

Busting the Myths About Immigration in Canada



Myth #1: Newcomers don't need help

Fact: Newcomers may face isolation and may feel anxious when they arrive in Canada.

Fact: The financial challenges and employment barriers faced by many newcomers affect their health and access to key determinants of health such as housing, education, and healthy food. Immigrants' health is generally better than that of the Canadian-born since only applicants who pass a thorough medical exam can be granted permanent resident status, but it tends to decline as their years in Canada increase.



Myth #2: Immigrants are a burden on the Canadian economy

Fact: Canada's immigration policies are designed to attract more skilled workers than any other class of immigrants; an effective tool for improving the Canadian economy

Fact: Most of Canada's immigrants are educated in diverse fields; bringing experience and languages from all over the world. They are an invaluable resource that will give Canada an edge in a highly competitive global market.

Fact: According to the Canada West Foundation, for every 10% increase in immigration, there is a 1% increase in exports. In 2014, 12% per cent of immigrant owned businesses exported goods and services to markets beyond the U.S., which supports Canada's trade agenda (versus 7% for businesses owned by non-immigrants). Exporters with a recent immigrant as majority owner are among the fastest-growing Canadian Small-Medium Enterprises.

Fact: Some immigrants come to Canada as entrepreneurs or business migrants. To qualify under this category, they must prove that they have a minimum net worth of \$300,000 Canadian dollars. These immigrants establish businesses and create new jobs for Canadians. In 2007 alone, more than 6,000 entrepreneurs and investors took up permanent residency in Canada.

Fact: Many newcomers find employment quickly and are willing to work long hours. For example, Low German Mennonite newcomers usually find jobs within two or three days.

Fact: Greenhouse and agriculture employers depend on Temporary Foreign Workers for business viability and financial success.

Myth #3: Immigrants take jobs away from Canadians.

Fact: Between 1993 and 2001, it was found that immigrants who had been in Canada for 10 years or less had a higher rate of over-qualification than their Canada-born counterparts.

Fact: Although many immigrants come to Canada as highly skilled professionals, their qualifications may not be recognized as equivalent to the qualifications of Canadian-born workers trained in the same fields. Such immigrants do not have the opportunity to compete for jobs with Canadians who have the same levels of qualification.

Fact: New immigrants are three times more likely than Canadian-born workers to be found in low-skilled jobs. Between 1993 and 2001, it was found that immigrants who had been in Canada for ten years or less had a higher rate of over-qualification than their Canadian-born counterparts. This may mean that immigrants are more likely to take jobs that individuals born in Canada with their equivalent levels of qualification will not take.

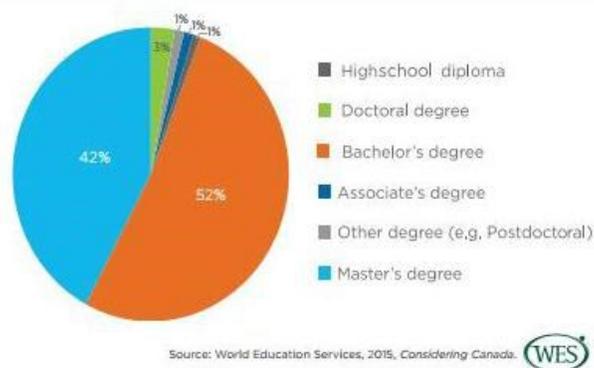
Fact: The 2011 National Household Survey, showed Immigrants in Windsor having a 12.8% unemployment rate, compared to 9.6% unemployment rate for "non-immigrants". Non-permanent residents in Windsor had an unemployment rate for 20.2%. For Leamington, the data in 2011 is as follows: 6.7% unemployment rate for non-immigrants, 6.3% unemployment rate for immigrants, 9.1% unemployment rate for immigrants arriving between 2006 and 2011. Non-permanent residents in Leamington in 2011 had an unemployment rate of 2.9%.



What they earned



FIGURE - WES CIC-ECA APPLICANTS HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION



Myth #4: Non-Status immigrants don't pay taxes.

Fact: Non-status immigrants pay HST, property taxes, contribute to the CPP, and may also have social insurance numbers. Temporary foreign workers, refugee claimants and permanent residents pay all taxes but can't access many services based on their status.

Myth #5: Refugees in Canada receive greater assistance from the government than Canadian pensioners

Fact: The amount of monthly financial support that government-assisted refugees receive is based on provincial social-assistance rates. It is the minimum required to meet basic food and shelter needs.

Fact: Privately sponsored refugees do not receive government funding.

Fact: Government assistance is provided up until one year from arrival, or until the individual is able to support him/herself.



Myth #6: Immigrants bring crime to Canada

Fact: In Canada, an overall drop in crime has paralleled the increase of immigration since the 1970s.

Fact: According to the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, immigrants are "much less involved in criminal activity than are those who were born in Canada."

Myth #7: Immigrants do not want to work

Fact: One of the reasons why people immigrate is because they want a better life and a better future for their children. For most immigrants, a better life includes a suitable and fulfilling job.

Fact: Immigrants who arrived in Canada during the 1990s made up almost 70% of the overall growth rate in the labour force during that period.

Fact: In 2001, there were approximately 15.6 million people in Canada's labour force; 20% of this number were born outside of Canada.

Fact: It is common in Canada for immigrant professionals such as doctors and engineers to be employed as drivers, cleaners and security agents. These overqualified immigrants take these jobs, not because they are suitable or fulfilling, but because they want to work.

WHY IS IMMIGRATION IMPORTANT TO CANADA?



25% of Canada's population will be over 65 by 2035



5,000,000 Canadians set to retire by 2035



Canada's worker-to-retiree ratio TODAY



Canada's worker-to-retiree ratio in 2035



Canada's fertility rate, which is ranked **181st** globally, is well below Canada's replacement rate of **2.1**

Immigrants TODAY make up 65% of Canada's net annual population growth



Almost **100%** of Canada's net population growth will be through immigration by 2035



350,000

Estimated number of immigrants Canada will need annually by 2035 to meet its workforce needs



Canada's acceptance of immigrants on humanitarian grounds demonstrates compassion, leadership and enhances Canada's global standing



IMMIGRANTS...



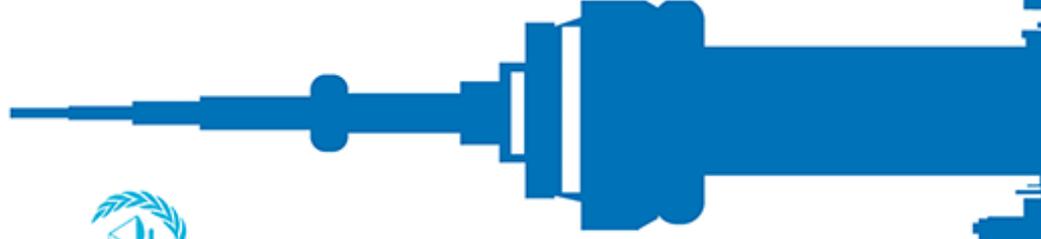
boost trade ties between Canada and the world



strengthen culture and diversity



are motivated, innovative and entrepreneurial



Myth #7: Internationally trained professionals are not as qualified as Canadian professionals

Fact: Foreign trained professionals must have credentials reviewed by accredited Canadian assessment bodies to be employed in their field.

Fact: It is estimated that more than 40% of immigrants to Canada are working in their trained profession.

Fact: More than 26% of all physicians practicing in Ontario in 2011 were foreign trained.



Myth #8: There are too many

Fact: Canada's population is expected to increase to 35 million by 2015, but this is actually a decrease in annual growth rate. While the rate between 1996 and 2005 was 1.1 per cent, the figure for the span between 2006 and 2015 is expected to be 0.9 per cent. This is attributed to the decline in the natural increase in population, which is births minus deaths, caused by low fertility rates and the slower increase in life expectancy.

International migration made up two-thirds of the country's population growth in 2006. And immigration is expected to contribute to the country's population growth, accounting for about 67.5 per cent of the population increase by 2015, cumulatively.

Fact: As the population grows, so will the country's labour force. By 2031, it is expected to grow to a number between 20.5 million and 22.5 million people, up from 18.5 million in 2010.

In that same time frame, about a third of the labour force is expected to be foreign-born. In Ontario, this figure is projected to be 41 per cent. But if Canada closed its doors to immigrants over the next two decades, the labour force would be reduced to less than 18 million by 2031 and start shrinking in 2017.



South Essex Community Council has been serving the communities of South Essex since 1973. It is a registered, non-profit, charitable organization whose mission is: *"Helping people. Improving lives."* SECC provides three core services: employment & training, language & settlement, and community home support services. The organization also provides a variety of income and security programs such as Coats for Kids and Keep the Heat.

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