbia have used this authority to establish their own systems to collect debts from sponsors.

3.1.1 Statistical Overview of Permanent Residents Admitted in 2004 and 2005

New Permanent Residents in 2004

In 2004, a total of 235,824 people were admitted to Canada as permanent residents.⁹ This number falls well within the planned target range of 220,000 to 245,000 permanent residents, as outlined in the *Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration – 2004*. The 2004 results represent a 7% increase over the 2003 total of 221,355 newcomers.¹⁰

Of the newcomers admitted,

- 57% (133,746) were economic immigrants and their dependants in 2004, as compared to 55% (121,042) in 2003;
- 26% (62,246) were in the family class in 2004, as compared to 29% (65,125) in 2003;
- 14% (32,685) were refugees and other protected persons in 2004, as compared to 12% (25,981) in 2003; and
- 3% (6,945) were granted permanent resident status on humanitarian and compassionate (H and C) grounds in 2004, as compared to 4% (9,020) in 2003.

Overall in 2004, 57% of the new permanent residents were in the economic class, while 43% were in the non-economic classes. This proportion is very close to the 55:45 ratio of 2003 and also to the 60:40 desired balance between the economic and non-economic components of the immigration program. The totals for each immigration class fall within the planned range, with the exception of the family class, where the number of newcomers admitted exceeded the target range.

Table 3 provides more detailed breakdowns by immigration category and allows for a comparison with the 2004 Immigration Plan.

9 A more detailed analysis of the 2004 data on permanent residents can be found in the April 2005 issue of CIC's *The Monitor* at www.cic.gc.ca/english/monitor/issue09/index.html. (Note that, since the figures used in *The Monitor* were preliminary, there may be slight discrepancies with the statistics used in this report.) In addition, *Facts and Figures 2004: Immigration Overview – Permanent and Temporary Residents* provides more detailed statistics on immigrants admitted to Canada. For more information, see www.cic.gc.ca/english/pub/facts2004/index.html.

10 Note that the figures for 2003 have been adjusted since the publication of the *Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration – 2004*. CIC has refined its method of calculating the numbers to increase accuracy, and this new method was applied to the data from 2003. This resulted in some shifting between categories, particularly in the humanitarian and compassionate class and the family class.

Table 3: New Permanent Residents in 2004, by Immigration Category (Compared to the Immigration Plan)

	Plan Target Ranges	Admitted	
		Number	%
ECONOMIC CLASS			
Skilled workers	119,500 – 135,500	113,442	48.10
Business immigrants	6,000 – 6,000	9,764	4.14
Provincial/territorial nominees	3,500 – 3,500	6,248	2.65
Live-in caregivers	3,000 – 3,000	4,292	1.82
Total Economic Class (including dependants)	132,000 – 148,000	133,746	56.71
FAMILY CLASS			
Spouses, partners, children and others	42,000 – 42,000	49,514	21.00
Parents and grandparents	10,500 – 13,500	12,732	5.40
Total Family Class	52,500 – 55,500	62,246	26.40
PROTECTED PERSONS			
Government-assisted refugees	7,500 – 7,500	7,411	3.14
Privately sponsored refugees	3,400 – 4,000	3,115	1.32
Refugees landed in Canada	14,500 – 16,500	15,901	6.74
Dependants abroad	4,000 – 4,800	6,258	2.65
Total Protected Persons	29,400 – 32,800	32,685	13.86
Humanitarian and Compassionate/ Public Policy	6,100 – 8,700	6,945	2.94
Other		202	0.09
TOTAL	220,000 – 245,000	235,824	100.00

Source: *Facts and Figures 2004: Immigration Overview – Permanent and Temporary Residents.*

Within the economic class, the number of provincial/territorial nominees rose from 4,418 in 2003 to 6,248 in 2004, an increase of 41% over one year and almost double the projection for 2004. This increase is the result of the enhanced interest in this category by the provinces and territories to meet their local economic needs. So far, Manitoba has used its federal-provincial agreement to the greatest advantage, currently accounting for almost two-thirds of Canada's provincial nominees in 2004, representing an increase of 30% over 2003. A number of other provinces significantly increased their intake of provincial nominees in 2004. (See Table 6 for details.) For example, the number of provincial nominees increased from 37 to 171 in Newfoundland and Labrador, from 44 to 141 in Prince Edward Island, from 178 to 425 in Alberta, from 173 to 323 in Saskatchewan, and from 0 to 64 in Nova Scotia.

Table 4 breaks down the categories in the economic class for 2004 into principal applicants and their dependants. Overall, 41% of the immigrants selected in the economic class were principal applicants, who were evaluated on the basis of criteria developed to maximize their integration into the labour market or the business world.

Table 4: Permanent Residents in the Economic Class in 2004, by Principal Applicant and Dependants

Economic Class	Total	Percentage	Principal Applicants	Dependants
Skilled workers	113,442	84.8	47,889	65,553
Business immigrants	9,764	7.3	2,708	7,056
<i>Entrepreneurs</i>	2,477	1.9	671	1,806
<i>Self-employed</i>	1,190	0.9	366	824
<i>Investors</i>	6,097	4.6	1,671	4,426
Provincial/territorial nominees	6,248	4.7	2,086	4,162
Live-in caregivers	4,292	3.2	2,496	1,796
TOTAL ECONOMIC CLASS	133,746	100.0	55,179	78,567

Source: *Facts and Figures 2004: Immigration Overview – Permanent and Temporary Residents.*

Canada draws its immigrant population from all over the world—from over 200 different countries of origin. As indicated in Table 5-A, which cites the country of last permanent residence, over half (53% or 123,710) of the new immigrants admitted in 2004 came from 10 source countries. China and India were once again the leading source countries, representing 26% of new permanent residents, while the Philippines and Pakistan ranked third and fourth respectively. The other main countries of origin, in descending order, were the United States, Iran, the United Kingdom, Romania, Korea and France.

From the perspective of region of origin, Table 5-B shows that almost half (48.6%) of the newcomers admitted in 2004 came from the Asia and Pacific region, 21% from Africa and the Middle East, and roughly 18% from Europe and the United Kingdom.

Table 5-A: Permanent Residents Admitted in 2004, by Top 10 Source Countries

Country	Number	Percentage	Rank
China, People's Republic of	36,411	15.44%	1
India	25,569	10.84%	2
Philippines	13,301	5.64%	3
Pakistan	12,796	5.43%	4
United States	7,494	3.18%	5
Iran	6,063	2.57%	6
United Kingdom	6,058	2.57%	7
Romania	5,655	2.40%	8
Korea, Republic of	5,337	2.26%	9
France	5,026	2.13%	10
Total for top 10 countries only	123,710	52.46%	
Total for other countries	112,114	47.49%	
TOTAL	235,824	100.00%	

Source: *Facts and Figures 2004: Immigration Overview – Permanent and Temporary Residents.*

Table 5-B: Permanent Residents Admitted in 2004, by Source Area

Region	Number	Percentage
Africa and the Middle East	49,520	21.00%
Asia and Pacific	114,545	48.57%
South and Central America	22,248	9.43%
United States	7,494	3.18%
Europe and the United Kingdom	41,848	17.75%
Source area not stated	169	0.07%
TOTAL	235,824	100.00%

Source: *Facts and Figures 2004: Immigration Overview – Permanent and Temporary Residents.*

In 2004, as in recent years, the most popular provinces of destination for new immigrants were Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. As demonstrated in Table 6, approximately 88% of immigrants admitted in 2004 headed for those three provinces. Of the total new permanent residents, 53% (125,110) went to Ontario; 19% (44,239) were destined for Quebec; and 16% (37,018) chose British Columbia. In addition, the vast majority of newcomers (over three-quarters) chose to settle in Canada's largest cities, notably Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver.

Of the immigrants who settled in Ontario in 2004, 67,616 were economic immigrants; 35,004 were in the family class; and 18,340 were protected persons. British Columbia attracted 22,928 newcomers in the economic class, 10,866 in the family class and 2,367 protected persons.

Quebec, which has full responsibility for selecting its own immigrants,¹¹ welcomed a total of 44,239 permanent residents in 2004. This level falls within the targeted range (40,000 to 45,000) projected by the Government of Quebec. Of the total received, 26,661 were in the economic class; 8,628 were in the family class; and 7,382 were protected persons.

11 With the exception of refugees landed in Canada and members of the family class. See Section 2.

Category	NF	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU	Total
ECONOMIC CLASS														
Skilled workers ¹²	166	33	746	176	24,646	62,110	837	499	7,097	17,090	17	15	3	113,442
Business immigrants		8	186	4	1,593	3,365	69	7	373	4,157				9,764
Provincial/territorial nominees	171	141	64	161	37	280	4,048	323	425	598				6,248
Live-in caregivers	1	1	3	8	385	1,861	46	54	840	1,083				4,292
Total Economic Class (including dependants)	338	183	999	349	26,661	67,616	5,000	883	8,735	22,928	19	25	3	133,746
FAMILY CLASS														
Spouses, partners, children and others	90	51	476	211	7,866	26,908	917	404	4,136	8,369	38	43	5	49,514
Parents and grandparents	3	1	42	26	762	8,096	199	51	1,046	2,497	2	7		12,732
Total Family Class	93	52	518	237	8,628	35,004	1,116	455	5,182	10,866	40	50	5	62,246
PROTECTED PERSONS														
Government-assisted refugees	115	71	147	147	1,819	2,337	548	430	917	880				7,411
Privately sponsored refugees	3		31	15	270	1,506	608	98	380	204				3,115
Refugees landed in Canada	3		16	12	3,747	10,543	63	21	565	928		3		15,901
Refugee dependants	3	1	5		1,546	3,954	33	11	348	355		2		6,258
Total Protected Persons	124	72	199	174	7,382	18,340	1,252	560	2,210	2,367	0	5	0	32,685
Humanitarian and Compassionate														
Other	24	3	54	34	1,532	4,007	55	44	332	848	3	9	0	6,945
	0	0	0	1	36	143	4	0	9	9	0	0	0	202
TOTAL	579	310	1,770	795	44,239	125,110	7,427	1,942	16,468	37,018	62	89	8	235,824
PERCENTAGE	0.2%	0.1%	0.8%	0.3%	18.8%	53.1%	3.1%	0.8%	7.0%	15.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Source: Facts and Figures 2004: Immigration Overview – Permanent and Temporary Residents.

¹² Information on province/territory of destination was not available for seven skilled workers.

In terms of the language profile of permanent residents admitted in 2004, 63% stated that they spoke English and/or French, representing an increase of 7% from 2003. On the other hand, 37% of newcomers indicated that they did not speak English or French on arrival. Table 7 illustrates the knowledge of official languages among permanent residents admitted in 2004 according to immigration class. This table shows that 60% of new immigrants admitted in the family class indicated that they knew English and/or French when they arrived, as did 61% of protected persons. In the economic class, 82% of principal applicants and 49% of dependants had knowledge of one or both of Canada's official languages.

Class	English	French	Both	Neither	Total
Family class	52.8%	3.8%	4.0%	39.4%	62,246
Economic class – principal applicants	55.7%	4.3%	22.4%	17.6%	55,179
Economic class – partners and children	38.0%	4.2%	7.3%	50.6%	78,567
Protected persons	48.4%	7.2%	5.4%	39.0%	32,686
Other	77.0%	12.0%	3.7%	7.3%	7,146
TOTAL	114,707	11,302	22,608	87,207	235,824
Percentage	48.6%	4.8%	9.6%	37.0%	100.0%

Source: *Facts and Figures 2004: Immigration Overview – Permanent and Temporary Residents*.

Immigration Targets for 2005

Canada's Immigration Plan for 2005, set out in the *Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration – 2004*, indicated a target range of 220,000 to 245,000 new permanent residents. The plan underscored the government's commitment to balancing immigration in the economic, family and protected persons classes and to maximizing the social and economic benefits to Canada.

Table 8 provides a mid-year report on the number of people who became permanent residents in the first half of the year (between January and June 2005) in the various immigration categories. While the admissions for 2005 are generally on target, the number accepted under the family class is expected to be significantly higher than originally anticipated. As mentioned earlier, on April 18, 2005, the Minister announced new measures to speed up the processing of sponsorship applications for parents and grandparents and to reduce inventories in this category by 12,000 applicants each year over 2005 and 2006. As shown in the table, the targets for the protected persons in Canada category were also adjusted upwards.

Table 8: New Permanent Residents Admitted in 2005 (January to June)

	2005 Plan Target Range¹³	Landings (Jan.–June)	% of Plan¹⁴
ECONOMIC CLASS			
Skilled workers	112,500 – 124,500	69,579	62%
Business immigrants	9,500 – 10,500	6,643	70%
Provincial/territorial nominees	8,000 – 10,000	3,903	49%
Live-in caregivers	2,500 – 3,000	2,325	93%
Total Economic Immigration (including dependants)	132,500 – 148,000	82,450	62%
FAMILY CLASS			
Spouses, partners and children	46,000 – 50,000	24,801	54%
Parents and grandparents	5,500 – 6,800	2,618	48%
Total Family Class	51,500 – 56,800	27,419	53%
PROTECTED PERSONS			
Government-assisted refugees	7,300 – 7,500	3,446	47%
Privately sponsored refugees	3,000 – 4,000	1,287	43%
Protected persons landed in Canada	16,500 – 17,500	10,868	66%
Dependants abroad of protected persons landed in Canada	4,000 – 4,800	2,434	61%
Total Protected Persons	30,800 – 33,800	18,035	59%
Humanitarian and Compassionate/ Public Policy			
Permit holders	100 – 200	55	55%
Other	–	–	15%
TOTAL	220,000 – 245,000	130,906	60%

13 The target ranges in the various categories reflect the breakdowns in the Immigration Plan tabled in last year's Annual Report. However, the targets for 2005 were subsequently adjusted upwards in two categories:

- The parents and grandparents target increased by 12,000, following the Minister's announcement of April 18, 2005 (discussed previously).
- The protected persons in Canada target increased by 2,500.

14 This percentage has been calculated against the low end of the 2005 plan.

3.2 Selecting Temporary Residents

In addition to selecting permanent residents, Canada's immigration program provides for the temporary entry of:

- foreign workers and business people who are important to our economic growth;
- foreign students attracted by the quality of our educational system; and
- visitors.

These temporary residents contribute to Canada's economic development by filling gaps in the labour market, enhancing trade, and purchasing goods and services.

Before coming to Canada, foreign nationals must obtain a temporary resident visa, unless they are nationals of a country that is exempt under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations*.¹⁵ The Government of Canada's decisions regarding visa requirements are based on a country-by-country assessment of the risks and benefits associated with the movement of citizens. In general, individuals are eligible as temporary residents only if they are in good health, do not have a criminal record and do not pose a security risk. They must also hold a valid passport or travel document,¹⁶ have enough money to live on while in Canada, and demonstrate that they will leave voluntarily at the end of their designated time in Canada.

The current processing times for temporary residents at CIC's missions abroad are as follows: 75% of work permits are processed within 4 weeks; 72% of study permits are processed within 4 weeks; and 72% of visitor visas are processed within 2 days.

Temporary resident programs are demand-driven and responsive in nature. Increased demand creates operational pressures and makes it difficult to reduce or even maintain processing times in parts of the CIC delivery system in Canada and overseas. The introduction of the new GCMS system will ensure efficiencies in the future, although it may create additional administrative pressures that may affect service delivery during the implementation period.

CIC continually strives to improve service delivery to clients and enhance program efficiency. For example, the Department recently implemented measures to streamline procedures and reduce the administrative burden on clients in the temporary resident programs. These changes included issuing study permits to international students for the duration of their post-secondary studies, wherever possible, and removing some restrictions on these study permits. In addition, as noted in Section 3.1, the Minister announced significant financial investments to address pressures in several programs, including the foreign student program.

15 For more information on the countries and territories whose citizens require visas to enter Canada as visitors, or on people who do not require a visitor's visa to come to Canada, see www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.html.

16 Some exceptions apply. For example, U.S. citizens do not have to present a passport, although they must provide proof of citizenship.

Foreign Workers

CIC facilitates the temporary entry of workers needed to address labour market shortages and to provide other economic opportunities for Canadians such as job creation and the transfer of new skills and knowledge. As a general rule, foreign workers must have an approved job offer and a work permit before arriving in Canada. Once issued, a work permit is valid for only one type of employment with a specific employer and for a specific period.

In 2004, CIC admitted 90,668 foreign workers,¹⁷ for whom employment was authorized, to fill skill gaps in the domestic labour market. This total represents an increase of about 6% over the level of 85,501 recorded in 2003.

CIC works in close collaboration with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) to ensure that the admission of foreign workers does not adversely affect employment opportunities for Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

Before a work permit can be offered to a foreign worker, the employer's job offer is assessed by HRSDC. In addition, HRSDC can enter into agreements with specific sectors that are experiencing serious labour shortages to help expedite the issuing of the necessary work permits. In certain circumstances, foreign nationals in Canada can receive a work permit without having the job offer approved by HRSDC, or they may not need a work permit issued by CIC.¹⁸ In addition, specific hiring criteria apply to some sectors and professions, including universities, seasonal agriculture, movie production and performing arts, information technology and live-in caregiving.

To expedite the entry of workers whose services are urgently required by their Canadian employer, a regulatory change was introduced in 2004 to allow foreign workers to apply for a work permit at a port of entry if they are citizens of visa-exempt countries and have a job offer confirmed by HRSDC.

CIC was actively involved in initiatives to further facilitate the entry of temporary foreign workers to Canada. Revisions to the North American Free Trade Agreement, negotiated with the United States and Mexico, resulted in additions to the list of professionals who are eligible to work temporarily in each other's countries. Also, after consultations with the oil industry, the Province of Alberta and HRSDC, an agreement was reached to facilitate the recruitment of oil sands workers needed for the further economic development of Alberta oil sands projects in the near future.

¹⁷ For a detailed analysis of the 2004 foreign workers, see www.cic.gc.ca/english/monitor/issue09/03-workers.html.

¹⁸ For more information on specific cases allowed under IRPA, see www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/exempt-2.html.

Foreign Students

The federal government has committed to making Canada a destination of choice for talented foreign students.¹⁹ International students enrich the learning environment within Canadian educational institutions and represent an important source of income for Canadian schools. International students who enter Canada on temporary visas may also be an important source of future immigrants in the skilled worker category since they are well prepared for the Canadian labour market.

To obtain a study permit, candidates must submit an application to a visa office outside Canada for approval. The permit indicates the level of study and the intended duration. With the introduction of IRPA, foreign nationals taking a course or participating in a short program of study that is less than six months in duration no longer require a study permit. This exemption also applies to minor children already in Canada whose parents are not temporary residents in the visitor category,²⁰ and to all family members or employees of foreign representatives in Canada.

The number of new study permits accorded to international students in 2004 totaled 56,536.²¹ The decrease of approximately 6% from the previous year's total of 60,201 stems primarily from legislative and policy changes intended to expedite the entry of qualified foreign students.

To strengthen the integrity of the program, a regulatory change was made in 2004 to require all international students seeking to remain in Canada to demonstrate that they are in "good standing" at the educational institution at which they have been studying. Study permit renewals are denied to those who have discontinued their studies.

In addition, CIC has recently enhanced Canada's international competitiveness for international students by:

- expediting the processing of study permit applications;
- increasing access to the Canadian labour market during the period of study; and
- enhancing post-graduation employment opportunities outside Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver.

Pilot projects initiated in 2003 (in Alberta, New Brunswick and Manitoba) to test these program changes proved to be highly popular with international students, educational stakeholders and provinces. In 2004–2005, CIC signed agreements with Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador to allow international students to work in Canada for a second year after graduation. An agreement was also reached with Quebec to allow students outside Montréal and Québec City to work off campus.

¹⁹ More information for foreign students and educational institutions can be found at www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/index.html.

²⁰ For further information on minor children studying in Canada, see www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/minors.html.

²¹ For a detailed analysis of the 2004 figures for foreign students, see www.cic.gc.ca/english/monitor/issue09/04-students.html.

On April 18, 2005, the Minister announced initiatives to address some key issues facing international students. These included the expansion of the pilot projects mentioned previously that aim to better attract, integrate and retain international students in regions of the country in partnership with the provinces and educational institutions. The first pilot project will allow international students at public post-secondary institutions to work off campus while completing their studies so that they can experience the Canadian labour market and gain a greater understanding of Canadian society.²² The second pilot project will allow students to work in Canada for two years after their graduation, rather than one year. To help spread the benefits of immigration to more of Canada's regions, this second initiative will apply outside Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver. The Government of Canada is investing \$10 million a year for five years to support these new initiatives.

Visitors

Tourists and business visitors make a significant contribution to our economy by creating a demand for services in the hospitality sector and allowing Canadian businesses to benefit from their specialized expertise. In 2004, CIC processed over 850,000 applications for temporary resident visas for tourists and business visitors to Canada, a 24% increase over the previous year. With this increase, volumes have now returned to the record-high levels established in 2000, prior to the terrorist attacks in the U.S. on September 11, 2001, and the SARS epidemic in 2003.

Of these applications, 684,341 temporary visitor visas were issued, compared to 526,517 in 2003, representing a 30% increase. Millions of additional foreign visitors from countries whose citizens do not require a visa to travel to Canada (such as the United States and most European countries) also cross our borders every year.

In 2004, in addition to foreign workers, international students and refugee claimants,²³ 74,826 visitor records were issued to foreign nationals on entry to Canada, marking an increase of about 9% over 2003. These include, for example, foreign nationals who want to stay in Canada for over six months without working or studying, visitors who intend to work but who are not required to obtain a work permit, and business visitors under NAFTA who provide after-sales service for longer than two days.

Temporary Resident Permits

Subsection 24.(1) of IRPA authorizes the Minister and CIC to issue temporary resident permits to foreign nationals who want to enter Canada for a variety of reasons, including tourism, business, humanitarian considerations or the national interest. These permits are issued only when there is little or no risk to Canada. These foreign nationals are allowed to enter Canada despite being inadmissible on technical, medical or criminal grounds or for reasons of security, infringement of human or international rights, or organized crime. Issued for a limited period of time and subject

²² Full implementation of this initiative is subject to provincial agreement.

²³ Refugees are discussed in Section 4.

to cancellation at any time, temporary resident permits give CIC the flexibility to address exceptional circumstances.

Table 9 indicates the number of temporary resident permits issued in 2004, categorized according to grounds of inadmissibility under IRPA. In 2004, 13,598 temporary resident permits were issued, including 189 extensions to the original period of an authorized stay. The number of permits issued represents an increase of 1,529 permits over the 2003 total of 12,069. Of the 2004 total, 875 individuals (6%) were issued permits upon ministerial instruction.

Authority to issue temporary resident permits is shared between CIC departmental officials and CBSA officials working at Canadian ports of entry. In 2004, 14% of the permits (1,952) were issued outside Canada, another 14% (1,868) were issued inside Canada, and 72% (9,784) were issued at ports of entry such as borders and airports.

Description of Inadmissibility	Provision under IRPA	Number of Individuals
Security (espionage, subversion, terrorism)	34(1)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f)	12
Human or international rights violations	35(1)(a), (b) and (c)	12
Serious criminality (convicted of an offence punishable by a term of imprisonment of at least 10 years)	36(1)(a), (b) and (c)	953
Criminality (convicted of a criminal act or of an offence prosecuted either summarily or by way of indictment)	36(2)(a), (b), (c) and (d)	7,096
Organized criminality	37(1)(a) or (b)	1
Health grounds (danger to public health or public safety, excessive burden)	38(1)(a), (b) and (c)	137
Financial reasons (unwilling or unable to support themselves or their dependants)	39	17
Misrepresentation	40(1)(a), (b), (c) and (d)	20
Non-compliance with Act or Regulations (no passport, no visa, work/study without permit, medical/criminal check to be completed in Canada, not examined on entry, etc.)	41(a) and (b)	4,981
Inadmissible family member	42(a) and (b)	277
No return without prescribed authorization	52(1)	92
TOTAL		13,598

Maintaining Canada's Humanitarian Tradition



CIC plays a significant role in maintaining Canada's humanitarian tradition by protecting refugees and persons in need of protection and by representing Canadian values and interests in multilateral and bilateral international fora on refugee protection. Each year, Canada protects many thousands of people, nearly half of whom are refugees selected abroad for

resettlement in Canada. Protected status can also be granted to persons who have sought asylum at a port of entry or inland office in Canada.

The protection of refugees is central to IRPA. Reaffirming Canada's commitment to international efforts to help those most in need, the Act stresses the importance of saving lives and protecting displaced and persecuted persons, while also maintaining the integrity of Canada's refugee system and preventing its exploitation. The expanded definition of refugee protection under IRPA includes the criteria from the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and from the 1987 Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,²⁴ as well as the further criteria of risk to life or risk of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.

Convention refugees are individuals who, because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, are outside their country of nationality or habitual residence, and are unable or unwilling by reason of that fear to return to that country. The definition of a protected person is extended to individuals who are in similar circumstances (that is, those who are seriously and personally affected by civil war, armed conflict or massive violations of human rights) but who do not fully meet the definition of a Convention refugee. As discussed below, refugees selected abroad fall into two categories, government-assisted and privately sponsored.

Protection may also be granted to individuals who have already entered Canada in cases where removal to their country of nationality or former habitual residence would subject them to the possibility of death, torture, or cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.

²⁴ For more information on this Convention, see www.ohchr.org/english/law/cat.htm.

Reform of Canada's refugee determination system was identified as a government priority in December 2003. In April 2004, the Government of Canada released a national strategy aimed at enhancing our nation's security. The strategy, *Securing an Open Society: Canada's National Security Policy*, focuses on protecting our nation and its citizens. CIC is leading this effort and in 2004 worked with other departments (including Justice, the IRB and the CBSA) to develop substantive proposals that will advance the refugee reform agenda. Many recent administrative measures have yielded positive results in the form of reduced intake and reduced inventories in some parts of the system. Intake for 2005 is projected to be at a 15-year low at less than 20,000. Intake is lower, due in part to a worldwide drop in refugee claims, and in part to measures that aim to reduce the number of asylum claims made within Canada from individuals who do not always have a genuine need for protection. With a drop in asylum claims, CIC can ensure that the limited resources available are directed at those most in need of protection. By June 2005, the IRB inventory had been reduced by more than half to 22,000, compared to a high of 51,600 in 2002.

Canada's Role in International Protection

In accordance with its humanitarian tradition and international obligations, CIC works with major international organizations, foreign governments, NGOs involved in human rights and humanitarian assistance, and many other partners to protect refugees and promote Canadian policy interests and values. Key partners include the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Inter-Governmental Consultations on Asylum, Migration and Refugee Policies. For example, CIC played a key role in the development of the UNHCR's *Agenda for Protection*, which provides a blueprint for the future of refugee protection, and in the identification of key priorities stemming from the Agenda. The Department continues to be an active participant in the UNHCR's Standing Committee and Executive Committee.

CIC also participates regularly in other formal and informal international discussions such as the Four Country Conference, the Puebla Process, the Bali Process and the European Union's special initiative to develop models for national refugee resettlement processes. Other formal consultative processes include the International Conference on Population and Development, negotiations of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking Protocols.

In June 2004, as part of the Convention Plus initiative (which aims to find durable solutions for refugees in protracted situations), the Core Group on the Strategic Use of Resettlement produced the Multilateral Framework of Understandings (MFU) on Resettlement. The MFU is intended to serve as a guide for future Convention Plus agreements that involve resettlement as a durable solution in protracted refugee situations. Co-chaired by Canada and the UNHCR, the Core Group was made up of 16 governments, the European Union and the IOM. The Executive Committee of the UNHCR welcomed the MFU in its Conclusion on International Protection in October 2004. One of the aims of the MFU is to have more resettlement opportunities provided to refugees in tandem with other durable solutions. One area of innovation, which the MFU encourages the UNHCR to pursue in cooperation with resettlement countries, is expanding the use of "group resettlement." Canada is at the forefront of using group resettlement strategically.

Resettlement of Refugees from Abroad

Canada extends protection to Convention refugees and to persons in similar circumstances through the Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program. Under this program, CIC selects for resettlement in Canada a set number of refugees from abroad for whom there is no other durable solution available within a reasonable period of time. To be eligible, the individuals must be unable to return to their country of nationality or fixed residence, or to remain in the country that has granted them temporary protection (the first country of asylum). They must also undergo a medical examination, as well as security and criminality checks.

CIC is actively working with the UNHCR and the IOM to find ways to improve its referral capacity and increase efficiencies to better meet the needs of refugees, while ensuring the integrity of the Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program. In 2004, the Department undertook an evaluation of a group processing pilot for government-assisted refugees from Kenya and initiated other group processing projects to increase efficiencies and ensure it achieves its global resettlement targets. CIC has also asked the UNHCR to identify a group of Burmese from Thailand for fiscal year 2006–2007. Standard guidelines for group processing are being developed as CIC evaluates the lessons learned from these pilot projects.

The Resettlement Assistance Program

CIC offers financial and immediate essential services to help refugees resettle in Canada and integrate into Canadian society. Through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP), the government ensures the delivery of essential services (such as reception services at the port of entry, temporary accommodation, assistance to find accommodation, and financial advice) through contracted service provider organizations, and provides income support for up to one year in most cases and up to two years for refugees with special needs, such as victims of trauma or torture. In addition, the Interim Federal Health Program provides care until refugees are eligible for provincial health-care programs. This program is offered to all resettled refugees upon arrival in Canada.

In 2004, in order to improve refugee outcomes and program effectiveness, CIC worked with service provider organizations to implement the recommendations from the evaluation of the RAP. The Department is also developing strategies to address changes in the refugee profile, including refugees with special needs. The new terms and conditions for RAP, developed for the renewal of the program in March 2005, allow for increased collaboration with the voluntary sector through special projects aimed at enhancing program delivery and client services. CIC finalized the Accountability, Risk and Audit Framework for RAP, which includes fully developed data collection measures to validate that the program is meeting its objectives as well as maintaining its program integrity.

The Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

In addition to government support, refugees receive assistance to resettle in Canada from private sponsor organizations representing religious, ethnic and community groups, and from groups of five or more individuals. Through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program, these groups take on the responsibility of providing refugees with accommodation, resettlement assistance and emotional support for up to one year. In exceptional circumstances, this assistance can be extended to up to three years for refugees with special needs such as victims of trauma and torture, or women and children at risk.

The PSR program is a long-standing example of cooperation between the government and volunteer sectors. In 2004, PSR marked its 25th anniversary, an important milestone for a program that has received worldwide recognition. Over the years, the program has enabled faith-based and community groups to sponsor some 185,000 refugees to Canada.

Nevertheless, there are challenges to maintaining program integrity and managing growing inventories of cases representing persons from areas not deemed by the UNHCR as being most in need of Canada's assistance. To address the issue of delays in processing PSR cases that result from large inventories at key overseas missions, CIC provided significant funding for temporary duty officers in early 2005 to reduce inventories in several of the most affected missions. To address the increasing refusal rates (now at 52%) and inventories, CIC intends to work with partners to achieve the significant reform necessary to ensure a more effective private sponsorship program that allows CIC to focus on the resettlement of those refugees most in need.

CIC undertook a number of other initiatives to strengthen the PSR program in 2004. For example, the Department collaborated with the UNHCR on a seminar for the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program aimed at developing a common understanding of refugee eligibility criteria and circumstances in the private sponsorship community. CIC also worked with sponsoring organizations to sensitize them to the importance of pre-assessment. In addition, the Department worked with key partners involved in delivering the PSR program, including the Canadian Council for Refugees, Sponsorship Agreement Holders, service provider organizations and the UNHCR, to plan a conference that will examine new and effective ways to resettle refugees.

The Department also entered into an innovative partnership with the United Church of Canada (UCC) and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) in 2004 to facilitate the private sponsorship of refugees referred by visa offices. As the first organization to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with CIC as a referral organization, the HIAS has been working with the visa office in Kenya to identify up to 20 cases for referral to the UCC for private sponsorship.

CIC has also taken action to foster new partnerships with Francophone minority communities across Canada to promote the benefits of the PSR program. Information sessions were held in British Columbia, a capacity assessment was carried out in five Francophone post-secondary institutions to determine their ability to sponsor French-speaking refugees, and negotiations were undertaken for a pilot project in Winnipeg involving five French-speaking refugee families.

The Joint Assistance Sponsorship Program

Under the Joint Assistance Sponsorship Program, private sponsoring groups and government share responsibility for refugee resettlement. Special initiatives, in cooperation with provincial governments and the voluntary sector, assist refugees with special needs (such as women at risk). Joint assistance sponsorships focus on situations where resettlement is urgently needed or where a refugee family needs longer-term support. In these instances, government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) combine their resources to meet the need.

The Immigrant Loans Program

In accordance with IRPA, CIC also manages the Immigrant Loans Program. Geared specifically to refugees from abroad seeking permanent residence in Canada, these loans are intended to cover the pre-entry medical examination, transportation costs to Canada, the permanent residence fee and expenses associated with initial settlement in Canada. Applicants must also demonstrate financial need, as well as their ability to repay the loan. CIC's diligent management of the loans program has resulted in a recovery rate of about 90% in recent years.

Protection for Individuals Who Make Refugee Protection Claims in Canada

In addition to refugees selected abroad for resettlement, protection can be extended to individuals who seek protection upon or after their arrival in Canada.

The Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB),²⁵ an independent administrative tribunal, oversees a quasi-judicial process that determines claims for refugee protection made in Canada. The process is designed to ensure fair and consistent decisions in accordance with Canadian law and Canada's international obligations and humanitarian traditions. The IRB hears refugee protection claims referred by CIC.

A person whose claim for protection has been accepted may apply for permanent residence for himself or herself, as well as for dependants or close family members whether in Canada or abroad. On the other hand, if the claim for protection is refused, the individual is informed of the reasons in writing and is required to leave the country.²⁶ Refused claimants may, however, apply for a Pre-Removal Risk Assessment (PRRA) before removal from Canada. The PRRA process ensures that the risk to the individual is assessed before that person is removed from Canada, particularly in cases where there has been a change in the situation in the country of nationality or new evidence indicates that the person needs protection. Most successful PRRA applicants may apply for permanent residence in Canada under the protected persons category.

²⁵ For further information, see www.irb-cisr.gc.ca.

²⁶ A person whose claim is refused and who must leave the country may apply to the Federal Court for a judicial review. A judge of that court decides whether leave will be granted. In most cases, a person has the right to remain in Canada pending the outcome of the judicial review.

CIC supports the IRB in arriving at well-informed decisions by providing case-specific and country-specific details on refugee situations. As part of the ongoing review of the information exchange process, procedural changes were identified to improve efficiency, and steps were taken to modify the methods of exchanging case-related information.

The Government of Canada is streamlining the refugee determination system to ensure that more resources can be spent on people with legitimate claims for protection. To this end, CIC continued to work closely with key federal partners, including the IRB, the CBSA and the Department of Justice, to implement administrative enhancements to make the system faster and more efficient while upholding high standards of fairness. The government remains fully committed to the principle of refugee protection and to Canada's humanitarian tradition.

Following the introduction of the IRB's Action Plan, the Board produced over 40,000 decisions in 2004. The number of cases in their inventory has been reduced by half, from a high of 52,000 in 2001 to approximately 25,000 cases in 2004, and preliminary results for 2005 show continued progress. CIC actively supports this Action Plan.

CIC is currently developing a series of administrative changes to accelerate the landing process for protected persons and their family members. The objective is to reduce delays in the submission and processing of applications by protected persons and their family members for permanent residence.

In addition, CIC continues to implement effective and responsive measures to reunite family members of protected persons in Canada. In 2004, the number of landings for dependants abroad of protected persons in Canada exceeded the operational target by about 50%.

To further advance Canadian interests in refugee protection and strengthen cooperation on protection issues in the North American context, CIC is working on major collaborative initiatives with the United States. For example, joint efforts are focused on the implementation of the "Asylum Annex," an appendix to the 2003 Statement of Mutual Understanding with the United States that relates to the sharing of information on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, the Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the U.S. came into effect on December 29, 2004. The objective of this Agreement is to establish an effective protocol between Canada and the United States to handle refugee claims. Certain asylum-seekers in the two countries are now required to make their claim in the country where they were first present. As a result, most asylum claimants seeking to enter one country from the other are now returned to the first country to have their claim heard. This Agreement ensures that individuals who claim they are in need of protection will have their claims fully and properly addressed; however, they do not have a right to choose which country hears the claim. An anticipated outcome of this Agreement is that CIC can direct more resources to refugees most in need of protection.

CIC, in collaboration with the CBSA, continues to look for ways to reduce the exploitation of Canada's refugee system by individuals who do not have a genuine need for protection. The introduction of the Safe Third Country Agreement with the U.S., judicious use of visitor visa requirements and the continued use of interdiction measures abroad have contributed to a decline of almost 20% in asylum claims made within Canada in 2004 in comparison to the previous year. CIC expects that the number of asylum claimants will continue to decrease in 2005.

4.1 Statistical Overview of Protected Persons Landed in 2004

In 2004, Canada welcomed 32,685 individuals in the protected persons category. As Table 10 indicates, this total is at the high end of the target range (29,400 to 32,800) projected in the 2004 Immigration Plan, although the number of government-assisted refugees is slightly below the target. Of these, 7,411 were government-assisted refugees; 3,115 were privately sponsored refugees; 15,901 were refugees landed in Canada (including cases accepted by the Refugee Protection Division of the IRB and those accepted by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration under the PRRA²⁷); and 6,258 were dependants abroad of refugees landed in Canada.

It should be noted that overall refugee landings in 2004 were the highest they have been in recent years, representing an increase of approximately 20% over 2003, 2002 and 2001.²⁸ This increase is largely the result of CIC's support to the IRB Action Plan to streamline the refugee determination system and of processing efficiencies at CIC's Case Processing Centre in Vegreville and in the regions.

Category	2004 Plan	Number Admitted
Government-assisted refugees	7,500 – 7,500	7,411
Privately sponsored refugees	3,400 – 4,000	3,115
Refugees landed in Canada	14,500 – 16,500	15,901
Dependants abroad	4,000 – 4,800	6,258
TOTAL PROTECTED PERSONS	29,400 – 32,800	32,685

In 2004, the total number of foreign nationals who claimed refugee status from within Canada was 25,510. This represents a decrease of about 20% from the 2003 total of 31,893. In 2004, the IRB accepted 40% of the cases for which it rendered final decisions. If this trend continues, we can expect that 40% of the cases finalized by the IRB in the current year may be accepted. Persons accepted by the IRB may apply for permanent residence in Canada as protected persons.

²⁷ In 2004, CIC received 7,435 applications under the PRRA from individuals who had been refused refugee status by the IRB, as compared to the 6,637 PRRA applications submitted in 2003. The acceptance rate for PRRA cases fell from 3.1% in 2003 (206 people accepted as protected persons) to 2.6% in 2004 (196 protected persons).

²⁸ The total number of people admitted in the protected persons category in previous years was 25,981 in 2003; 25,109 in 2002; and 27,914 in 2001.

Integrating Newcomers



The successful settlement and integration of new immigrants is an important objective under IRPA. In order to maximize the economic, social and cultural benefits of immigration, newcomers must be able to participate fully in Canadian society and have access to the same quality of life that Canadians enjoy. In 2004, 179,501 permanent residents took the oath of citizenship.

Settlement Services for Newcomers

Every year, many newcomers receive settlement services. Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia have signed agreements with CIC to deliver their own settlement services. In the other provinces, CIC offers three core programs which aim to facilitate newcomers' integration into Canadian society: the Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program (ISAP), the Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) Program and the Host Program. In all three programs (described in this section), services are delivered by community-based organizations through formal agreements with CIC.

Approximately 220 service providing organizations deliver an estimated 153,000 settlement services to newcomers to Canada on an annual basis (excluding services within Manitoba, British Columbia and Quebec). These numbers do not represent the number of newcomers accessing the services, as some clients access more than one.

The federal government and the Province of Ontario made significant progress toward a first-ever Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement. The framework agreement is expected to address the full range of integration needs, including basic settlement services, language training and immigrant labour market integration.

To enhance performance measurement and standardize administrative practices for the settlement programs, CIC continued working with service providers on the implementation of the Contribution Accountability Framework (CAF)²⁹ in 2004. The framework ensures accountability for settlement spending and results by monitoring service delivery and evaluating the programs' effectiveness and efficiency. The information collected will be used to identify program gaps and propose improvements.

²⁹ For more information on the CAF, see <http://integration-net.cic.gc.ca/>.

The terms and conditions for the settlement programs, which expired in March 2005, were renewed by Treasury Board. In this context, CIC developed an Accountability, Risk and Audit Framework, a comprehensive planning tool intended to improve program management through an enhanced emphasis on the stewardship of public funds, risk management, credible performance reporting and accountability. CIC also undertook extensive consultations to develop a multi-year funding policy for contribution agreements.

In addition, CIC completed program evaluations of LINC, ISAP and the Host Program.³⁰ These evaluations highlighted gaps between clients' needs and available resources, and made recommendations on program improvements. As a result, CIC is implementing changes to improve the programs.

To continue the dialogue begun as part of the Voluntary Sector Initiative (VSI) and the National Settlement Conferences, the interim Settlement and Integration Joint Policy and Program Council was established in 2004. The Council serves as a vehicle to further facilitate collaboration, consultation and joint planning between government and the settlement sector. In 2004, acting on a key VSI recommendation, CIC worked with members of a VSI working group to develop a toolkit to help smaller communities improve their capacity to attract and retain newcomers.

In addition, CIC held a meeting of the Settlement and Integration Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group in 2004 to strengthen dialogue on key issues of mutual interest, such as program development, funding and research.

Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program

The objective of ISAP is to assist newcomers in settling and integrating into Canadian society in order to facilitate their participation in Canadian life as soon as possible. The program funds the delivery of services such as general information on life in Canada, translation and interpretation, referral to community resources, solution-focused counselling, and basic employment-related services. ISAP also funds service provider organizations to undertake "service-bridging" activities with other community organizations, as well as special projects aimed at improving the way settlement services are delivered.

As a special component under ISAP, CIC offers the Canadian Orientation Abroad initiative in certain countries. Intended to give participants a realistic view of life in Canada and better prepare them before they arrive, these orientation sessions provide basic information on topics such as climate, accommodation, cost of living, the educational system and the labour market.

³⁰ These evaluation reports will be available at www.cic.gc.ca.

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada

The LINC Program provides basic language training to adult newcomers in one of Canada's official languages to facilitate their social, cultural and economic integration into Canada. The program also provides information that helps acquaint participants with the Canadian way of life. The Department is currently developing new guidelines to clarify procedures for language assessments and is committed to improving the current level of services in French.

Host Program

The Host Program is a volunteer-based program whereby newcomers are matched with Canadian volunteers who help them learn about available services in their community, practise their English or French, participate in community activities, understand the Canadian labour market and find job contacts in their field. By connecting newcomers to Canadians, the program promotes inclusion and diversity, improves cross-cultural understanding and helps reduce racial stereotyping.

Canadian Citizenship

Obtaining citizenship is a significant step in the integration process for newcomers because it signifies full participation in Canadian life. In fiscal year 2004–2005, 179,501 permanent residents became Canadian citizens. This represents a slight increase over the volume of 171,570 citizens in 2003–2004. In addition, CIC issued some 59,873 proofs of Canadian citizenship during this period, a significantly higher volume than the 49,552 issued in the previous year.

Permanent residents of Canada have a qualified right to apply for citizenship once they have lived here for three years, and 84% do so. With high immigration levels from 2000 to 2002 (more than 225,000 per annum), the number of people applying for citizenship has increased. Many long-term permanent residents have also recently decided to apply for citizenship because of such factors as the need for a permanent resident card, the imposition by the U.S. of visa requirements and border screening mechanisms for many of Canada's permanent residents, and policy changes in some countries allowing their citizens to hold multiple nationalities.

In the latter part of 2004, citizenship processing times rose compared to past performance. This is primarily due to an increase in demand for citizenship services and to operational challenges created by the implementation of the first phase of CIC's new Global Case Management System (GCMS) in September 2004, which began with the citizenship program. Processing times for a grant of citizenship have increased from 10–12 months to 15–18 months. Processing times for a proof of citizenship (new or replacement citizenship certificate) have increased from 2–4 months to 5–7 months.

In April 2005, to reduce the inventories of applications for granting and proof of citizenship, the Minister announced an investment of \$69 million over two years to improve the citizenship application process.³¹ In addition, once the new GCMS system is fully implemented, the Department expects to see major efficiencies in case processing.

In 2004, CIC initiated the first phase of a Business Process Re-Engineering Study of the citizenship program. This review will continue in the next year, with a more comprehensive analysis of the delivery models. The aim is to identify innovations that would improve client service by maximizing efficiencies while maintaining program integrity.

In addition, to accommodate the special needs of visually impaired persons, citizenship tests were translated into braille in 2004.

CIC also hosted the 2004 meeting of the Five Country Citizenship Forum³² and led discussions on topics such as citizenship revocation in the context of war crimes and security risk cases; birth on soil, birth abroad and retention; the integration of newcomers; and performance measurement and risk analysis.

Special Initiatives to Facilitate Integration into the Labour Market

It is essential to attract and retain skilled and knowledgeable immigrants in order to address Canada's labour market needs and sustain economic growth and competitiveness. However, many recent immigrants are experiencing serious difficulty finding a job commensurate with their skills and knowledge. In 2004, the Government of Canada announced the development of a coordinated federal strategy to address key barriers to labour market participation faced by both newcomers and foreign-trained Canadians and to ensure they can contribute their full potential to the economy.³³ Enhanced in April 2005, this multidepartmental initiative is now known as the Internationally Trained Workers Initiative. The expanded strategy focuses on the following key areas: foreign credential assessment and recognition; enhanced language training; bridge-to-work initiatives; improved labour market information; research; and addressing issues of discrimination in the workplace.

With CIC and HRSDC as the co-leads, an interdepartmental group of 14 federal departments and agencies is collaborating on the development and implementation of the strategy, including consultation and communications activities to engage the various stakeholders.

A fundamental step in improving immigrant outcomes is to help adult immigrants increase their ability in one of Canada's two official languages so that they can integrate more quickly and more effectively into the workplace. With the \$20 million in annual ongoing funding provided by the 2004 Federal Budget, CIC continued implementing the Enhanced Language Training (ELT) initiative

31 For further information, see www.cic.gc.ca/english/press/05/0510-e.html.

32 Member countries are Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

33 Originally known as the Immigrant Labour Market Initiative (ILMI).

to increase the number of newcomers receiving advanced, labour market-related language training. In 2004, CIC worked on a cost-sharing condition with the provinces/territories, organizations delivering settlement services, and colleges and universities to develop strategic projects that will provide more advanced language training that is job-specific and better geared to the labour market. Partnerships were established with Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and British Columbia on the delivery of ELT projects in these provinces. These projects also include a bridge-to-work component, such as orientation to the local labour market or job search assistance.

In addition, CIC is continuing to work with federal and provincial/territorial partners and other stakeholders to enhance *Going to Canada/Newcomers to Canada*, a key component of the Canada Web site. This Internet initiative aims to provide a single point of access to a wide range of information and services (including information relating to employment and the Canadian labour market) that potential immigrants and newcomers need to make informed decisions and prepare for life in Canada. In 2004, CIC added new information and tools to this immigration portal.

Immigrants for Francophone Minority Communities

In support of the Government of Canada's commitment to the continued vitality of Francophone minority communities, CIC is working with Francophone communities in provinces and territories where the dominant language is English to help them attract and retain French-speaking immigrants. With financial assistance from the Department, these communities have been able to develop promotional materials and travel to Francophone countries to encourage prospective immigrants to consider settling in their communities.

In addition, in early 2005, the CIC-Francophone Minority Communities Steering Committee launched "Towards Building a Canadian Francophonie of Tomorrow," a summary of accomplishments as well as planned initiatives for the coming year.

Promotional Activities

To promote core Canadian values (peace, respect, freedom, justice and a sense of belonging) to newcomers and to all Canadians, CIC continued its "Canada: We All Belong" campaign in 2004–2005. The educational resources developed for this campaign, based on the theme "Cultivate Your Commitment to Canada," were launched during Canada's Citizenship Week and used throughout the year for citizenship education. Targeting teachers of grades four to eight and community youth leaders working with young people aged nine to 14, this resource aims to promote an understanding of active citizenship, social engagement and the shared values that have shaped Canada.

In 2004, CIC broadened its relationships with other federal departments to create wider exposure to key campaigns such as Citizenship Week and Celebrate Canada Week. The Department also supported numerous activities organized across the country for National Flag of Canada Day, International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and International Day of Peace. In addition, CIC enhanced *Citzine*, a Web site designed for youth that has quarterly themes linked to citizenship values, practices, rights and responsibilities, and these enhancements resulted in a 20% increase in Web site traffic.

CIC continued the Citation for Citizenship Award, which recognizes Canadian individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to assisting new residents to successfully integrate into Canadian society. Following the call for nominations in 2004, the awards will be presented in 2005–2006.

Canada's Action Plan Against Racism

A key challenge for ensuring effective integration involves reaching out to community partners to engage a broad spectrum of Canadians in facilitating the integration of newcomers. CIC is an active participant in "A Canada for All: Canada's Action Plan Against Racism," announced in March 2005. Led by the Department of Canadian Heritage, this plan provides an overarching horizontal approach across federal departments and agencies to build a society free of racism and a partnership between governments and civil society. For CIC, the plan includes an anticipated expansion of two settlement initiatives: the Host Program and the Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) initiative under ISAP. SWIS helps newcomer students and their families work with educational institutions and their boards to build bridges between parents, students, schools and communities.

This multidepartmental initiative builds on activities undertaken by CIC in 2004 and early 2005 under the Welcoming Communities Strategy. Aimed at creating a true sense of belonging and shared citizenship for immigrants, this strategy focuses on working with NGOs and provincial partners to foster a welcoming environment in communities for newcomers. For example, the Department partnered with the Toronto Regional Immigrant Employment Council and the Maytree Foundation on the Employer Promising Practices Project. Their new Web site³⁴ raises awareness of the value of hiring immigrants.

CIC's Welcoming Communities Strategy also supported the expansion of the Dominion Institute's Passages to Canada: Speakers' Bureau program, which entered its fourth phase in 2004. New bureaus have been established in Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Regina, Windsor, Halifax, Winnipeg and Moncton (a Francophone minority community), in addition to the established bureaus in Toronto, Vancouver, Montréal and Calgary. Speakers have been recruited and trained to address youth audiences on anti-racism and to raise the awareness of business audiences concerning the benefits of hiring newcomers.

In addition, the *Cultivating Peace* series (a high school teacher's activity guide designed to support peace, conflict resolution and intercultural understanding) was further promoted to faculties of education, adult high schools and community organizations. A *Welcoming Communities* insert was also included in *TEACH Magazine*, which has a subscription base of 12,000 teachers and school administrators across Canada. The teaching unit thematically explored how Canada's framework of rights and obligations mitigates the effects of discrimination and racism.

³⁴ For further information, see www.hireimmigrants.ca.

Gender-Based Analysis of the Impact of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*



The *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* includes a legislative requirement to report annually on the impact of this legislation and the corresponding Regulations from the perspective of gender-based analysis (GBA). As a public policy tool, GBA focuses on important social and economic differences between men and women, and different groups of men and women, over their life cycles. The IRPA requirement to report on gender-related impacts is unprecedented in federal statutes. The integration of gender-based analysis into policy and program development is a means of strengthening the quality of public policy and programs, and ensuring they meet equity and effectiveness criteria.

Implementing a Strategic Framework for Gender-Based Analysis at CIC

In early 2005, CIC launched the Strategic Framework for Gender-Based Analysis (2005–2010). The framework sets out CIC's strategic objectives and principles for gender-based analysis and the steps that will be taken to strengthen capacity and performance throughout the Department.

Central to the framework's implementation are the individual GBA Branch Plans, which identify the priority issues for preparing gender-based analyses of the impact of IRPA. In this past year, efforts have focused on laying the groundwork for future reporting in terms of raising awareness, preparing branch plans and building the capacity to implement the plans.

By early 2005, GBA plans were completed in the five branches that have particular responsibilities under IRPA. These branch plans identify a range of IRPA reporting priorities, including the Pre-Removal Risk Assessment and the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States. A preliminary assessment of gender issues for Francophone minority communities has also been identified and a gender-based analysis will be incorporated into the upcoming evaluations of the federal skilled worker and business immigrant programs.

Other key initiatives include incorporating GBA in the review of the Live-in Caregiver Program, in a preliminary analysis of international trade agreement obligations for the temporary entry of businesspersons, in visa policy development and in the development of promotional Web sites and

publications. Collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data for impacts on the family class and humanitarian and compassionate cases, and in the Biometrics Planning Project are also planned.

Implementation of the plans has begun. For example, mechanisms are being developed to collect sex-disaggregated data and, in some areas, these data are already being collected for analysis. Commitments have been made to incorporate GBA into data reports and data gathering. Also, to further increase capacity, the Department will continue to provide GBA training and to develop branch-specific training modules.

The Department is committed to considering GBA in the legislative and regulatory process for modernizing the citizenship program. In addition, CIC continues to include GBA in various horizontal policy issues at the federal level and in international processes.

6.1 Overview of Key Immigration Statistics by Gender

Of the 235,824 new permanent residents admitted to Canada in 2004, 51.6% (121,668) were female and 48.4% (114,155) were male. Overall, these figures would seem to indicate that the distribution between the sexes is reasonably equitable. However, a closer look at Table 11 reveals that there are proportionately more women than men in the family class, but more men than women in the economic class. The proportions in the protected persons category are quite close.

In the family class, females comprised 61.9% (38,533) of newcomers, while males represented 38.1% (23,712). Among the protected persons landed in 2004, 48.1% (15,707) were female and 51.9% (16,978) were male.

With respect to the economic class (which includes dependants as well as principal applicants), the total figures seem to indicate a fairly equal balance between the two genders: 47.6% (63,673) were female and 52.4% (70,073) were male. Nevertheless, as Table 12 shows, when these figures are broken down into principal applicants and dependants, a gender imbalance becomes evident. The great majority of the principal applicants (69.6%) were male, while the majority of spouses and dependants were female (59.7%). Almost all of the new permanent residents who entered Canada as live-in caregivers, however, were female (97.1%).

Table 11: New Permanent Residents in 2004, by Immigration Class and Gender

CATEGORY	Male		Female		TOTAL
	Number	Row %	Number	Row %	
ECONOMIC CLASS					
Skilled workers	60,482	53.3	52,960	46.7	113,442
Business immigrants	5,076	52.0	4,688	48.0	9,764
Provincial/territorial nominees	3,254	52.1	2,994	47.9	6,248
Live-in caregivers	1,261	29.4	3,031	70.6	4,292
Total Economic Class (including dependants)	70,073	52.4	63,673	47.6	133,746
FAMILY CLASS					
Spouses, partners, children and others*	18,348	37.1	31,165	62.9	49,514
Parents and grandparents	5,364	42.1	7,368	57.9	12,732
Total Family Class	23,712	38.1	38,533	61.9	62,246
PROTECTED PERSONS					
Government-assisted refugees	3,858	52.1	3,553	47.9	7,411
Privately sponsored refugees	1,642	52.7	1,473	47.3	3,115
Refugees landed in Canada	8,716	54.8	7,185	45.2	15,901
Refugee dependants	2,762	44.1	3,496	55.9	6,258
Total Protected Persons	16,978	51.9	15,707	48.1	32,685
Humanitarian and Compassionate/ Public Policy	3,284	47.3	3,661	52.7	6,945
Others	108	53.7	93	46.3	201
Backlog cases			1	100.0	1
TOTAL	114,155	48.4	121,668	51.6	235,824

* Information on gender was not available for one person in this category

Table 12: 2004 Permanent Residents in the Economic Class, by Principal Applicants versus Spouses/Dependants and by Gender

ECONOMIC CLASS	Principal Applicants		Spouses and Dependants	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Skilled workers	34,375	13,514	26,107	39,446
Business immigrants	2,322	386	2,754	4,302
<i>Entrepreneurs</i>	579	92	714	1,092
<i>Self-employed</i>	292	74	328	496
<i>Investors</i>	1,451	220	1,712	2,714
Provincial/territorial nominees	1,639	447	1,615	2,547
Live-in caregivers	70	2,426	1,191	605
TOTAL ECONOMIC CLASS	38,406	16,773	31,667	46,900

Conclusion and Key Challenges for the Future



Immigration has contributed to Canada's growth as a nation and will play a key role in building the Canada of tomorrow, addressing future labour market and demographic needs, and supporting the country's international role and geopolitical presence. Looking to the future, more successful and well-integrated newcomers in all parts of Canada are key to nation building and to our economic prosperity.

Significant progress has been made in recent years in strengthening the fundamentals of the immigration program, including the introduction of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* in 2002. However, future success requires that program-related challenges be addressed to ensure that the immigration system works better to maximize the social, economic and cultural benefits of immigration.

Key among these challenges are improving the economic outcomes of immigrants, improving client service and reducing client inventories, ensuring the benefits of immigration are shared among the regions and communities across the country, and continuing to provide protection to those most in need. Initiatives are under way to address these challenges, but more is required to prepare the immigration program for the national and international environment of the future.

Putting the vision for Canada's future into action requires a new way of doing business built around a new approach to immigration levels planning supported by more dynamic engagement with a broader range of partners. This will also require all partners to explore the development and implementation of innovative measures to shape the program of the future. The immigration program of the future will be developed in consultation with provinces and territories, cities and communities, employers, businesses and others, and will ultimately guide how we work together to attract, retain and integrate newcomers into Canadian society. It will also support decisions on the investments required to build an immigration program that contributes to a competitive economy and vibrant neighbourhoods in cities and communities across the country.

Indeed, Canada is well positioned to use immigration as a key instrument for our future economic, social and cultural development. Our country is open to the world, tolerant and diverse, with a solid track record in the integration of many generations of immigrants, and a population that broadly supports immigration. The dedicated employees of Citizenship and Immigration Canada have made great efforts during the past year to support and advance an immigration program that will play a vital role in building and strengthening the Canada of the 21st century.

Annexes



Annex A: Section 94 of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*

The following is an extract from the 2002 *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, outlining the requirements for CIC's Annual Report to Parliament.

Reports to Parliament

94. (1) The Minister must, on or before November 1 of each year or, if a House of Parliament is not then sitting, within the next 30 days on which that House is sitting after that date, table in each House of Parliament a report on the operation of this Act in the preceding calendar year.

(2) The report shall include a description of:

- (a) the activities and initiatives taken concerning the selection of foreign nationals, including measures taken in cooperation with the provinces;
- (b) in respect of Canada, the number of foreign nationals who became permanent residents, and the number projected to become permanent residents in the following year;
 - (b.1) in respect of Canada, the linguistic profile of foreign nationals who became permanent residents;
- (c) in respect of each province that has entered into a federal-provincial agreement described in subsection 9(1), the number, for each class listed in the agreement, of persons that became permanent residents and that the province projects will become permanent residents there in the following year;
- (d) the number of temporary resident permits issued under section 24, categorized according to grounds of inadmissibility, if any;
- (e) the number of persons granted permanent resident status under subsection 25(1); and,
- (f) a gender-based analysis of the impact of this Act.

Annex B: Glossary³⁵

Asylum Claimants

Foreign nationals seek protection in Canada because returning to their country of origin would subject them to persecution or the possibility of death, torture or cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.

Business Immigrants

Business immigrants include three classes of immigrants: investors, entrepreneurs and self-employed people. Business immigrants become permanent residents on the basis of their ability to become economically established in Canada. Spouses and children of business immigrants are also included in this category.

Convention Refugees

Persons who, by reason of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, are (i) outside their countries of nationality and unable or, by reason of that fear, unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of those countries; or (ii) not having a country of nationality, are outside the country of their former habitual residence and unable or, by reason of that fear, unwilling to return to that country.

Economic Immigrants

People selected as permanent residents for their skills and ability to contribute to Canada's economy, including skilled workers, businesspeople and provincial nominees.

Entrepreneurs

Immigrants admitted to Canada as permanent residents by demonstrating that they

- have managed and controlled a percentage of equity in a qualifying business for at least two years in the period beginning five years before they apply; and,
- have a legally obtained net worth of at least CAN\$300,000.

Family Class

A class of immigrants to Canada made up of close relatives of a sponsor in Canada, including a spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner; dependent children; parents and grandparents; children under age 18 whom the sponsor intends to adopt in Canada; brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces and grandchildren who are orphans under age 18; and any other relative, if the sponsor has no relative as described above, either abroad or in Canada.

³⁵ These definitions are based on the glossary compiled for CIC's publications, *The Monitor* and *Facts and Figures*.

Family Members

Family members include the spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner, and dependent children or the children of dependent children of a permanent resident. A dependent child is either a biological child or an adopted child. Children are considered dependent if they meet one of the following conditions:

- they are under age 22 and unmarried or not in a common-law relationship;
- they have been full-time students since before age 22, attend a post-secondary educational institution and have been substantially dependent on the financial support of a parent since before age 22 and, if married or a common-law partner, since becoming a spouse or a common-law partner; or
- they are age 22 or over and have been substantially dependent on the financial support of a parent since before age 22 because of a physical or mental condition.

Foreign Students

These temporary residents have been approved by an immigration officer to study in Canada. Study permits identify the level of study and the length of time the individual may study in Canada. Students do not need a study permit for courses of six months or less if they will finish the course within the period of stay authorized upon entry, which is usually six months. Before June 28, 2002, students did not need a study permit for English- and French-as-a-second-language courses of three months or less. Every foreign student must have a student authorization, but may also have been issued other types of permits or authorizations.

Foreign Workers

These foreign nationals have been authorized to enter and remain in Canada, on a temporary basis, as workers. This category excludes foreign students and people who have been issued employment authorizations for humanitarian reasons. Most foreign workers must have an employment authorization, but may also have other types of permits or authorizations.

Government-Assisted Refugees

Government-assisted refugees are people who are selected abroad for resettlement to Canada as Convention refugees under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* or as members of the Convention refugees abroad class, and who receive resettlement assistance from the federal government.

Investors

These immigrants are admitted to Canada as permanent residents because they

- have business experience as defined in the Regulations;
- have a legally obtained net worth of at least CAN\$800,000; and
- have invested CAN\$400,000 before receiving a visa.

The Government of Canada allocates the investment to participating provinces and territories, which guarantee the investment and use it to develop their economies and create jobs. The investment is repaid, without interest, after five years.

Landing

The permission given to a person to live in Canada as a permanent resident. An immigrant who has been "landed" is a permanent resident.

Live-in Caregivers

Temporary residents of Canada who have successfully completed the equivalent of Canadian secondary school; have six months of full-time training in a field or occupation related to that for which they are seeking a work permit; are able to speak, read and understand English or French at a level sufficient to communicate effectively in an unsupervised situation; and sign an employment contract with the future employer. Participants in this program may apply for permanent resident status in Canada after completing two years of live-in caregiving employment within three years of arrival in Canada.

Permanent Residence for Protected Persons in Canada

People who have been determined to be protected persons by the Immigration and Refugee Board in Canada or through the Pre-Removal Risk Assessment, and who have been granted permanent residence as a result.

Principal Applicant (Business Applicant)

The person who best meets the definition for one or more of the types of business immigrants or in whose name the application for immigration is made.

Principal Applicant (Economic Applicant)

The person who is likely to earn the most points in the self-assessment or in whose name the immigration application is made.

Privately Sponsored Refugees

Refugees selected abroad for resettlement to Canada who receive resettlement assistance from private sources.

Protected Person

Persons who have been determined to be Convention refugees or persons in similar circumstances abroad, persons whom the IRB determines to be Convention refugees or persons in need of protection in Canada, and most persons with a positive Pre-Removal Risk Assessment.

Provincial Nominees

Immigrants selected by the provinces and territories for specific skills that will contribute to the local economy. The Regulations establish a provincial nominee class, allowing provinces and territories having agreements with CIC to nominate a certain number of workers. A nominee must meet federal admissibility requirements, such as those related to health and security, but is not subject to the selection grid applied to federal skilled workers.

Self-Employed Persons

Immigrants who have shown (i) that they can and intend to create their own employment in Canada and (ii) that they can contribute significantly either to the Canadian economy as farmers or to the cultural or athletic life of Canada.

Skilled Workers

Immigrants selected for their skills to help ensure their success in a fast-changing labour market. The Regulations stress education, English or French language abilities, and work experience involving certain skills, rather than specific occupations.