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Senior Immigrants to Canada and Their Sponsoring Families: A Demographic Overview of Immigrant Seniors in Ontario

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Introduction

1. How has the population of immigrants and seniors in Canada and Ontario changed between 1996-2006?
2. How are senior immigrants distributed within Ontario?
3. What are the main immigrant language groups?
4. What proportion of permanent residents aged 50 years and over entering Ontario during 1995-2009 reported having no knowledge of an official language?
5. How does the proportion of permanent residents by knowledge of official language vary by language group, age and gender?
6. What proportions of permanent residents aged 50 years and over entered Ontario during 1995-2009 as sponsored family members?
7. What proportion of seniors live alone?

Table 1: Immigrants and seniors in total population by Province, 1996-2006

Province	Percentage of population who are:						% share of province in Canada's:					
	Immigrants			Seniors			Immigrants			Seniors		
	1996	2001	2006	1996	2001	2006	1996	2001	2006	1996	2001	2006
CANADA	**17.2**	**18.4**	**19.8**	**12.2**	**13.0**	**13.7**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.5	1.6	1.7	10.8	12.3	13.9	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.7	1.6	1.6
Prince Edward Is.	3.3	3.1	3.6	13.0	13.7	14.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.5
Nova Scotia	4.6	4.6	5.0	13.1	13.9	15.1	0.8	0.8	0.7	3.4	3.3	3.2
New Brunswick	3.3	3.1	3.7	12.6	13.6	14.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	2.6	2.5	2.5
Quebec	9.3	9.9	11.5	12.1	13.3	14.3	13.4	13.0	13.7	24.4	24.7	24.9
Ontario	**25.3**	**26.8**	**28.3**	**12.4**	**12.9**	**13.6**	**54.8**	**55.6**	**54.9**	**37.8**	**37.9**	**38.0**
Manitoba	12.2	12.1	13.3	13.7	14.0	14.1	2.7	2.5	2.4	4.3	4.0	3.7
Saskatchewan	5.3	5.0	5.0	14.7	15.1	15.4	1.0	0.9	0.8	4.1	3.8	3.4
Alberta	15.0	14.9	16.2	9.9	10.4	10.7	8.2	8.0	8.6	7.6	7.9	8.2
British Columbia	24.2	26.1	27.5	12.8	13.6	14.6	18.2	18.5	18.1	13.5	13.7	13.8
Northern Territories*	6.6	6.3	6.2	3.5	4.3	5.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

*Includes Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Table 2: Immigrant and senior populations of Ontario by CMA, 2006

Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	CMA population as % of Ontario's population:			Immigrant seniors as % of:	
	Total	Immigrants	Seniors	Immigrant seniors in ON	All seniors in area
ONTARIO	100	100	100	100	43.1
Toronto	42.2	68.3	37.2	57.4	66.6
Hamilton	5.7	4.9	6.3	6.5	45.0
Ottawa - Gatineau (ON part only)	6.9	5.3	6.2	4.7	32.8
St. Catharines – Niagara	3.2	2.1	4.2	3.7	37.9
London	3.8	2.6	3.8	3.1	34.8
Kitchener	3.7	3.0	3.1	2.9	40.1
Windsor	2.7	2.2	2.6	2.3	38.2
Oshawa	2.7	1.6	2.3	2.0	37.1
Barrie	1.5	0.7	1.2	0.9	30.4
Kingston	1.2	0.5	1.4	0.8	25.7
Thunder Bay	1.0	0.4	1.2	0.8	27.8
Guelph	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.8	36.2
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	1.3	0.3	1.4	0.7	20.0
Brantford	1.0	0.5	1.1	0.7	29.6
Peterborough	1.0	0.3	1.3	0.6	21.4
Totals for top seven CMAs	68.2	88.4	63.4	80.6	54.9

Table 3: Percentage of single responses of non-official languages reported as mother tongue by immigrants who entered during 1996-2006

Canada				Ontario			
Language	%	Language	%	Language	%	Language	%
Chinese	10.1	Farsi*	4.7	Chinese	9.4	Arabic	5.1
Punjabi	7.2	Cantonese	4.1	Urdu	8.0	Tamil	4.2
Mandarin	6.9	Korean	3.6	Punjabi	6.4	Cantonese	3.7
Arabic	6.6	Romanian	2.7	Mandarin	5.8	Gujarati	3.3
Spanish	6.4	Tamil	2.7	Russian	5.8	Korean	3.1
Tagalog	5.8	Gujarati	2.1	Spanish	5.3	Hindi	2.4
Urdu	5.4	Hindi	1.9	Tagalog	5.2	Romanian	2.3
Russian	5.0	German	1.7	Farsi*	5.1	Bengali	2.1

*includes those responding "Persian", although some may be Dari speakers

Table 4: Percentage of permanent residents entering Ontario during 1995-2009 having no knowledge of an official language at the time of entry by age

Mother tongue	50+ yrs	50-64 yrs			65+ yrs		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Mandarin	89.1	86.5	90.5	88.4	90.3	90.5	90.2
Cantonese	84.1	74.2	86.5	80.7	88.7	92.3	90.5
Punjabi	74.8	66.9	84.1	75.9	60.0	83.1	70.1
Chinese*	70.0	58.3	71.8	66.7	73.6	74.3	74.7
Gujarati	62.6	53.4	76.3	65.1	44.5	70.5	55.0
Russian	60.8	50.0	57.3	54.5	70.3	69.5	69.4
Korean	55.4	44.2	55.5	47.5	73.6	75.7	73.6
Tamil	52.8	39.1	65.2	54.8	44.4	54.6	48.9
Farsi	48.6	29.4	58.0	46.7	59.5	73.8	65.6
Spanish	46.5	31.7	47.0	41.7	55.1	64.8	62.1
Urdu	39.1	18.1	57.3	38.0	27.5	61.7	42.4
Arabic	34.0	17.6	44.8	30.5	34.3	51.1	43.2
Tagalog	31.9	24.9	31.3	28.9	36.0	40.5	38.6
Total 12 languages	62.4	50.7	68.2	60.2	63.2	72.1	67.7
Total non-official	59.7	47.3	76.2	57.2	57.9	80.2	65.3

*Languages, or dialects of Mandarin and Cantonese, having the same script as the two major languages

Table 5: Permanent residents entering Ontario during 1995-2009 by age, sex and landing class

Landing class	All ages				Age: less than 50 years				Age: 50 years and over			
	T	M	F	%F	T	M	F	%F	T	M	F	%F
All classes	100	100	100	51.4	100	100	100	51.0	100	100	100	55.1
Family	29.5	24.1	34.6	60.3	24.7	19.8	29.4	60.7	72.3	65.9	77.5	59.1
Economic	55.6	60.0	51.4	47.5	60.2	64.0	56.5	47.9	15.0	22.0	9.3	34.3
Refugee	12.2	13.2	11.3	47.5	12.6	13.6	11.5	46.9	9.2	9.2	9.1	54.9
Others	2.7	2.6	2.7	51.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	49.8	3.5	2.9	4.0	62.9

Table 6: Percentage of permanent residents entering Ontario during 1995-2009 having no knowledge of an official language by age, sex and landing class

Mother tongue	Age: 50-64 years						Age: 65 years and more					
	Male			Female			Male			Female		
	Fam	Econ	Ref	Fam	Econ	Ref	Fam	Econ	Ref	Fam	Econ	Ref
Arabic	41.5	2.9	31.1	57.7	11.3	38.9	34.6	6.5	17.6	55.8	12.5	36.7
Cantonese	85.1	45.1	40.9	92.1	44.3	46.1	89.7	70.6	66.7	92.9	54.3	66.7
Chinese	73.3	26.7	45.5	78.4	30.6	50.0	76.0	9.1	50.0	78.9	36.4	42.9
Farsi	53.1	13.7	46.9	68.7	30.1	47.3	59.8	28.6	45.6	77.8	54.5	53.2
Gujarati	61.4	2.3	0.0	79.4	17.0	46.2	47.2	20.0	0.0	75.2	50.0	25.0
Korean	47.9	42.9	40.0	71.2	53.8	25.0	76.1	61.5	100.0	77.3	80.0	50.0
Mandarin	93.4	73.5	58.1	94.9	82.8	43.5	91.1	93.8	28.9	93.5	20.0	22.9
Punjabi	75.3	2.8	7.5	87.7	19.5	39.2	62.1	0.0	22.2	84.8	66.7	18.8
Russian	72.7	30.9	9.5	70.7	33.4	19.8	81.8	40.0	17.1	79.8	52.5	24.8
Spanish	60.3	7.1	19.0	70.5	14.9	18.5	72.3	33.3	10.6	76.7	20.0	29.5
Tagalog	33.3	8.6	0.0	42.2	1.3	16.7	36.9	11.1	0.0	42.6	9.1	0.0
Tamil	65.2	1.2	12.8	81.4	7.1	18.9	52.6	0.0	5.9	70.1	14.3	16.1
Urdu	38.0	2.1	6.3	69.1	12.5	22.3	28.6	11.1	10.1	71.9	50.0	11.4
Total 12	69.5	20.6	27.3	79.0	29.2	33.3	67.1	31.5	20.4	78.3	43.2	29.2

Table 7: Percentage of population living alone by year of immigration, gender and age: Ontario, 2006

Age group (years)	Male				Female			
	Non-Immig	year of immigration			Non-immig	year of immigration		
		Pre-96	96-00	01-06		Pre-96	96-00	01-06
50-64	14.9	8.6	2.9	2.9	17.3	10.4	5.3	3.3
65-74	15.9	10.8	4.5	1.0	29.5	22.0	11.9	6.3
75-84	20.3	15.2	5.5	3.0	47.3	39.5	19.6	10.0
85 & over	31.1	22.0	14.3	25.0	59.3	47.7	17.9	38.9
All ages*	10.0	9.4	4.3	4.6	11.9	14.4	3.7	3.2

* including those aged less than 50 years

Table 8: Percentage of population living alone reporting no knowledge of an official language by year of immigration, gender and age in Ontario, 2006

Age group (years)	Male				Female			
	Non-Immig	year of immigration			Non-immig	year of immigration		
		Pre-96	96-00	00-06		Pre-96	96-00	01-06
50-64	0.03	1.6	5.4	11.1	0.01	2.1	17.7	12.1
65-74	0.13	2.7	41.7	33.3	0.03	7.7	35.0	28.6
75-84	0.13	4.4	16.7	50.0	0.08	10.1	43.3	50.0
85 & over	0.00	4.7	33.3	33.3	0.17	9.5	20.0	14.3
All ages*	0.05	2.1	2.8	2.4	0.04	6.4	10.8	6.1

* including those aged less than 50 years

Key Findings (1)

- Ontario’s portions of Canada's immigrant and senior populations have remained the highest among all provinces, at 55% and 38%, respectively.
- Between 1996 and 2006 immigrants and seniors in Ontario's population increased from 25.3% to 28.3 %, and 12.4 to 13.6%, respectively.
- The 12 immigrant language groups selected account for more than 70% of Ontario's immigrants who reported a non-official language as mother tongue in 2006.
- At time of entry, 60% of immigrants aged 50 years and over reported having no knowledge of an official language.

Key Findings (2)

- The proportion of those having no knowledge of official language is higher among those 65 years and older.
- A higher proportion of female immigrants has no knowledge of an official language.
- More family class immigrants than economic immigrants have no knowledge of official languages.
- The proportion of seniors living alone increases with age and a higher percentage of females than males lives alone.
- More than one third of seniors living alone has no knowledge of an official language.

Conclusion

Remedying the lack of knowledge of an official language at time of entry should be a priority issue, particularly for senior female migrants in the family class:

- To reduce isolation and depression.
- To improve access to services and the media.
- For grand parenting.
- To facilitate the participation of seniors willing and able to take up productive employment.

Thank you for your attention!