

## Special Feature: A Summary of the Federal Immigration Plan for 2006

Each year, the Federal Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) announces annual planning levels in its *Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration*. This plan includes targets for admissions for New Permanent Residents by Immigration Class and information on target achievements over the past year. These planning levels, however, do not include visitors, international students, or those admitted under the foreign workers program. This special feature article summarizes the 2006 issue of this plan and discusses recent trends in international immigration to B.C.

Canada's Immigration policy has three broad aims: family reunification; economic development; and humanitarian concerns. As the pressures faced by the Government under these categories change, Canada adjusts the target levels for admissions. In the past several years, Canada has steadily increased its total planning levels, with the increases falling under those areas viewed to have the greatest immediate need.

### General Review

Table 1 presents information from the 2005 and 2006 Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration by CIC. Federal immigration plans for 2005 to 2007, the actual number of landings in 2005 and actual landings up to October 1st 2006 are listed.

In 2005 actual admissions exceeded their target ranges under all class of immigrants. As explained in the Annual Plan 2006, the higher admissions were a result of policy changes and changes in landing rates.

1. Higher allowances were made in the skilled worker category to help meet regional labor force needs in Canada. These labor force demands also affected landing rates in 2006 and plans for 2007.
2. In 2005, a policy change towards increased emphasis on family reunification for parents and grand-parents was made. This change was also incorporated into the 2006 and 2007 planning levels.

3. Finally, there were changes in landing rates in 2005. A greater number of new permanent residents who had been issued visas in 2004 arrived in 2005. Further, a larger number arrived sooner than anticipated after being issued their visa in 2005, and fewer individuals chose not to use their visa after being issued one.

These factors all resulted in higher admissions than originally planned in 2005.

### Economic Class

Economic Immigrants have historically accounted for approximately 60 per cent of all landings to Canada. In 2005, the number of landings under the Economic Class exceeded planning levels. The planning range was set at 132,000–148,000 new permanent residents, but 156,310 individuals landed. This increase was largely a result of higher labor market demands for skilled workers, but the Business Immigrants and Live-in Care-giver categories exceeded their targets as well. A total of 30,199 economic immigrants arrived in British Columbia in 2005, representing 67.4 per cent of all landings to the province in that year.

The planning range for the Economic Class in 2006 was slightly lower than in 2005 at 126,000–143,000 individuals. To date 111,413 have landed in Canada, 20,717 in B.C. This B.C. total accounts for 18.6 per cent of the total economic class landings to Canada for 2006 thus far.

For 2007 the target range for the Economic Class were increased to 141,000–158,000 individuals in response to the continuing demand pressures in regional labor markets. The majority of this increase fell to the Skilled Worker category.

### Family Class

The target range under the Family Class has increased steadily since the 2005 plan. Under this class 63,352 new permanent residents landed in Canada in 2005, well above the target range of 51,500–56,800 individuals. In total, 24.2 per cent of all landings in 2005 fell under this category. This increase was largely a result of a policy em-

phasis on the Parents and Grandparents category. This policy change also increased this category's target ranges for 2006 and 2007 to 17,000–19,000 and 18,000 - 19,000 individuals, respectively.

Under the Spouses / Partners / Children and Other category 8,639 new permanent residents landed in B.C. in 2005. This accounted for approximately 17 per cent of total admissions to Canada in this category. A further 3,081, or 25 per cent of immigrants into Canada under the Parents and Grandparents category, landed into BC as well.

The target range for the overall Family Class was between 61,000 and 65,000 for 2006. From January to September 2006, 53,546 new permanent residents landed in Canada under this class, with 18.9 per cent landed in British Columbia.

The planned range of admissions for the Family Class for 2007 was increased slightly to 67,000–69,000 persons. This reflects the higher allowance for parents and grandparents as well as a slight increase for the spouses and immediate family category.

## **Protected Persons and Other Classes**

The Protected Persons and Other Classes include Government Assisted and Privately Sponsored Refugees, Protected Persons in Canada and Dependents Abroad, those admitted under Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds and Permit Holders. Targets under these classes have remained relatively steady for the past three plans, with a slight increase for 2007.

In 2005, 42,574 new permanent residents landed in Canada under the Protected Persons and Other Classes. Of these landings, 6.7 per cent were in B.C. As of September 31st 2006, 28,216 Protected Class immigrants had landed in Canada; 1,864 of these chose BC as a place of residence.

The Canada level planning range for this class was set at 32,000 to 38,000 individuals for 2007.

Table 1: Permanent Residents Plan and Actual Admissions 2005 to 2007

	Canada 2005 Plan	Number Admitted 2005		Canada 2006 Plan	Number Admitted to Jan-Sept 2006		Canada 2007 Plan
		Canada	BC		Canada	BC	
<b>Economic Class</b>							
Skilled Workers †	112,500 to 124,500	130,242	21,810	105,000 to 116,000	86,197	13,593	116,000 to 128,000
Business Immigrants	9,500 to 10,500	13,469	6,520	9,000 to 11,000	10,003	4,616	9,000 to 11,000
Provincial / Territorial Nominees	8,000 to 10,000	8,047	789	9,000 to 11,000	10,226	1,399	13,000 to 14,000
Live-in Caregivers	2,500 to 3,000	4,552	1,080	3,000 to 5,000	4,987	1,109	3,000 to 5,000
<i>Total Economic Class (incl. Dependents)</i>	<i>132,500 to 148,000</i>	<i>156,310</i>	<i>30,199</i>	<i>126,000 to 143,000</i>	<i>111,413</i>	<i>20,717</i>	<i>141,000 to 158,000</i>
<b>Family Class</b>							
Spouses, Partners, Children and Others	46,000 to 50,000	50,881	8,639	44,000 to 46,000	37,034	6,598	49,000 to 50,000
Parents and Grandparents	5,500 to 6,800	12,471	3,081	17,000 to 19,000	16,512	3,523	18,000 to 19,000
<i>Total Family Class</i>	<i>51,500 to 56,800</i>	<i>63,352</i>	<i>11,720</i>	<i>61,000 to 65,000</i>	<i>53,546</i>	<i>10,121</i>	<i>67,000 to 69,000</i>
<b>Protected Persons*</b>							
<i>Total Protected Persons</i>	<i>30,800 to 33,800</i>	<i>35,768</i>	<i>2,156</i>	<i>32,800 to 40,200</i>	<i>21,336</i>	<i>1,217</i>	<i>25,900 to 30,800</i>
<i>Total Others**</i>	<i>5,200 to 6,400</i>	<i>6,806</i>	<i>693</i>	<i>5,200 to 6,700</i>	<i>6,880</i>	<i>647</i>	<i>6,100 to 7,200</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>220,000 to 245,000</b>	<b>262,236</b>	<b>44,768</b>	<b>225,000 to 255,000</b>	<b>193,164</b>	<b>32,700</b>	<b>240,000 to 265,000</b>

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration 2006 and LIDS 2006Q3*

† Skilled Workers includes Skilled and Quebec Selected Skilled Workers

\* Protected Persons include Government Assisted Refugees, Privately Sponsored Refugees, Protected Persons in Canada and Dependents Abroad.

\*\* Others include Permit Holders and landings under Humanitarian and Compassionate grounds/Public Policy