

## Special Feature: A Summary of the Federal Immigration Plan for 2005

***As recently announced by the federal Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, the 2005 immigration planning levels range between 220,000 and 245,000 people. This level is similar to those set for 2004 and previous years...***

Canadian immigration policies continue to aim at striking a balance between three major themes: family reunification, economic development and humanitarian/refugee admission. The planning levels set the upper range for the number of persons to be admitted under each of these three themes. Overall, economic immigrants will still represent the majority of landing with an upper range targeted at 148,000 people, whereas the family classes and refugee/designated classes are set at 56,800 and 40,200 persons, respectively. These figures include the principal applicants and their accompanying dependents. Also, these numbers relate to new permanent residents and do not include temporary residents such as international students, visitors, foreign workers, and refugee claimants living in Canada.

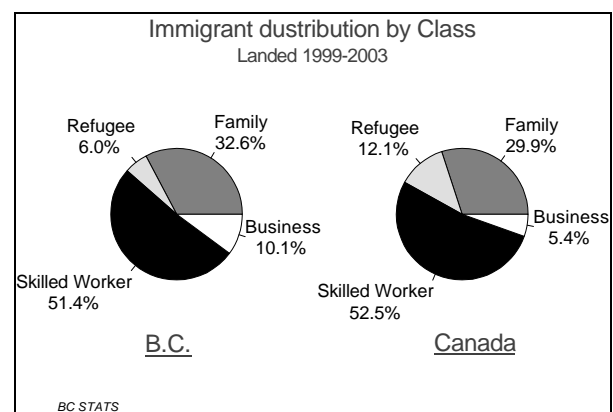
The majority of the economic immigrants to be admitted in 2005 will fall under the skilled worker classes. As noted by the Citizenship and Immigration Minister, in the past several years about 60 percent of immigrants who arrived Canada were economic immigrants, and immigrants accounted for the majority of labour force growth in the country. During the year 2003, a total of 51,686 economic immigrants were admitted to Canada and 88% (45,370) were under the skilled worker classes with the remainder being business immigrants and live-in care givers.

### 2005 Canada Immigration Levels - Target Ranges

<b>Economic Class</b>	<b>132,500-148,000</b>
Skilled Workers	112,500-124,500
Business Immigrants	9,500-10,500
Provincial Nominees	8,000-10,000
Live-in Care Givers	2,500-3,000
<b>Family Class</b>	<b>51,500-56,800</b>
Spouse, Partners & Children	46,000-50,000
Parent & Grandparents	5,500-6,800
<b>Refugees and Designated Class</b>	<b>36,000-40,200</b>
<b>Total Permanent Residents</b>	<b>220,000-245,000</b>

At the Canadian level, the distribution of the three main categories of immigrants represent 60.4% economic, 23.2% family and 16.4% refugee/designated according to the upper range of the new target. These numbers will also serve as indicators of the inflow of immigrants settling in British Columbia in the coming year. It has been observed that the province's share of the overall Canadian immigrants was around 15% in the past several years. If this share should prevail next year then one could estimate that the number of immigrants arriving in B.C. during 2005 will range from 33,000 to 36,750 persons.

However, the category distribution of immigrants settling in B.C. shows a different picture when compared to that of the overall landings in Canada. B.C. tends to attract a higher proportion of immigrants in the family class or business classes but a smaller proportion in the refugee/designated classes. The distribution of immigrants who landed in B.C. during the five year period 1999-2003 was 61.4% economic, 32.6% family and 6.0% humanitarian. B.C. also tends to receive a relatively higher proportion of business immigrants in its overall economic landings. During this five year period, more than 30% of the business immigrants arriving Canada chose to settle in B.C.



Since the newly announced 2005 planning levels are similar to those announced for 2004, the numbers and distribution of B.C. immigrants in the coming year is expected to be very similar to that observed in the past several years.