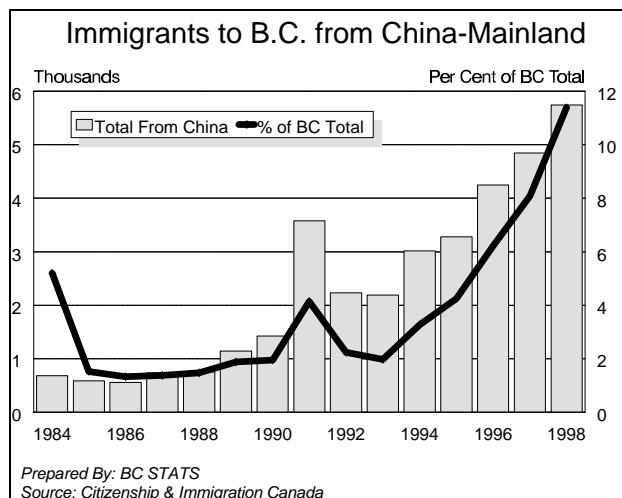


Special Feature: Immigrants to B.C. from China-Mainland

In 1998, China-Mainland (China) had become the leading source of B.C. immigrants. The total number of immigrants arriving from China in 1998 was 5,744 persons for B.C. and 19,617 for Canada. They represented 16 per cent and 11 per cent of total landings in B.C. and Canada, respectively. After Ontario, B.C. was the most popular destination for Chinese immigrants in 1998.

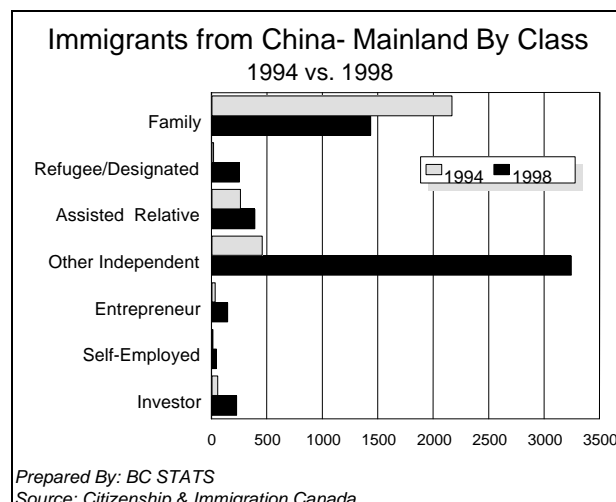
The characteristics of Chinese immigrants have also been changing as a result of the gradual opening up of the Chinese economy. Traditionally, immigrants from China were mostly in the Family Class and Assisted Relative Class. Although the total number of business immigrants coming from China is still relatively low, Chinese immigrants arriving under the Entrepreneur Class and Investor Class have grown during the last several years. In 1998, China-Mainland was the third largest source of investor immigrants and the fourth largest source of Entrepreneur immigrants to B.C.



At the same time, the number of refugees and designated immigrants from China has increased partially as a result of the Tiananmen Square incident in 1989. The number of Chinese immigrants landed in B.C. under these categories has increased from a few persons each year before 1990 to a few hundred persons since 1991. During 1991, there was a sharp increase in the number of landing of

Chinese immigrants under the Other Independent Class. This was primarily a result of the granting of landed immigrant status to a large number of Chinese foreign students studying in Canada after the Tiananmen Square incident.

About two-thirds of the Chinese immigrants who came to B.C. during the last five years did not possess adequate English language ability at the time of landing. A majority of them spoke Cantonese and Mandarin as their mother tongue. As a result of the high concentration of Chinese immigrants in the family and independent worker classes, education qualifications of recent Chinese immigrants were somewhat polarized. Of those Chinese immigrants aged 20 or older who came to B.C. during the last five years, 42 per cent had a secondary or lower education while 35 per cent had a bachelor degree or higher education.



It is believed that more immigrants from China will be coming to B.C. and Canada in the near future as China continues to open up its economy. It is also expected that the number of Chinese business immigrants will continue to grow. As the number of immigrants coming from Hong Kong and Taiwan declines, China will become an even more important source of immigrants to B.C. and Canada in the foreseeable future.

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