



Canadian Association of
Professional Immigration Consultants

L'Association Canadienne des
Conseillers Professionnels en Immigration

Developing a Stronger Immigration Infrastructure

About CAPIC

The Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants (CAPIC) is the professional organization founded for Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants (RCICs) on four guiding principles: Education, Information, Lobbying, and Recognition.

CAPIC leads, connects, protects, and develops the profession, serving the best interests of its members.

Preamble

Maintaining the integrity of the immigration intake system and potential immigrants before and after arrival is of critical importance. If we manage the intake process well, newcomers will be better equipped to live and work in Canada right away, as opposed to years down the line or not at all.

Most experts agree that the 100 million population mark is necessary for economically independent countries to assert themselves; Canada is projected to reach this total by the end of the century. These same experts also agree that even if Canada changes nothing and maintains current immigration and fertility levels, it would still reach this total by the end of the century. Hence, we believe it is more appropriate to focus on the infrastructure that will invariably accommodate this number rather than methods for achieving it.

A Stronger Infrastructure

The success of immigration-driven growth will continue to require upfront investment and constant improvement and innovation. The management, harmonization, and continued expansion of IRCC, the IRB, and the CBSA is necessary to improve services in immigrant sourcing countries to ensure targeted and focused selection of immigrants and, perhaps more importantly, to speed up current processing times.

Given low birth rates, an aging population, and labour and skills shortages, Canada and most G8 countries are locked in a war for talent; we face significant competition from other countries vying to import and integrate the same quality of human capital and skills. Since almost every source country is experiencing a native-born population decline and competing for the same supply of qualified talent and desirable immigrants, a more efficient Canadian immigration system is crucial. To this end, Canadian provinces should provide foreigners with access to trade certificates and subsidized language classes, especially in refugee or family reunification cases, as this would allow new immigrants to better integrate into the Canadian workforce.

Canada has considerable advantages in this competition, but we cannot afford to be complacent and tolerate a sluggish and overburdened bureaucracy, especially if we are striving for higher immigration levels. We must therefore also invest in infrastructure transportation, urban development, workplace policy, and education to absorb the numbers necessary for a thriving economy and society. Moreover, PNP involvement in

business immigration streams and a federal return to business programs would revitalize this otherwise aging facet of Canada's immigration infrastructure.

Since immigrants are crucial to an economy such as Canada's, we suggest that the total number of immigrants accepted into Canada be raised to 355,000-360,000 for the year 2021. However, it is equally important to emphasize improvements to the immigration experience right from the moment a person applies. Therefore, we would also suggest dividing annual immigration targets into quarterly rather than yearly amounts. This would ensure stable landings and mitigate against last-minute panic in November or December, and it would also greatly facilitate planning and resettlement.

Finally, CAPIC welcomes the announcement to revisit the application submission process for parents and grand-parents who contribute directly to a stronger Canadian economy by looking after their grandchildren while the parents work and pay taxes, ensuring peace of mind and safety. We look forward to providing input on how to achieve greater fairness and efficiency in service delivery and enhanced client experience.

Conclusion

To sustain the robust immigration philosophy that has led to the tripling of the Canadian population, we must strengthen accessibility to a friendly, efficient, and timely entry process and a post-arrival settlement infrastructure. It is too often the case that highly desirable potential immigrants choose other jurisdictions merely because the process is inefficient, *not* because they choose to do so. We cannot expect highly mobile professionals and business people to put their lives on hold indefinitely while awaiting a residence decision that may or may not result in their favour.