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Research Topic: Canadian Family reunification immigration policies - Should the Parents and Grandparents (PGP) sponsorship intake program be based on a lottery or a first-come, first-served system? Or can a more effective hybrid system be put in place for sponsoring parents or grandparents of permanent residents or Canadians? What other factors can be considered to determine the selection of potential sponsors?

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Abstract:

As of 2016, 60.3% of new immigrants to Canada were admitted under the economic stream, 26.8% accounted for the family reunification class, while 11.6% were refugees (Statistics Canada 2017). Family migration is important to people, and residents and citizens of countries are always looking for ways to reunite with their loved ones. Over the years, there have been numerous changes made to the Canadian family reunification policies. This paper focuses on the Canadian Parent and Grandparent sponsorship program (PGP) and analyzes the problematic ways in which it has been administered and construed over the years. Using data from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB), Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants (LSIC), Labour Force Survey (LFS), Statistics Canada, Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), and Canadian Census databases, the socio-demographic and economic profiles and outcomes of the family class migrants, specifically parents and grandparents, are compared to other migrant categories after landing.

Based on public discourse, the family class migrants, especially parents and grandparents, have been portrayed as an economic burden to the Canadian welfare system, this misconception will be debunked throughout this paper. The current Parent and Grandparent sponsorship program administered is problematic as it solely adopts a lottery system without factoring other important criteria such as the sponsor's length of stay and permanent residence in Canada, number of attempts to sponsor, maximum number of people applying for one source country and others. Although the current lottery program was introduced in an attempt to be fair to all potential sponsors, it has instead had the opposite effect because it is solely based on luck. The paper proposes recommendations including a hybrid program that will help address some of the perceived shortcomings of the current parents and grandparents sponsorship program, as family migration is an important fabric of Canadian society.

Introduction:

Family class migrants comprise various groups including people who are accompanying economic migrant workers or refugees, and those reuniting with denizens and nationals of the host countries. Family reunification among member countries of the OECD accounted for just 30% of migration in 2015 from 40% in 2008 (OECD 2016). Canada is no exception. There is a heavy focus on economic migrants over other streams of migration such as family (Lister 2010), and humanitarian/compassionate admissions. The family migrant class is highly politicized both by political actors and the media. There have been criticisms from the public about the family migrant class as many people view them as an economic burden to the Canadian welfare system. This is debunked in section 5 using data that analyzes the economic profiles and outcomes of the family migrant class. Though family class migration continues to be the most common channel of permanent migration among the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, the number of family migrants have declined notably, from approximately 1.8 million between 2008 and 2009 to an estimated 1.6 million in 2015, accounting for 38% of total permanent migrants to these regions (OECD 2017). Family migration is important in Canada as family members, including parents and grandparents of new migrants, seek to reunite with their loved ones. Canada introduced the Parents and Grandparents sponsorship program to prevent losing top talents and the repatriation of economic immigrants going back to their home countries to assist their elderly relatives with care. The question “Should the Parents and Grandparents (PGP) sponsorship intake program be based on a first-come, first-served or lottery system?” is posed because of the level of criticisms that previous implementations of the program have drawn.

Over the years, there have been numerous changes made to the Parents, Grandparents Sponsorship program (PGP), some of which have been administered in a problematic manner. The annual quota on the permitted number of applications has also fluctuated based on the discretion of the Government in power and how parents, grandparents and other family migrants are perceived during a given period. In 2016, Canada changed from the paper-based first-in, first-out (FIFO) or first-come, first-

served intake program to the lottery system. With the current lottery system implemented, the sponsors must submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to sponsor form (IRCC 2019). After submitting an interest to sponsor form, IRCC will randomly select from the pool of potential sponsors, accept the designated number of applications for that year, and invite them to apply to sponsor their parents or grandparents. In order to be eligible to sponsor, those interested in sponsoring must be invited to apply, be at least 18 years of age, meet minimum financial and income requirements (which vary by year), live in Canada, and be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, or a person registered in Canada as an Indian under the Canadian Indian Act (Ibid). Those selected to sponsor will receive an invitation from IRCC via email and must submit two applications - the sponsorship and the permanent residence applications – for their parents or grandparents (Ibid). If the eligibility requirements are met and applications are approved, sponsors are required to sign an undertaking that commits them to provide financial support for sponsored family members for a minimum of 20 years once they become permanent residents, and must repay any social assistance received from the government during the period (Ibid). The requirements are slightly different for residents of Quebec who are required to sign an undertaking for 10 years and have a different financial and income assessment from other provinces and territories (Ibid). IRCC usually sends more invitations than their annual quota to provide a buffer for those applications that will get disqualified due to not meeting the eligibility criteria. For example, in 2021, IRCC sent 34,500 invitations to potential sponsors in order to meet its 30,000 complete application quota for that year (Ibid).

In the past, any permanent resident, registered person as Indian under the Canadian Indian Act or Canadian citizen who met the Low-Income Cut Off (LICO) was eligible to apply but IRCC only processed a limited number of applications in any given year due to staff capacity, which led to a 12-year plus backlog. Prior to 2016, the FIFO system was implemented - potential sponsors could submit a complete application, which was added to the backlog and processed based on the date of submission. Applications under the FIFO system were prioritized based on geography and the family's ability to retain expensive immigration lawyers. Those who lived closer to the processing centers or those who could

afford to pay someone to help them get ahead of the queue had the advantage of getting their applications in first. In 2016, the lottery system was introduced to replace the paper-based FIFO system due to controversies surrounding the long wait-times, lack of transparency and use of financial power to influence how fast a decision was made on an application. This new system was also adopted to make the process fairer because the number of applications received under the FIFO system in the past far exceeded the number of available spots.

Interestingly, in 2019, Canada once again reverted to the FIFO system due to how highly controversial the lottery program ended up being. With the newly introduced first-come, first-served program, potential sponsors had to indicate a willingness to sponsor their parents or grandparents by completing an online “interest-to-sponsor” form. Potential sponsors would then be invited based on the order in which the “interest-to-sponsor” form was received, until the target quota was reached. There were technical glitches with the system on the intake day as some could not access the form, with other criticisms surrounding the program such as the inability for those with disabilities or literacy issues to complete them as quickly as others. The federal government was left to privately settle two lawsuits relating to the claims about the unfairness of the system and technical issues that occurred on the intake day. Thus, the lottery system was reintroduced in 2020 with commitments of a reduced processing time between 20-24 months.

With over 100,000 potential sponsors submitting their interests to sponsor their parents and grandparents yearly, there have been arguments claiming that the current lottery system is unfair on those who have been attempting to sponsor their loved ones for an extended period. Critics state that this form of family reunification system is based on sheer luck or fate CBC (2020) and does not factor in the status duration and length of stay in Canada of the sponsors. This paper attempts to address these criticisms by posing these questions - “Should the Parents and Grandparents (PGP) sponsorship intake program be based on a lottery or a first-come, first-served system? Or can a more effective hybrid system be put in place for sponsoring parents or grandparents of permanent residents or Canadians? What other factors can

be considered to determine the selection of potential sponsors?” The paper proposes that a more effective hybrid system be put in place for sponsoring parents or grandparents of permanent residents or Canadians to ensure that the length of stay and permanent residency status in Canada, and number of attempts to sponsor are factored in when determining selection of potential sponsors.

Section 1 provides an overview of the Canadian immigration system and policies in place and delves specifically into the evolution of the family reunification program. This section addresses the negative public discourse surrounding the family migrant class and explores the importance of a family with respect to references to international human rights conventions such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and European Convention, which both outline the right to family life. Section 2 draws on relevant comparisons between Canada’s family reunification policies and other countries, notably Australia and the United Kingdom. These countries were selected because they are quite similar to Canada, in terms of their immigration policies but still have some slightly different policies from Canada. The former with more progressive policies that Canada can draw on and the latter with more regressive policies. Section 3 discusses various competing discourses regarding family migration policies and explores arguments from those in support of and opposed to family migrant class being given priority over other categories of migrant.

In section 4, the paper analyzes second-hand data derived from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB), Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants (LSIC), Labour Force Survey (LFS), Statistics Canada, Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), and 2016 Canadian Census databases. One recurring criticism of the family-migrant class is that migrants admitted in this class do not contribute economically to the Canadian system and are a financial burden. Using the longitudinal studies (IMDB), the data analyzed helps clarify the economic contributions of the family class migrants to the Canadian economy. The data gathered from the IMDB spans over three extended 10-year periods, from 2003-2012, 2005-2014, and 2008-2017. Data is also gathered between 1990 and 2015 to track the family class migrants’ social-economic outcomes over time relative to other migrant groups. The LSIC tracks how

new immigrants are settling and integrating into the Canadian system by analyzing their earnings, labour force participation and employment rates over time. Section 5 analyzes and discusses the data gathered from the various databases in the previous section to help understand immigrants' socio-demographic and economic profiles after landing in Canada. Section 6 provides five key policy recommendations that IRCC may consider when implementing future family reunification immigration policies. They range from capping the number of sponsors from a single source country, administering a hybrid system that factors in multiple important requirements, reducing the immigration fees, hiring more staff to tackle backlogs and lengthy processing times, and educating the public in order to clear up misconceptions and reduce the spread of misinformation. Finally, section 7 concludes the paper by summarizing the key findings, recommendations and future considerations.

History and evolution of family reunification policies in Canada

The notion of family reunification in Canada dates as far back as the early 1900s and was first articulated in the Canadian legislation under the 1976 Immigration Act, though there were different rationales behind implementing it in the Canadian immigration policy (DeShaw 2006). The purpose of the 1976 Immigration Act, which included the family class migration, was to promote family reunion for Canadian citizens and residents within Canada (Ibid). After the second World War, Canada responded to the humanitarian crisis of displaced people by opening its borders to foreign relatives of Canadian residents and citizens (Daniel 2005). Family reunification became a core component of immigration between 1946 and 1966 with more than 2.5 million immigrants admitted to Canada - 900,000 sponsored, while others were unsponsored (Ibid). The sponsored immigrants mostly originated from Southern European countries such as Italy, Greece, and Portugal (Chen et al., 2015). Though new regulations were passed to abolish the distinction between preferred countries and others, and Canadian governments officially moved towards a "colour-blind" immigration policy, it is important to note that there was initially discrimination based on country of origin with preference given to immigrants from certain European countries, while parents of Africans and Asian Canadians experienced discrimination based on

the mandatory age restriction – mothers had to be over 60 years and fathers had to be over 65 years to qualify under the family reunification program (DeShaw 2006). That said, family reunification became a major form of migration in Canada by the late 1970s, accounting for 40-50% of total immigration (Ibid).

Due to the increasing number of unskilled, sponsored family members including distant relatives notably from Italy, under the family reunification stream, there were growing concerns that these migrants would be unable to meet the labour demand gap in the industrialized and urbanized Canadian society (Chen et al. 2015). As a result, the 1966 White Paper recommended the solution of splitting the sponsored category into two: immediate dependents (wives, children) and non-dependents (nominated, distant relatives), with the latter subject to minimum education and skill qualification requirements (Ibid). By the 1960s and 1970s, non-dependents or distant relatives were completely disregarded under the family reunification category and framed as subjects of problematization by the Canadian State (Ibid). Recently, similar problematization has extended to parents and grandparents, as concerns have been raised about the economic costs associated with their sponsorship, economic contribution, and integration within the Canadian society (Ibid). Chen et al. (2015) have criticized the Canadian immigration policies surrounding the Parent and Grandparent (PGP) sponsorship program as discriminatory and claim that the determination of who qualifies as a family member has been inconsistent over time.

To reduce the growing backlog of an estimated 165,000 applications and cut down the excessively lengthy processing time - average of six years - Jason Kenney, former Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism announced the plans surrounding a swift turnaround for the Family reunification program in 2011 (Ibid). There was a top-down ministerial freeze for a period of two years on future PGP sponsorship applications to avoid further backlog and allow the processing of the earlier applications (Ibid). This moratorium helped clear up to 50,000 applications between 2012 and 2013, allowing parents and grandparents whose applications had been stuck, admission into Canada (Ibid). A huge emphasis was placed on ensuring that the redesigned programs are suitable to Canada's

fiscal constraints (Ibid) and do not impose economic burdens on the healthcare and overall social welfare system.

Canada is among the few Western states that gives priority to ascending relatives such as parents and grandparents based on family life in its immigration policies (Honohan 2009). The Canadian government implemented the family reunification program that allows permanent residents and citizens of Canada to submit an interest to sponsor their parents or grandparents as permanent residents (Chen et al. 2015). There are requirements in place to become an eligible sponsor such as an annual application target - maximum application targets for 2019, 2020 and 2021 were 20,000, 10,000 and 30,000 respectively - as well as a minimum necessary income (MNI) (IRCC 2022). The largest intake yet occurred in 2021, when Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) implemented the lottery system yet again (CIC News 2021). Both the lottery and first-come, first-served programs have drawn criticisms and commendations over the years.

Challenges faced by previously implemented programs

Prior to 2016, the paper-based FIFO or first-come, first-served system was deemed unfair due to some sponsors' proximity to an immigration office/centre, as this only afforded those who resided closest to the centres the eligibility and ability to apply first. The other alternative was for interested sponsors to pay someone to wait in the line to submit applications on their behalf once the centres were open. The only immigration office in the country that was accepting the paper-based sponsorship application was in Mississauga, and applications either had to be submitted in person or hand-delivered by couriers. This meant that people had to travel from all over the country, camp outside for hours or pay hefty delivery fees to the courier companies, who were charging hundreds of dollars for their hand-delivery services. This only afforded potential sponsors who could take time off to travel or pay the expensive courier service fees, the chance to apply (Gerami law 2021).

In 2016, the lottery system was introduced, where potential sponsors were randomly selected from a pool, making reunification based solely on luck of the draw. The major challenge with the random lottery draw was that the process was unfair to families who had been waiting for years to sponsor their parents and grandparents as some first-time applicants were selected when this system was first introduced. This system also did not factor in the length of stay and permanent residence status in Canada, and number of prior attempts to sponsor that have been made by potential sponsors.

The online first-come, first-served system was introduced in 2019 and was supposed to be an improved version of the paper-based FIFO system. IRCC did not foresee the surge in demand once the online system opened. Due to the high volume of applications received – 27,000 potential sponsors submitted an application online in less than 11 minutes (CBC 2019) surpassing the 20,000-target. This program was highly contentious and scrapped in 2019 as it caused an outcry from frustrated potential applicants expressing their grievances, with some requesting an independent audit review of the sponsorship process (Ibid). The complaints varied from the growing application backlog, lengthy processing time (Bélanger et al., 2020), unfair process mechanism, technical glitches, lack of transparency and low application quota. As such, the 2019 first-come, first-served system was replaced and IRCC reverted to the lottery system from 2020 onwards.

Dr. Amir Attaran, who is a professor at the University of Ottawa and Canada Research Chair in Law, filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) due to the process and differential treatment based on family status (*Attaran v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2015 FCA 37 (CanLII)). The complaint was regarding the assessment of the sponsorship application and permanent residence process (Ibid). Dr. Attaran claimed Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)'s process discriminated against a particular class: on average, the estimated timeline for sponsoring family members such as spouses and dependents was 42 days, while that of parents and grandparents took as long as 37 months (Ibid). Although the Federal Court dismissed Dr. Attaran's case on the grounds that the Ministry was within its power to make such discretionary decisions based on social and economic considerations,

the Federal Court of Appeal consequently concluded that the dismissal of the complaint was unreasonable and it was discovered that CIC in fact carried on a discriminatory practice (Ibid).

Introduction of the Parents and Grandparents Super Visa and posed challenges

To address the criticisms raised about fairness, the lottery program was modified and reintroduced in 2020, allowing potential sponsors a 3-week window to complete an online form expressing their interests to sponsor their relatives (CBC 2020). The selected sponsors were given 60 days to complete the application. As part of the changes made by the Canadian Government to a variety of immigration policies and programs in 2008, the Super visa was introduced Chen et al. (2015) for Parents and Grandparents in 2011. The Super visa program, which did not go into effect until 2014, entailed a 30% increase in the minimum income requirement imposed on sponsors, as well as a 20-year undertaking period: an extension from the previous mandatory period of 10 years (Ibid). The Super visa program (a 10-year multi-entry visa) is a different option for those looking to sponsor their relatives, allowing parents and grandparents of Canadians and permanent residents to visit temporarily for an extended period of 2 years at a given time (Government of Canada 2020). As of July 4, 2022, an amendment was made to the Super visa program that increases the length of stay to 5 years per entry into Canada. Parents and Grandparents are subject to medical tests and are required to purchase a 1-year medical insurance coverage from a Canadian private insurance provider (Chen et al., 2015).

There are 3 major criticisms of the Super Visa - expensive application fees which favour those who meet certain financial criteria set by IRCC, inconvenience of exiting and re-entering the country especially for elderly parents and grandparents to ensure that they are not violating their immigration status, and sense of insecurity due to the temporary nature of the visa. There are limitations associated with the Super visa especially for certain ethnic groups that practice inter- and multigenerational cohabitation and are heavily dependent on their extended family members for childcare (volunteerism) and support (Ilyan 2015). The recent amendment - 5-year length of stay per entry - made to the Super Visa has been well received because the previous 2-year length of stay per entry could get expensive and

inconvenient in the long term (Ibid). There is an annual limit of 5,000 on the number of Super visa applications Chen et al. (2015), which is a quota constraint that sponsors looking to bring their ascendant families face. Some have argued that the Super visa is indeed just a visitor's visa that has been framed as an immigration sponsorship visa (Ibid). The pursuance of the Super visa heavily depends on the sponsor's ability to provide financial support. There are arguments surrounding the temporary nature of the visa as it leaves a sense of insecurity of presence for both the sponsored and the sponsors, which creates a feeling of exclusion and puts up an internal social wall within the Canadian society (Rajkumar et al. 2012).

Section 1 - Background:

Immigrants in Canada are selected based on three main criteria: ability to facilitate economic development, reunification with family members and fulfilment of Canada's international commitments through humanitarian efforts (Statistics Canada 2017). Family reunification remains important to Canadians. When the Conservatives took over from the Liberals in 2006, there was a shift in the Canadian immigration policy towards an increase in the demand for temporary foreign workers Chen et al. (2015) due to labour shortages in certain sectors and a focus on skilled immigrants, although the eligibility requirements were tightened. There is a negative public discourse and politicization around the family class immigration policies, specifically the Parents and Grandparents sponsorship program, due to the perceived lack of adaptability and economic contribution to the Canadian economy as well as an increased financial burden on the Canadian public system (Ramos et al. 2009). Contrary to this, sponsored Parents and Grandparents significantly contribute both economically and non-economically to Canada upon arrival, and their contributions significantly increase over time (Ibid). The Parents and Grandparents sponsorship programs have also been designed and delivered in a problematic manner and the Government has done little to refute the public claims that this group takes undue advantage of the Canadian welfare system upon arrival into the country. While States have the right to administer control of who enters and leaves the country, and to whom they grant residency (Honohan 2019), in the

contemporary era, most states are unable to explicitly select based on race, religion, or ethnicity but they can admit certain groups of immigrants over others based on economic contributions and factors (Ibid).

Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) is an assessment tool designed to measure immigration policies (settlement, resettlement, integration, and participation policies) in 52 countries (MIPEX 2020). MIPEX tracks on-going policy changes in these 52 countries, across 6 continents and ranks them according to how favourable they are based on 8 policy areas - access to nationality, anti-discrimination, education, family reunion, health, labour market mobility, permanent residence, and political participation (Ibid). These 8 policy areas serve as benchmarks against current policies and laws in the assessed countries through comparative research studies with the aid of top academics and institutions (MIPEX Methodology 2020). Some of the countries assessed using the MIPEX include all European Union member states, some European countries such as Iceland, Serbia, Asian countries such as India, Israel, China, Saudi Arabia, Norway, North American countries such as Canada, the United States and Mexico, South American countries such as Chile and Brazil, and the only African country - South Africa (Ibid). The Index monitors the impact of immigration policies and outcomes on migrants.

According to the MIPEX (2020), Canada scored 88 out of 100 in 2019 (See Annex A), which was a decline from a score of 94 in 2013 under the family reunion category but its family reunification policies are still considered favourable. MIPEX highlights that even though Canada is ranked as favourable and policies tend to be family-oriented, parents and grandparents still face significant challenges in reuniting with family members when compared to other countries (Ibid). Overall, Canada is ranked in the top 10 countries based on its immigration policies, with a score of 80 out of 100 in 2019 (Ibid).

Several countries have made requirements increasingly stringent for the family admission and reunification stream with various constraints in place including limitation to nuclear family members, minimum income, longer processing time, multiple medical examinations, and others (Honohan 2019). Nordic countries such as Denmark, Norway and Sweden have very restrictive eligibility requirements –

language, age, economic and financial resources - that inhibit or discourage newcomers from reuniting and integrating with their family members (MIPEX 2020). Among the Nordic countries, Norway is the least restrictive as it allows equal rights to reunited families but, according to MIPEX (2020), separated families in the country still face major roadblocks that are considered to undermine the integration and well-being of migrants. Family migration is important to members of a society, which is why there have been ongoing discourses in Canada to make changes to the existing sponsorship programs that have not been as effective as they could be in allowing for a smooth migration process for this group.

Why does family matter?

Canada is considered a liberal democratic state and has made some provisions within its laws (Charter of Rights and Freedoms) that protect three activities under the freedom of association – ‘right to join with others and form associations, the “derivative” right to join with others in the pursuit of other constitutional rights, and the purposive right to join with others to meet on more equal terms the power and strength of other groups or entities’ (Government of Canada 2022). Regarding familial relationships, the Canadian law Section 2(d) considers family as an unavoidable aspect of life but 3(iv) has found that freedom of association does not apply to associations between family members in some cases (Ibid). It is argued that the desire for family members to associate with one another does not stem from pursuing a common goal or activity, instead it is based on their belonging to a specific family unit (Ibid). This contrasts with associations that have a common goal such as economic, charitable, social, religious and others (Ibid). Although family reunification may be justifiable based on freedom of association, some have argued that this is not a right bestowed to immigrants (temporary or permanent).

Honohan (2009) highlights the importance of family reunification in migration and the vital roles that parents and grandparents play during critical periods of a person’s life. Various international conventions support the notion of family reunification. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the right to start a family and respect one’s family life while the European Convention on Human Rights outlines the obligation for States to show respect for the family life of those residing

within its borders, regardless of status – citizens, permanent or temporary immigrants (Honohan 2019). Adults and their elderly parents at the end of their lives have limited time left to foster relationships and require necessary care, therefore one can argue that delays in the processing of PGP applications and constraining family reunification policies may in fact violate human values related to relevance of family life.

There have been deliberations around whether a state's rights to control admission at its borders trump immigrants' freedom of association. Lister (2010) argues that family-based immigration is distinct from other streams of migration and that citizens are, at the minimum, entitled to some degree of family-based immigration. Lister (2010) further explains that family reunification is a fundamental right owed to citizens that enables them to enjoy the freedom of association – to form intimate relationships of their choice. Lister (2010) also argues that the state's ability to control admission at its borders may in fact infringe on its citizen's liberal principles – freedom of association and movement.

Ferracioli (2016) counters Lister (2010)'s claims and argues that family-based migration should not be given priority over other forms of relations, as it violates the premise of liberal neutrality. Privileging one perfectionist form of good over another is viewed as disrespecting the other conceptions – considering the institution of a family as more valuable and non-substitutable than other forms of relations such as friendship, artistic collaboration, simply based on biological connection, is not justifiable according to (Ferracioli 2016). There are instances where members of a family are not tight knit, such as siblings living in different countries and estranged partners, as some friendships. Ferracioli (2016) establishes that family-based migration has enjoyed a form of privilege that is unavailable to other close-knit relationships within a liberal state. Other tight knit relationships, which are not biologically related, also require residing in proximity in order to maintain a high level of intimacy over an extended period (Ibid). Honohan (2019) argues that though these personal relationships are important, they are missing the element of responsibility (obligation of care and support) and dependence that are required with familial relationships over an extended period. Honohan (2009) states that even though citizens and residents can

make the claim based on universalism to be reunited with their family members, foreigners are not subject to similar privileges, since permanent residence is considered a scarce resource in liberal democratic states such as those seen in Western countries. Governments of these host countries instead argue that there are temporary provisions, available to foreigners whose family members are citizens and denizens of that state, to enter the state and then subsequently return to their region of origin (Ibid).

Honohan (2009) presents a claim that the relevance of family as an institution in contemporary days has declined, and relationships such as friendships, support groups, and partnerships tend to hold stronger ties over the genetic or legal components of the familial unit. Hence, according to Honohan (2009), one may consider the family claim as anachronistic in nature as they are no longer the focal points of people's lives – in present days, people frequently tend to get married later and dissolve marital commitments earlier. Ackers (2004) argues that the rise in the instability of marriages may provide grounds for why ascendant relatives should be given the duty of care and right to join their family members who are citizens and denizens, to provide continuity, support, and stability that may be lacking because of the marriage breakdown. Honohan (2009) argues that priority can be given to family members who benefit more from a mutually interdependent relationship. Yong (2016) provides another perspective by arguing that priority should be based on dependent-caretaker relationship regardless of biological, or marital relationship. Despite these differing views, family-centred migration promotes the successful integration and settlement of new migrants into a state (Bauder et al. 2019). New entrants are more likely to integrate better when they have access to an established network and support than those who do not (Honohan 2009). The state may have an interest in admitting family members of its citizens and residents to foster integration and adaptation of migrants into the host country, and prevent the development of psychological and social issues, which may lead to isolation (Ibid).

Restrictive immigration policies have an adverse impact on specific cultures such as immigrants with familial ties with immigrants to the Asia-Pacific regions because they tend to place great importance on transnational elderly care. Coincidentally, the Asia-Pacific region accounts for a main source of

migrants to Canada (Chen et al. 2015). According to the 2016 census, of the 1,212,075 immigrants that landed in Canada between 2011 and 2016, 61.8% were born in Asia (including the Middle East) and 13.4% were from Africa (Statistics Canada 2017). The top 3 countries of recent immigrants in 2016 were from the Philippines (188,805 - accounting for 15.6%) Statistics Canada (2017) up from 11.5% in 2013 Chen et al., (2015), India (147,190 - accounting for 12.1%) Statistics Canada (2017) down from 12.8% in 2013 (Chen et al., 2015), and China (129,020 - accounting for 10.6%) Statistics Canada (2017) down from 13.2% in 2013 (Chen et al. 2015) (See Annex B). Chen et al. (2015) argue that the notion of family has been politicized; tweaked and recognized by the Government as it deems fit. Unfortunately, the victims are the applicants - sponsors and sponsored - of the PGP as the Government in this case excessively controls its borders for this group by placing an annual quota, views them as an economic liability (Ibid), and its policies are translated by the public as such.

Section 2 - Relevant Comparisons:

Migration policies can have either an adverse or positive impact on families. Family reunification policies are becoming increasingly politicized, and restricted based on a quota placed on the number of applications instead of integration-related outcomes (MIPEX 2020). This section sets out the importance of family to people in Australia and the United Kingdom, issues with how some of the family migration policies are administered there by gathering facts about their regulations, laws, and behaviours, as well as some inclusive policies that have fostered migrants to secure a family life in these nations. This section also analyzes some of the restrictive family migration policies that have been put in place in these two countries and the implications these policies have on how family migrants are perceived by the public. Some of the restrictive policies are administered in such a way that it can easily be translated by the public that the government indeed believes that family migrants are migrating to the country to become economic burdens to the welfare system.

Both countries have somewhat similar immigration policies to Canada. Australia was selected because, like Canada, it has introduced both restrictive and favourable immigration policies over time.

Australia recently introduced some restrictive policies in the last 5 years and immigrants face a higher level of insecurity and barriers to basic rights and equal opportunities as citizens (MIPEX 2020). Australia's immigration policies are considered slightly favourable with a score of 65 out of 100, which ranks below Canada using the MIPEX Indicator, but above Western European or OECD countries (Ibid). Although the United Kingdom (UK) has long-established immigration policies, similar to Canada, it was selected based on its restrictive family reunification policies. According to the MIPEX, the UK's immigration policies are considered slightly unfavourable and ranks second from the bottom among the 52 assessed countries (MIPEX 2020). This analysis shows that though a country may have a strong history of immigration, over time, policies implemented can serve as obstacles to migrants' integration and settlement journey. This section further reviews some of the restrictive and favourable policies and draws out underlying moral debates surrounding the implications of the policies on migrants' integration in these two respective countries. Finally, comparisons are made between the respective countries and Canada's family migration policies.

Family migration policies in Australia

Facts about regulation, law and behaviour

Australia's family migration policies can be considered slightly favourable according to the Migration Integration Policy Index (MIPEX). Based on MIPEX, a country's family migration policies are measured based on how favourable the chances of immigrants to secure a family life is, from the inception of their integration journey upon arrival in that country. MIPEX considers the standards and discretionary procedures that a country imposes on transnational families such as economic resource requirement, lack of social benefits and assistance, and ability to pass cultural or language tests (Ibid). Australia provides immigrant residents a fair chance to secure their family life from the onset of their integration journey upon landing (Ibid). Both temporary and permanent resident migrants who meet set criteria are permitted to be reunited with their entire family and these family members are awarded equal and somewhat secure rights, with just a few people exempted (Ibid). One downside is family members can lose their permit or be denied access into the country based on discretionary grounds which solely

depends on the sponsor's immigration status (Ibid). Though most countries improved their policies over the past 5 years, Australia regressed based on its failure to fulfil its commitment on successfully integrating migrants (Ibid). MIPEX ranks Australia's family reunification as slightly favourable with a score of 68 out of 100 in 2019 down from 73 in 2010 (See Annex C), because of the recent restrictive policies such as the split family provisions put in place (MIPEX 2020). The country's comprehensive approach to migrants' integration – access to labour market, political participation, permanent residence, access to nationality, anti-discrimination, and family reunification – is important as this influences the way the public perceives and interacts with migrants, and how migrants successfully integrate into society, view themselves and others.

Australia has made various provisions for older parents to migrate to the country on a parent visa, which allows the parent to live with their adult child's family and provide childcare arrangements to support the family (Compass 2021). The Aged Parent visa (Subclass 804) and Parent Visa (Subclass 103) are permanent visas that each cost AU\$ 4,560 and allow an aged parent of a settled Australian citizen and permanent resident, or eligible New Zealander to reside in Australia (Department of Home Affairs Australia 2022). The Parent visa (subclass 103) has a long waiting list of 30 years, which is why the majority opt for the Contributory Parent visa (subclass 143) (Compass 2021). The Contributory Parent visa has a comparatively shorter wait time of 6 years, but a hefty cost of AU\$47,955 (Department of Home Affairs 2022). The Contributory Parent visa is a permanent visa that allows parents of settled Australian citizens and permanent residents or eligible New Zealanders to move to or stay in Australia, sponsor eligible family members to come into the country and apply for Australian citizenship after meeting some eligibility criteria (Ibid). Applicants must meet the balance-of-family test, have an Assurance of Support (AoS or a bond), half of their children must reside permanently in Australia, and must not hold a Sponsored Parent (Temporary – Subclass 870 visa) when applying for this visa (Ibid). The AoS requires the adult child that the applicant will be living with to commit \$10,000 to repay any social security assistance that the applicant (parent) may be eligible for during the first 10 years of

residency in Australia (Compass 2021), ensuring that taxpayers are not funding the social security payments of the applicant (Ibid). Australia also provides a retirement visa pathway to permanent residency for eligible retirees who are long-term residents of Australia and have contributed to the community (Ibid).

Underlying moral debates

The cost of the Contributory Parent visa is not affordable to the average applicant and although the wait time of 6 years is significantly lower than that of the Parent visa (subclass 103) with a 30-year wait time, it is still a long time for applicants as so many factors may have changed during the period such as health and financial situations. This cost ensures that only the very well-off have access to this permanent visa to bring their parents into Australia. This concept also applies to the required Assurance of Support (AoS), it signals the wrong message to Australians that older migrants are not of working age and their migration would be an economic burden to the state and cost taxpayers. An older parent who has obtained the Contributory Parent visa is not eligible for the disability or age pension due to the 10-year qualifying residence requirement placed on these social security benefits. The only social benefit that the older parent on the Contributory Parent visa is eligible for is the special benefit, which is available to those in dire financial hardship due to situations outside their control such as a breakdown in the relationship or living arrangements with the supporting family, family violence, exploitation, or elder abuse (Ibid).

Frequently, there is a reluctance to access the special benefit by the older parent even when they are eligible because any financial benefit received would be paid from the Assurance of Support undertaken by the family member, with whom they may or may not be in good graces (Ibid). Access to the special benefit funds means the situation for the older parent could escalate, which leaves them with little to no support and incentive to leave the abusive environment or at risk of homelessness in a different country (Ibid). When a breakdown occurs, the adult child may withhold some services from the older parents such as access to health care and transportation services to appointments or community

gatherings, and interpretation of legal and financial documents if a language barrier exists (Ibid).

Although some older parents may be established in a community that may be supportive in the event of a familial breakdown, some older parents may feel ashamed to ask for help outside their family unit, which may prevent the issues from being resolved (Ibid). Safeguards are currently not in place to protect an elderly person from emotional and financial insecurity in the event that a familial breakdown occurs (Ibid).

Australia has been in the spotlight in recent years for negative reasons that concern its split family provisions, which entail the intentional, forced separation and displacement of children of refugees and asylum seekers, especially those who arrived by boat before and after August 2012 (Australian Human Rights Commission 2021). Human Rights concerns have been raised about the safety and wellbeing of children who sought asylum with their family members in Australia, especially between August 2012 and January 2014, and were forcefully and intentionally separated from their parents on an indefinite basis and placed in offshore detention camps (Ibid). This split family provision under the Special Humanitarian Program is considered the lowest priority for processing family reunification applications with limited viable options for family reunion and separated families facing the risk of being separated indefinitely (Ibid). Issues of prolonged separation are further exacerbated by recent travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic especially for those who hold temporary visa permits.

Some of the other negative changes that Australia made to its immigration policies include a requirement of economic resources for permanent residence, minimum time of habitual residence for permanent residence, subpar economic integration measures of women and youth, and others (Ibid). The implication of these changes is that the requirements are not only based on the sponsors' immigration status, but the onus has also been placed on those being sponsored to obtain and maintain a permanent residence status. The economic integration measures and policies impact immigrants' ability to fully participate in the labour market because of the lack of previous targeted support and investment provided by Australia that helped migrants gain the required skills to get the right jobs (Ibid). These requirements

further add to the barriers that inhibit immigrants' successful integration. Due to extensions made to the mandatory period of continued residence in 2018 and more stringent economic requirements, it has become increasingly difficult for temporary residents to obtain permanent status.

Similarities and differences with Canada

Canada, unlike Australia, allows permanent residents to enjoy equal access to social security, access to welfare assistance (Ibid) and the right to undertake ongoing work with the Government (Hannan 2020). Australia maintains a 10-year qualifying residence requirement for residents to be eligible for Age Pension and Disability Support Pension (DSP) (Ibid). Permanent residents in Canada have access to the provincial healthcare system, disability benefits, employment insurance (EI), old age security (OAS) and Canada pension plan (CPP). Also, Canada performs better than Australia in terms of the number of years required for settlement and integration within the society. Canada requires permanent residents to maintain continued residence for only 3 years every 5 years, while Australia extended its required period of continued residence in 2018 (MIPEX 2020). Although Australia has more streams available than Canada for permanent residents and citizens to bring their parents to the country, the fees are considerably higher than that of Canada, and most of the options are not feasible for the average applicant.

Canada and Australia have similarities in terms of access to political participation, nationality and protection through anti-discrimination policies. Australia and Canada are slightly favourable in terms of political participation as it encourages civic engagement among immigrants and provides multicultural funding in major states and cities (MIPEX 2020). On the other hand, migrants are not permitted to participate in the democratic process i.e., have no rights to vote in any local or national elections in both countries. In terms of access to nationality, permanent residents in Canada are eligible to apply for citizenship after residing in Canada for 3 years, while permanent residents and spouses of nationals in Australia are only eligible after 4 years (Hannan 2020). Both Canada and Australia have federal laws that protect residents against discrimination of all forms – racial, ethnic, nationality, and religious (MIPEX 2020). Canada also performs better than Australia as it grants permanent residents the right of entry to the

country, Australian permanent residents do not have an automatic right to entry and must obtain a permanent visa with valid travel authorization to return to the country (Hannan 2020).

Overall, both Australia and Canada recognize that family is important and have made provisions for family members to reunite with each other. Some of the programs that are available to citizens and permanent residents of Australia, which allow them to reunite with their parents are inaccessible to the average applicant due to the exorbitant application processing costs and unreasonable long wait times (30 years in some cases). Unfortunately, most elderly parents do not have the luxury of that timeframe. Also, similarities can be drawn between Australia's 10-year Assurance of Support (AoS) and Canada's 20-year undertaking and how this leaves elderly parents and grandparents vulnerable to elderly abuse if a familial breakdown occurs. There are little to no safeguards in place to protect this vulnerable group from financial insecurity and homelessness since sponsored parents or grandparents are not eligible to receive social security benefits and may rather resort to persevering with the abuse and residing under the same roof with their abusers. It almost seems that the Australian government has these programs in place so as to check off the boxes that they are available, and although they deem family reunification as important, these programs are neither practical nor accessible to the average applicant in terms of the costs and wait time.

The rate of forced separation and displacement of children of refugees and asylum seekers is very alarming, and what is more disturbing is that these violations of human rights – rights of the child and family reunification - have been justified by the Australian Department of Home Affairs' policy and practices – Migration Regulations 1994 (Australian Human Rights Commission 2021). For a country that is ranked slightly favourable for its immigration and family reunification policies by MIPEX, this is a prime example of why an all-round assessment of all the migration policies pertaining to a country must be conducted. A country may score very highly on some of its policies related to migrants securing a stable family life and integrating well into society upon arrival but still have inhumane practices or policies in place when it comes to its treatment of some classes of migrants.

Family migration policies in the United Kingdom

Facts about regulation, law and behaviour

The United Kingdom (UK)'s family migration policies is considered slightly unfavourable according to the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX 2020). MIPEX weighs the eligibility criteria and conditions that each country has in place, which allow a resident the legal right to sponsor their family members in comparison to 51 other countries (Ibid). It considers the economic resource, health, language and cultural test requirements, security status and legal procedures and rights granted to these residents (Ibid). MIPEX tracks the changes – both restrictive and progressive – that each country has made to its family reunification policies and the impacts they have made on the well-being of those seeking to reunite with their family members who are separated by international borders (Ibid).

Family reunification in the UK remains a serious issue for third-country nationals (newcomers) (Ibid). The definition of family is restrictive – roughly 96% of non-European Union family reunification admissions into the UK were partners or children in 2018 (University of Oxford 2022). Wives made up 56% of all arrivals, husbands constituted 19%, children made up 11% while civil partners made up just 7% (Ibid). MIPEX scored the UK's family reunification policies 29 out of 100 in 2019 down from 58 in 2007 (See Annex D), due to the restrictive changes made in the last decade (MIPEX 2020).

The UK's approach to integration can be likened to other Western European countries such as the Netherlands, France, and Germany due to the temporary integration policies that they have in place (Ibid). Temporary residents in the UK have access to basic rights and enjoy some policies on equal opportunities but do not benefit from the long-term security of permanent settlement or participation of full citizens (Ibid). Although access to nationality in the UK is considered slightly favourable according to the MIPEX, there is a lengthy required number of years and permanent residence for family migrants – 5 years (for settlement) to 10 years (for expansion in the number of family migrants) University of Oxford (2022), in comparison to 3 years in Canada. Like Canada, the UK has the language and integration requirements and a “good character” or “character guarantor” criteria in place. In Canada, immigrants

looking to naturalize must get a good character form signed and guaranteed by at least 2 Canadian citizens. This usually dissuades applicants from pursuing the naturalization process as some of them may not have Canadian citizens as part of their inner circles or feel comfortable enough to make such requests.

Underlying moral debates

The number of dependents of temporary visa holders between 2005 and 2020 greatly outnumbered the dependents of family unification migrants; this is a result of the rather long time (10 years) it takes for family migrants to expand their family, making it less likely for them to eventually settle in the UK (Ibid). The numbers of dependents of temporary visa holders were 94,296 and 69,642 in 2005 and 2020 respectively, while the numbers of dependents of family unification migrants were 66,343 and 40,255 in 2005 and 2020, respectively (See Annex E).

Another obstacle that family migrants face with access to nationality is the exorbitant fees. The estimated immigration fees paid by a partner on a 5-year settlement route is approximately £8,000 (~C\$12,500), while a partner looking to reunite on a 10-year route pays a minimum of £13,000 (~C\$20,250) (University of Oxford 2022). According to the Migratory Observatory at the University of Oxford, besides the European Union, the most common regions of nationality that family migrants to the UK originated from are South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka) and Africa (Ibid). European citizens made up 6% (9,000 family migrants of 159,000 total migrants) of family migration to the UK, South Asian citizens comprised of 24% (27,000 family migrants of 114,000 total migrants) of family migration to the UK, while 34% of African migration (11,000 family migrants of 32,000 total migrants) to the UK was for family reunification purposes (Ibid). There are direct financial implications of these fees to many of the family migrant applicants, as they originate from developing countries whose currencies are already significantly undervalued in comparison to the pound sterling. This financial constraint poses an obstacle for those who cannot afford the outrageous fees from sponsoring and reuniting with their family members.

Similarities and differences with Canada

Canada does not perform as well as the UK in terms of its labour market mobility policies for migrants and can learn from the way the United Kingdom administers equal access to immigrants. In Canada, immigrants are not able to work in a few Government departments such as cyber-security and some private sector employers put the citizenship requirement as one of the eligibility criteria in job applications. In numerous cases, there have been no grounds for this requirement besides the employer not wanting to sponsor the immigration process of the migrants, even though permanent residents in Canada do not need employment sponsoring under any circumstance. The UK is able to attract economic migrants based on its highly favourable labour market mobility policies, as non-EU residents enjoy the same benefits as UK Citizens (Ibid). The UK does not close off sectors of the economy to newcomers (Ibid). This is important as it removes unnecessary obstacles for migrants and allows them to participate in the labour force.

The UK is considered slightly favourable in terms of migrants' access to political participation. Immigrants who are citizens of any of the 54 Commonwealth countries can vote in all UK elections (Ibid). This allows civic responsibility and engagement among immigrants and allows them to be a part of the decision-making process in who holds public office. Although, the UK can have better policies in place in consulting with immigrants and ethnic minority communities to address their needs (Ibid). In terms of political participation, only Canadians are allowed to vote in any elections. Temporary and permanent residents, regardless of the number of years spent in Canada, are excluded from having voting rights. Since Canada is also among the Commonwealth countries and a huge portion of migrants in Canada also belong to the Commonwealth, Canada should consider allowing permanent residents to vote, even if it is in local elections or their ridings. Canada's family sponsorship application fees (See Table 18) are much more affordable in comparison to the UK. The UK may consider reducing its fees significantly so that it does not create a tiered system that is only affordable to financially well-off migrants. Canada and UK have similar anti-discretionary policies and migrants in these countries benefit from some of the strongest equality advocates among MIPEX countries (MIPEX 2020).

Like Canada, the UK has favourable anti-discrimination policies that makes it illegal to discriminate on the grounds of nationality, religion, race or ethnicity (MIPEX 2020). Migrants are protected if they ever fall victim to discriminatory practices or acts (Ibid). Although, employers in Canada have the discretion to refuse offering employment based on a candidate's immigration status, especially if the candidate may require employer sponsorship in the future.

Canada and the UK both have established immigration policies and in recent years, most migrants that are moving to both countries are from South Asia and Africa. The UK has a longer history of accepting migrants than Canada and has been able to modify some of its policies such as political and labour force participation to be more accommodating and inclusive of migrants or newcomers, especially those who have resided within its borders for an extended period. Canada can incorporate some changes that the UK has made such as allowing permanent residents to participate to some extent in electoral voting and decision-making processes, even if it is just locally. Canada does a much better job than the UK of ensuring that the fees and processing times are within reason and still somewhat affordable to the average applicant. Over the years, the Canadian Government, especially the Liberal party, has been commended for being open to feedback from constituents and implementing changes to incorporate the relayed criticisms surrounding its family reunification policies. The Canadian family reunification programs may be far from perfect but there are attempts made on an annual basis to make changes to the programs to ensure that they are more effective.

Section 3 – Economic and moral benefits:

The perception of immigrants has been subject to change depending on the economic, social and political climate in Canada in a given period. When there is a scarcity of labour in an industry or economy, migrants are considered valuable to fill the job gap, especially economic migrants. Typically, when the economy is booming, immigrants are perceived as threats who are coming to Canada to take jobs from residents and citizens. Although family migration is important to people, there are negative misconceptions about the family class migrants, as some consider this group to be economic burdens and

financial liabilities on the Canadian financial system. A lot of potential sponsors believe that the PGP program has been construed in a negative light both by media and policy actors based on how the program has been administered over the years. These sponsors believe the program should be reframed by political actors, the media and public for what it really is, which is that the financial onus (social, healthcare) is solely placed on the sponsors, as the sponsored parents or grandparents are not eligible to receive any form of social assistance upon initial arrival into Canada once they have been granted their PR status (Ilyan 2015). Also, family class migrants contribute economically to the Canadian welfare system.

Most members of the public are unaware that the sponsors must sign a 20-year undertaking to be financially responsible for their sponsored parents or grandparents upon arrival in Canada and are required to repay any social security benefits that their parents or grandparents receive during this period. In fact, these family migrants are not an economic burden as a sizable portion belong to the working age and are willing and able to work when they arrive in Canada (See section 5). They also contribute indirectly to the economy by saving their adult children expenses related to childcare, as most of them volunteer freely to provide childcare support to their family. The way the program is framed to the public is problematic, as it gives a false narrative that the family class migrants are not contributors to Canadian society, rather it portrays the image of a group coming to the country to unduly benefit from its system, which is far from the truth. There are public discourses surrounding the reliance on social assistance by the family class migrants relative to the average Canadian, which will be debunked and discussed further in section 5 (analysis and discussion).

Direct and Indirect economic benefits

Family reunification provides both direct and indirect economic and financial benefits. It provides stability and support that may be lacking due to marital breakdown, acts as a substitute for established networks that long-term residents may have access to such as alumni or club memberships, and meets the human right to family as it allows for freedom of association. Some indirect economic benefits of family

reunification include the retention of financial resources within Canada rather than remitting funds to support family members abroad, an increase in the sponsors' disposable income due to the childcare provided by united parents and grandparents, which substitutes paid childcare.

According to the World Bank, as of 2014, the globalized money transfer industry tripled to \$529 billion a year within a decade Vancouver Sun (2014) and increased to \$589 billion in 2021 – representing a 7.3% increase from the previous year - despite the impact of the global pandemic (World Bank 2021). Remittance flow from Canada to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) was a whopping \$24 billion in 2012 based on statistics provided by the World Bank, with the top recipient countries including China (received \$3.9 billion), India (received \$3.5 billion) and the Philippines (received \$2 billion) Vancouver Sun (2014), which is in line with the top three countries that immigrants originate from in Canada (Statistics Canada 2017). The income earned by immigrants in Canada is often remitted back to support family members, including parents and grandparents, back home (CCR 2012) and having these family members in Canada would ensure that financial resources are retained within the borders of the country and bolster the economy.

Other non-economic contributions that sponsored parents and grandparents provide include a dedicated support system from family members, which drastically improves immigrants' mental health, well-being, integration, settlement, and resettlement processes (Ibid). One point usually raised as a concern is related to health costs that elderly parents and grandparents will impose on the Canadian public health system. This can be debunked based on one of the requirements of the PGP Supervisa applications, which states that the sponsors must purchase a minimum of a one-year health insurance coverage for the sponsored parents and grandparents prior to arrival, as well as sign a 20-year undertaking of responsibility for any financial costs associated with the sponsored (Ibid).

According to the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR), the benefits of having parents and grandparents exceed just economic contributions (CCR 2012). A lot of parents who arrive in Canada eventually enter the workforce on a permanent basis, and grandparents provide the flexibility to their

children and grandchildren to work, hence increasing the Canadian workforce participation, which indirectly contributes both economically and financially to the system (Ibid). There has been an evident downward trend in the admission of family class from 43.9% in 1993 to 21.5% in 2010, accounting for the most drastic decline among all streams of immigration (Ibid). CCR proposed some solutions to the government such as re-prioritizing family reunification by rebalancing immigration levels, expanding the parameters of what constitutes a family to truly reflect the realities of various, diverse cultural communities, and hiring more human resources to help process the applications that were backlogged (CCR 2011).

Arguments for and against family reunification policies

According to some, migration is a privilege and voluntary, and not necessarily a right (Honohan 2009). It can be argued that an incomer, except for refugees, has the option to move to a variety of countries along with their family members after weighing necessary benefits against costs, and a host country may claim that it does not need to administer admission based on the range of options that the immigrants can choose from (Ibid). Immigrants must also bear the costs of migration, which may come in the form of being separated from family members and loved ones (Ibid). Honohan (2009) argues that it is vague to determine whether there are special obligations required by the state to admit family members of citizens based on their membership. Honohan (2009) also claims that foreigners who have access to the entry and exit of a state based on a genetic/biological relationship to citizens and denizens of that state, possess an unwarranted privilege that should not be based on an affiliation to others.

Some believe that the priority given to family class sponsorship will eventually have a negative impact because immigration policy is to be based solely on the economic benefits (Fraser Institute 2003). This argument assumes that people migrating under the family class stream do not have any economic contributions to offer to the host country and would be completely reliant and unproductive. Collacott (2003) claims that the government gives priority to the family class despite their limited economic contributions to Canadian society because the sponsored family members are inclined or obligated to back

up the political party that aids their migration to Canada, in the form of a friendlier immigration policy. One can argue that the same can be said for any policy implemented for other streams of immigration or in general – people tend to support political parties that are aligned with their beliefs/values or that further their interests. Honohan (2009) argues that one reason the state prioritizes family reunification over other forms of relationship is because of the ability to easily link family members both genetically and legally, which helps the host country justify who it admits and refuses within its borders.

Some believe that immigrants experience an increasing rate of poverty in comparison to their Canadian-born counterparts, wider income gaps and greater difficulty entering the labour markets. A study from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) finds that prior Canadian work experience and the skills derived significantly impacts the level of earnings (Statistics Canada 2015). There is evidence of potential benefits to having work experience from the host country prior to obtaining permanent residency (Ibid). Temporary residents who held work permits and gained Canadian work experience in skilled jobs performed significantly better and earned higher compared to migrants who moved to Canada with no prior Canadian work experience (Ibid). This could be a contributing factor to the increasing rate of poverty and income gaps experienced between incoming, newer immigrants and those who have lived in Canada for an extended period. Although it is reported that the income gap reduces within the first 10 years, it never completely closes (Ibid). The length of stay in Canada also seems to be a contributing factor in the income differentials; there is a correlation between the income earned and how long immigrants have resided in Canada (Ibid). Previous international students with no prior Canadian work experience earned higher income than other economic immigrants who came directly from other countries with substantial work experience (Ibid). There are also criticisms surrounding the lack of language skills or employment requirement, and arguments that extended family members do not qualify based on merit but by association (Ibid).

Collacott (2003) states that immigrants who arrived prior to the late 1960s originated from preferred European countries, which did not differ much from Canada, as these immigrants had the

benefit of social welfare systems and pension plans and did not pressure the systems by bringing relatives. Collacott (2003) claims that immigrants that migrated between 1970s to 2000s, mostly from developing countries, with minimum economic opportunities and social welfare have ramped up demand to sponsor members of their extended family, but not based on their skills. One can refute Collacott (2003)'s claims as false to some degree because a sizable proportion of immigration between 1946 and 1966 of 2.5 million immigrants admitted to Canada were the sponsored immigrants that came from Southern European countries such as Italy, Greece, and Portugal (Chen et al. (2015), which did not have a financially buoyant social welfare system at the time. It was due to the extreme immigration of distant relatives from these European countries, especially Italy, and not developing countries, that concerns were raised, and immigration policies were put in place to redefine who could qualify under the family class.

There is an associated multiplier effect - members of a nuclear family bringing in extended family members - of family reunification, and some have used this as a justification for limiting the admission of family members to just nuclear family members, as the inclusion of extended family members would reduce the available resources within the state and spots left for other forms of migration due to limited allocation or quota (Honohan 2009). Although one must also consider if the argument for limiting admission of family members to just the nuclear family members on the notion of a multiplier effect is based on an underlying cultural discrimination Honohan (2009) or if this has been applicable over time in Canada. The definition of family members is constrained to members of one's immediate family, notably in Northern European (Ibid) countries such as the United Kingdom and Ireland, where most of the first English settlers migrated from to Canada. This limited definition of what a family is does not apply across all cultures. In countries such as India, intergenerational habitation is a customary practice, as well as in China where the expectation is that children must provide support to their elderly parents and in the Mediterranean regions, extended family members cohabit and live in proximity (Ibid). Extended family members in some cultures are just as important as immediate family members, as they provide social and

psychological support to each other, and serve as a substitute for the multitude of associations and groups that long-term members of Western states benefit from (Ibid) such as Golf clubs and others.

Honohan (2009) weighs various arguments for and against giving considerable weightings to family members of citizens and denizens by a state, with respect to migration. There are compelling arguments surrounding the intrinsic value that the institution of a family provides, as well as the right to family life that members are allowed to enjoy. There is emphasis on the prevalence of transnational family relationships in present days (Honohan 2009, Chen et al., 2015) but one can argue that this is not unique to modern days and migration of extended family members including parents and grandparents, dates as far back to the earliest settlers from European countries. The first settlers, French-speakers from France who migrated to Canada between the 1600s and 1700s, and English-speaking migrants who moved from England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland between the 1600s and the 20th century came to Canada with their family members but were not subject to the same level of scrutiny or stringent family reunification immigration policies (IRCC 2021). Instead, these settlers were given the autonomy to thrive in Canada and received tremendous support from family members that migrated with them upon or after arrival (Ibid). It is ironic that the same European immigrants that faced little to no impediments reuniting with their family members upon arrival, are putting these restrictive immigration policies in place for newer entrants. These policy changes have led to the temporary immigration of most parents, and grandparents' reunification through the Super visa.

Criticisms based on violation of neutrality

Honohan (2009) claims that family reunification should not be selective or based on preferential treatment towards certain citizens but should instead be regarded as a universal obligation that enables members of a state enjoy an intimate relationship, exercise privileges, and fulfil agent-specific, long-term personal commitments – which entail care and support for one another. Hence, priority should be given to those who require particular care – either due to age, health conditions, disability, incapacitation, and others – instead of all immediate family members (Ibid). Some distant family members can sustain

themselves abroad through economic or financial supports provided by citizens and denizens of a state and may opt to visit family members on a temporary basis, rather than pursuing permanent migration, which may lead to adverse experiences such as difficulty integrating due to language barriers, and social isolation (Honohan 2009). Furthermore, Honohan (2009) argues that though the state is not obligated to reunite family members of citizens and residents based on state membership, the host country may be obligated on the grounds that the people who reside within it are under its authority, and immigration laws and policies implemented impact their lives either positively or adversely.

Counter argument

Gibney (2004) suggests that unlike economic and refugee migrants, when it comes to the family class migrants, the state is faced with dual notions of partiality - perceived duty owed by the state to admit family members of those who reside within its borders over other categories of migrants - and universalism - importance of family to society at large. Based on universal considerations, the state faces the claims that family life is important as well as the need for belonging and togetherness, while on the basis on partiality, the argument ensues that there seems to be duty owed by the state to admit family members of former immigrants, who have been granted citizenship or permanent residency, into the country (Ibid). There are further arguments presented by Gibney (2004) that the state ought to strike a balance between impartial and partial claims based on need and granted there are special relationships. Ferracioli (2016) would counter this claim by suggesting that there is nothing particularly special about familial relationships and giving priority to this type of relationship over others, should be considered disrespectful to those other forms.

Argument based on level of care and weight of responsibility

Others argued that when defining who qualifies as a family, priority should be given to dependents such as young children, as they require a greater level of care, and their parents have a heavier weight of responsibility at that critical period of affiliation during early childhood or youth (Honohan

2009). The Government has put some measures in place to support the sponsorship of young children and adults by expanding the age requirements of dependents to under 22 years from 19 years Collacott (2003) and reduce the length of financial undertaking to 10 years for dependents under 22 years (who do not have a spouse or common-law partner) and 3 years for a dependent child, who is 22 years or older (who is unable to financially support themselves due to a mental or physical condition, and that has depended on the parents for financial support before the age of 22) (Singer 2021). CIC (2011) considered the financial costs that Canadian taxpayers may have to bear to assist with the settlement of immigrants during the 2011 public consultations and Collacot (2003) claims that expenses to the healthcare and other public systems outweigh the associated benefits of allowing entry. Collacot (2003) concludes that only immigrants that have the capacity to effectively participate in the workforce and society, should be permitted into Canada. The proposal of policies like that can be problematic because incomers arriving in Canada experience high unemployment rates, even the highly skilled, due to lack of prior Canadian work experience.

Policy changes that target a specific class, ethnic group, gender, or race can have an adverse impact, marginalize a particular group, and widen the existing inequality gap (Chen et al. 2015). McLaren (2006) argues that restricting immigration policy to just economic immigrants based on human capital contributions, while construing family class migration, particularly parental sponsorship, solely as a burden, allows for a dual system. Elderly, racialized women are the most impacted group by the restricted parental sponsorship program, as they make up most of the PG sponsorship program (Ibid). This group has made compelling arguments surrounding the centrality to family life and recognizes that restrictive policies oversimplify immigrant families by portraying them as institutes in themselves that are self-sufficient (Ibid) or autonomous silos from a network of extended family members. Criticisms surrounding family class immigration fail to consider the gendered component of this form of immigration and related consequences of restrictive immigration policies (Ramos et al. 2009).

Interestingly, though applicants from Asia-Pacific origins make up the largest proportion of sponsored parents (Chen et al. 2015), there are higher acceptance rates for applicants from the US and European countries, and lower acceptance rates for applicants from the Middle East, African and Asian countries (Neborak 2013). Currently, sponsored parents and grandparents whose applications are approved do not have the same rights to access the public systems such as healthcare as other applicants of the family class streams such as children and spouses (Chen et al. 2015). The selection of immigrants, based on humanitarian grounds, economic adaptability, or family reunification, is crucial as it defines and shapes how Canadian immigration, integration and settlement policies are developed (Ramos et al., 2009).

The number of parents and grandparents admitted into Canada has declined from 41,477 of a total 224,399 immigrants admitted as permanent residents in 1994 (accounting for 18.4% of total migration) (CIC 2003) (See Annex F) to as low as 12,732 of a total 235,824 immigrants in 2004, (accounting for just 5.4% of the new Permanent Residents in that year) Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada (2005) (See Annex G). Although the number reached a high of 30,000 accepted sponsors in 2021 IRCC (2021) as an exception to make up for the low in-take of 10,000 in 2020 (IRCC 2020).

Section 4 - Methods and Data:

This paper uses second-hand data based on the most recent Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants (LSIC) - a comprehensive survey designed to study the process by which new immigrants to Canada are settling or integrating specifically economically (labour force participation, earnings) - within Canada (LSIC 2005) from the Immigration, Refugees and Citizen Canada (IRCC 2017) and Statistics Canada database. The LSIC provides an overview of the same selected immigrants over an extended period based on categories such as gender, location (where they settled or resettled), status, age, source area (where they migrated from), and other relevant demographic factors (Ibid), which may be missed in a targeted survey due to limited scope and significantly smaller sample size. Data from the LSIC helps better understand the family migrant class specifically sponsored parents and grandparents' socio-demographic

information such as their age, gender, country that they immigrated from, level of education, and official language proficiency upon arrival. The information, which was gathered over three extended periods of 10 years, from 2003-2012, 2005-2014, and 2008-2017, compares the social demographic and economic outcomes, over an extended period, of sponsored parents or grandparents to other sponsored family members and categories of immigration. It also helps to understand the importance of family class migrants to Canadian society, clarifies certain misconceptions and refutes the bogus claim that family class migrants do not contribute economically to Canadian society.

To determine the socio-economic outcomes of different immigrant classes after arrival in Canada, this paper uses second-hand data published by the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) that have been compiled from economic outcomes data sources such as the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) from 1990-2015, Labour Force Survey (LFS), and 2016 Canadian Census.

Using tables, the data is filtered and analyzed to factor in criteria such as source area, migrants' status distributed by number and percentage thus, providing an insight to the number of sponsored families in Canada during a given period, specifically the sponsored parents or grandparents (See Table 1a). Some of the timeframes overlap but the immigrants surveyed differ. According to Statistics Canada, immigrants in the family category had the highest family income levels due to the savings they brought to Canada upon migration (LSIC 2005).

Table 1a: Canada - Number Distribution of Permanent Residents by category, 2008-2017.

Category	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Atlantic Immigration Pilot Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	82
Canadian Experience	0	2,545	3,919	6,026	9,356	7,209	23,784	20,060	17,824	32,742
Caregiver	10,511	12,458	13,912	11,246	9,013	8,799	17,690	27,228	18,488	22,248
Skilled Trade	0	0	0	0	0	17	139	1,972	2,428	1,875
Skilled Worker	103,764	95,972	119,377	88,769	91,417	83,231	67,603	70,136	65,608	47,410
Entrepreneur	1,701	1,313	1,086	705	475	426	499	259	146	225
Investor	10,202	10,304	11,717	10,587	9,361	8,407	7,452	5,460	4,565	4,375
Self-Employed	505	542	500	349	242	265	399	677	685	444
Start-up Business	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	62	105	132
Provincial Nominee Program	22,416	30,380	36,429	38,416	40,880	39,899	47,628	44,536	46,180	49,724
Economic	149,099	153,514	186,940	156,100	160,744	148,253	165,203	170,390	156,029	159,257
Sponsored Spouse or Partner	45,035	44,746	41,263	39,059	40,032	45,630	45,065	46,353	56,763	58,057
Sponsored Children	4,463	3,843	3,772	3,432	3,152	3,108	3,561	3,313	3,826	3,585
Sponsored Parent or Grandparent	16,608	17,181	15,334	14,090	21,810	32,320	18,202	15,489	17,043	20,495
Sponsored Extended Family Member	311	286	363	400	508	319	285	329	375	330
Sponsored Family Member - H&C Consideration	5,477	5,926	4,821	4,354	4,368	1,998	534	0	0	0
Sponsored Family	71,894	71,882	65,553	61,335	69,870	83,375	67,647	65,484	78,007	82,467
Government-Assisted Refugee	7,295	7,425	7,266	7,363	5,425	5,722	7,625	9,488	23,624	8,823
Privately Sponsored Refugee	3,512	5,036	4,832	5,584	4,228	6,332	5,071	9,747	18,646	16,874
Blended Sponsorship Refugee	0	0	0	0	0	155	177	811	4,435	1,284
Protected Person in Canada	11,053	10,390	12,801	14,929	13,442	11,930	11,197	12,068	12,209	14,496
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	21,860	22,851	24,699	27,876	23,095	24,139	24,070	32,114	58,914	41,477
Humanitarian & Compassionate	4,274	3,714	3,359	3,101	3,445	3,193	3,333	3,799	3,391	3,216
Public Policy	2	1	30	199	541	29	15	0	0	0
Other Immigrants not included elsewhere	114	108	109	91	68	44	29	45	39	59
All Other Immigration	4,390	3,823	3,498	3,391	4,054	3,266	3,377	3,844	3,430	3,275
Total	247,243	252,170	280,690	248,702	257,763	259,033	260,297	271,832	296,380	286,476

Source: Facts and Figures, Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (2017). 2- *Canada - Number Distribution of Permanent Residents by category, 2008-2017*. Retrieved from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/082f05ba-e333-4132-ba42-72828d95200b>

Table 1b: Canada - Percentage Distribution of Permanent Residents by category, 2008-2017

Category	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Atlantic Immigration Pilot Programs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Canadian Experience	0.0	1.0	1.4	2.4	3.6	2.8	9.1	7.4	6.0	11.4
Caregiver	4.3	4.9	5.0	4.5	3.5	3.4	6.8	10.0	6.2	7.8
Skilled Trade	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.8	0.7
Skilled Worker	42.0	38.1	42.5	35.7	35.5	32.1	26.0	25.8	22.1	16.5
Entrepreneur	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Investor	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.3	3.6	3.2	2.9	2.0	1.5	1.5
Self-Employed	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Start-up Business	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Provincial Nominee Program	9.1	12.0	13.0	15.4	15.9	15.4	18.3	16.4	15.6	17.4
Economic	60.3	60.9	66.6	62.8	62.4	57.2	63.5	62.7	52.6	55.6
Sponsored Spouse or Partner	18.2	17.7	14.7	15.7	15.5	17.6	17.3	17.1	19.2	20.3
Sponsored Children	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3
Sponsored Parent or Grandparent	6.7	6.8	5.5	5.7	8.5	12.5	7.0	5.7	5.8	7.2
Sponsored Extended Family Member	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Sponsored Family Member - H&C Consideration	2.2	2.4	1.7	1.8	1.7	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sponsored Family	29.1	28.5	23.4	24.7	27.1	32.2	26.0	24.1	26.3	28.8
Government-Assisted Refugee	3.0	2.9	2.6	3.0	2.1	2.2	2.9	3.5	8.0	3.1
Privately Sponsored Refugee	1.4	2.0	1.7	2.2	1.6	2.4	1.9	3.6	6.3	5.9
Blended Sponsorship Refugee	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.5	0.4
Protected Person in Canada	4.5	4.1	4.5	6.0	5.2	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.1	5.1
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	8.8	9.1	8.8	11.2	9.0	9.3	9.2	11.8	19.9	14.5
Humanitarian & Compassionate	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.1
Public Policy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Immigrants not included elsewhere	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All Other Immigration	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Facts and Figures, Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (2017). 2- *Canada - Percentage Distribution of Permanent Residents by category, 2008-2017*. Retrieved from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/082f05ba-e333-4132-ba42-72828d95200b>

Section 5 - Analysis and Discussion

Family migration is important to people as they can reunite with their loved ones who reside beyond national borders. To understand the background and circumstances of family class immigrants, the paper explored the socio-demographic profiles - education, gender, language competency, age - of permanent residents based on their landing categories – economic immigrants, refugees, spouses, and dependents of principal applicants, and family class immigrants, specifically sponsored parents, and grandparents. Doing so will help examine the data available and determine if the public discourses and arguments about the family class immigrants (specifically parents and grandparents) - being perceived as economic burdens and financial liabilities to the Canadian welfare system - hold true.

Education:

This section explores the educational background of this group relative to other migrants' classes using the information from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants (LSIC) between 2003-2012 for permanent residents who are 15 years of age or older. According to Statistics Canada, in 2012, 3,316 out of the 59,929 family migrants had 13 or more years of schooling, 9,115 had a bachelor's degree, 2,659 had a master's degree and 317 had a Doctorate (Statistics Canada 2012) (See Table 2). Given the quota/composition of family class migration relative to other immigrant classes (26.8% family class admission rate vs. 60.3% admission of economic class vs. 11.6% admission of refugees in 2016 – Statistics Canada 2017), this is proportionate to the education level of principal applicants from the economic class. 1,476 principal applicants of 66,233 economic immigrants had 13 or more years of schooling, 22,886 held a bachelor's degree, 12,440 held a master's degree and 2,145 held a doctorate (Statistics Canada 2012) (See Table 2). For the spouses and dependents of the principal applicants in the economic class, 2,987 of 52,473 had 13 years or more schooling, 14,194 held a bachelor's degree, 4,985 held a master's degree and 631 held a doctorate in 2012 (Statistics Canada 2012) (See Table 2). For the refugee class, 1,448 of 17,083 had 13 years or more of schooling, 1,747 had a bachelor's degree, 218 held a master's degree and 62 held a doctorate in 2012 (Statistics Canada 2012) (See Table 2).

This shows that the number of family class immigrants who are educated and hold post-graduate degrees are high and comparable to other immigrant classes. Interestingly, family immigrants who had 13 or more years of schooling (3,316 immigrants) surpassed the principal applicants in the economic class (1,476 immigrants) (Statistics Canada 2012 – See Table 2). This is important because it shows that family class immigrants can contribute to the Canadian system given their level of education. Though a high number of immigrants in Canada have obtained a foreign, post-graduate degree or higher, they face an obstacle where their foreign credentials or qualifications are not recognized.

Table 2: Canada – Permanent residents 15 years of age or older by category and level of education – Number distribution

Level of education	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0 to 9 years of schooling	12,835	9,975	11,419	14,248	11,471	10,771	10,886	10,627	18,258	30,803
10 to 12 years of schooling	13,922	12,607	13,035	14,567	13,189	12,668	12,787	11,239	8,336	7,517
13 or more years of schooling	6,431	6,119	5,782	6,050	5,828	5,457	5,402	4,973	3,610	3,316
Trade certificate	2,714	3,638	3,563	3,797	3,638	3,907	3,866	3,724	2,859	2,141
Non-university diploma	4,823	6,211	6,165	6,736	6,694	7,038	6,779	6,089	4,753	4,061
Bachelor's degree	12,450	12,645	12,262	13,631	14,105	14,755	15,089	13,946	10,197	9,115
Master's degree	3,004	3,017	3,279	3,764	3,689	4,230	4,076	3,647	2,865	2,659
Doctorate	444	459	427	483	538	593	591	550	387	317
Family class	56,623	54,671	55,932	63,276	59,152	59,419	59,476	54,795	51,265	59,929
0 to 9 years of schooling	273	441	733	1,055	2,068	2,092	2,784	3,132	5,215	17,123
10 to 12 years of schooling	1,154	1,228	1,445	1,563	1,696	2,155	2,763	3,055	2,680	2,098
13 or more years of schooling	1,971	2,050	2,162	1,817	1,493	1,634	1,730	1,671	1,464	1,476
Trade certificate	1,805	1,834	1,975	2,086	2,217	2,912	3,612	3,998	3,141	2,815
Non-university diploma	5,056	5,685	6,380	6,480	6,329	8,125	9,100	10,496	8,628	7,250
Bachelor's degree	29,244	28,471	30,398	25,594	23,554	25,949	26,993	32,207	27,009	22,886
Master's degree	9,952	12,936	15,745	14,194	13,528	15,252	14,090	18,410	13,749	12,440
Doctorate	1,751	2,507	2,749	2,894	2,906	3,134	2,888	3,537	2,429	2,145
Economic immigrants - p.a.*	51,206	55,152	61,587	55,683	53,791	61,253	63,960	76,506	64,315	68,233
0 to 9 years of schooling	4,879	6,132	8,186	7,652	8,158	8,819	8,625	9,826	9,064	15,466
10 to 12 years of schooling	6,419	7,104	8,671	8,218	7,667	8,660	9,794	10,943	9,124	7,409
13 or more years of schooling	4,418	4,525	5,266	4,576	3,898	4,426	4,437	4,786	3,677	2,987
Trade certificate	1,715	1,979	2,265	2,135	2,199	2,613	2,826	2,779	2,302	1,862
Non-university diploma	4,363	4,774	5,968	5,269	4,602	5,697	5,756	6,980	5,798	4,939
Bachelor's degree	13,619	15,116	17,537	14,308	13,213	14,804	14,972	19,279	16,048	14,194
Master's degree	3,093	4,383	5,587	4,899	4,407	5,046	4,769	6,766	5,112	4,985
Doctorate	399	589	694	764	728	808	773	929	742	631
Economic immigrants - s.d.**	38,905	44,602	54,174	47,821	44,872	50,873	51,952	62,288	51,867	52,473
0 to 9 years of schooling	6,725	7,608	7,496	7,283	6,870	5,492	6,455	6,796	7,918	6,676
10 to 12 years of schooling	5,960	7,471	8,098	7,371	6,321	4,842	4,573	4,988	5,373	4,368
13 or more years of schooling	1,910	2,401	2,994	2,501	2,041	1,546	1,507	1,704	1,930	1,448
Trade certificate	738	1,039	1,128	979	883	729	702	927	1,010	923
Non-university diploma	1,794	2,452	3,123	2,754	2,016	1,395	1,648	1,758	2,141	1,641
Bachelor's degree	1,965	2,789	3,571	2,890	2,110	1,540	1,700	1,905	2,170	1,747
Master's degree	280	421	574	506	323	207	207	242	279	218
Doctorate	84	120	126	99	52	50	60	55	71	62
Refugees	19,456	24,301	27,110	24,383	20,616	15,801	16,852	18,375	20,892	17,083
0 to 9 years of schooling	1,434	1,236	1,026	1,543	1,601	1,547	1,436	1,259	1,141	1,387
10 to 12 years of schooling	2,086	1,806	1,886	2,769	2,965	2,793	2,843	2,296	1,924	2,113
13 or more years of schooling	1,090	722	758	1,142	1,173	1,032	1,068	905	883	912
Trade certificate	835	843	691	954	1,163	878	1,022	1,030	981	1,001
Non-university diploma	1,234	742	711	1,250	1,314	1,419	1,415	1,113	1,127	1,209
Bachelor's degree	1,456	706	666	1,267	1,516	1,585	1,486	1,158	1,190	1,155
Master's degree	297	96	90	199	267	287	311	246	253	203
Doctorate	90	38	18	33	46	58	63	50	39	49
Other immigrants	8,522	6,189	5,846	9,157	10,045	9,599	9,644	8,057	7,538	8,029
0 to 9 years of schooling	26,146	25,392	28,860	31,781	30,168	28,721	30,186	31,640	41,596	71,455
10 to 12 years of schooling	29,541	30,216	33,135	34,488	31,838	31,118	32,760	32,521	27,437	23,505
13 or more years of schooling	15,820	15,817	16,962	16,086	14,433	14,095	14,144	14,039	11,564	10,139
Trade certificate	7,807	9,333	9,622	9,951	10,100	11,039	12,028	12,458	10,293	8,742
Non-university diploma	17,270	19,864	22,347	22,489	20,955	23,674	24,698	26,436	22,447	19,100
Bachelor's degree	58,734	59,727	64,434	57,690	54,498	58,633	60,240	68,495	56,614	49,097
Master's degree	16,626	20,853	25,275	23,562	22,214	25,022	23,453	29,311	22,258	20,505
Doctorate	2,768	3,713	4,014	4,273	4,270	4,643	4,375	5,121	3,668	3,204
Category not stated	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	7	3	5
Total	174,713	184,915	204,650	200,321	188,477	196,946	201,884	220,028	195,880	205,752

*Principal applicants **Spouses and dependants

Source: Facts and Figures, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (2012). *Canada - Permanent Residents 15 years of age or older by category and level of education, 2003-2012*. Retrieved from https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/cic/Ci1-8-2012-eng.pdf

Language:

One recurring criticism of the family immigrant class is their inability to adapt into Canadian society due to factors such as language barrier. To help understand the language competency level of the family class immigrants using data provided by Statistics Canada (2014), the group's ability to speak one or both official languages in Canada (French and English) was compared to other immigrant groups, as well as the number of family immigrants who can communicate in one or both official languages. Almost half of the family immigrants – 31,160 of 66,661 could communicate in English, 3,882 could communicate in French, 3,066 could communicate in both while 28,553 could not communicate in either official language in 2014 (Ibid) (See Table 3a). For the main applicants in the economic class, 56,815 out of 78,107 could communicate in English, 3,221 could communicate in French, 12,731 could communicate in both while 5,340 could neither communicate in English nor French (Ibid) (See Table 3a).

For spouses and dependents under the economic immigrant class, 52,899 out of 86,982 could speak English, 4,596 could speak French, 5,656 could speak both official languages, while 23,830 could speak neither (Ibid) (See Table 3a). For the refugee class, 8,230 of 23,286 could speak English, 1,509 could speak French, 924 could speak both official languages, while 12,623 could not communicate in any of the official languages (Ibid) (See Table 3a). It is important to note that the number of immigrants who could speak only French relative to those who could only speak English was low across all immigrant classes.

Table 3a: Canada – Permanent residents by category and language ability – Number distribution

Language ability	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number										
English	33,399	35,637	35,857	37,692	37,800	34,560	35,220	31,984	33,136	31,160
French	2,535	2,904	2,639	3,002	2,865	4,358	4,208	3,310	3,931	3,882
Both French and English	2,514	2,727	2,908	2,994	3,093	2,866	2,754	2,496	3,173	3,066
Neither	24,926	29,248	24,838	21,896	21,450	18,442	14,273	27,222	41,603	28,553
Family class	63,374	70,516	66,242	65,584	65,208	60,226	56,455	65,012	81,843	66,661
English	36,215	34,650	33,200	39,334	39,439	49,159	40,682	43,306	42,724	56,815
French	2,493	2,598	2,721	2,757	3,111	3,817	3,570	3,982	3,543	3,221
Both French and English	12,367	12,425	13,510	13,904	16,172	16,645	14,336	14,778	12,518	12,731
Neither	10,543	6,049	4,391	5,308	5,282	6,938	5,768	6,191	5,974	5,340
Economic immigrants - p.a.*	61,618	55,722	53,822	61,303	64,004	76,559	64,356	68,257	64,759	78,107
English	38,386	37,966	36,061	44,759	46,470	57,814	46,877	51,123	45,624	52,899
French	3,602	3,609	3,926	4,381	5,184	5,528	5,238	5,984	5,075	4,596
Both French and English	6,143	5,883	6,308	6,688	7,523	8,271	7,120	7,002	5,341	5,656
Neither	46,563	35,072	31,127	31,938	30,309	38,743	32,524	28,427	27,356	23,830
Language ability not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Economic immigrants - s.d.**	94,694	82,530	77,422	87,766	89,486	110,356	91,759	92,536	83,396	86,982
English	19,790	16,968	13,123	9,480	10,329	11,605	14,956	10,859	9,918	8,230
French	2,705	2,634	2,495	1,695	1,626	2,114	2,506	2,525	2,026	1,509
Both French and English	1,622	883	730	609	752	889	1,495	1,207	892	924
Neither	11,658	12,014	11,606	10,075	10,142	10,089	8,916	8,488	10,995	12,623
Refugees	35,775	32,499	27,954	21,859	22,849	24,697	27,873	23,079	23,831	23,286
English	5,248	7,903	8,967	8,784	8,865	7,203	6,812	7,261	3,876	3,420
French	731	817	1,042	857	910	1,021	902	863	612	523
Both French and English	364	738	649	430	392	278	268	313	208	251
Neither	436	913	654	659	455	340	319	577	498	1,173
Other immigrants	6,779	10,371	11,312	10,730	10,622	8,842	8,301	9,014	5,194	5,367
English	133,038	133,124	127,208	140,049	142,903	160,341	144,547	144,533	135,278	152,524
French	12,066	12,562	12,823	12,692	13,696	16,838	16,424	16,664	15,187	13,731
Both French and English	23,010	22,656	24,105	24,625	27,932	28,949	25,973	25,796	22,132	22,628
Neither	94,126	83,296	72,616	69,876	67,638	74,552	61,800	70,905	86,426	71,519
Language ability not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Category not stated	2	2	1	2	1	7	3	5	0	1
Total	262,242	251,640	236,753	247,244	252,170	280,687	248,747	257,903	259,023	260,404

*Principal applicants

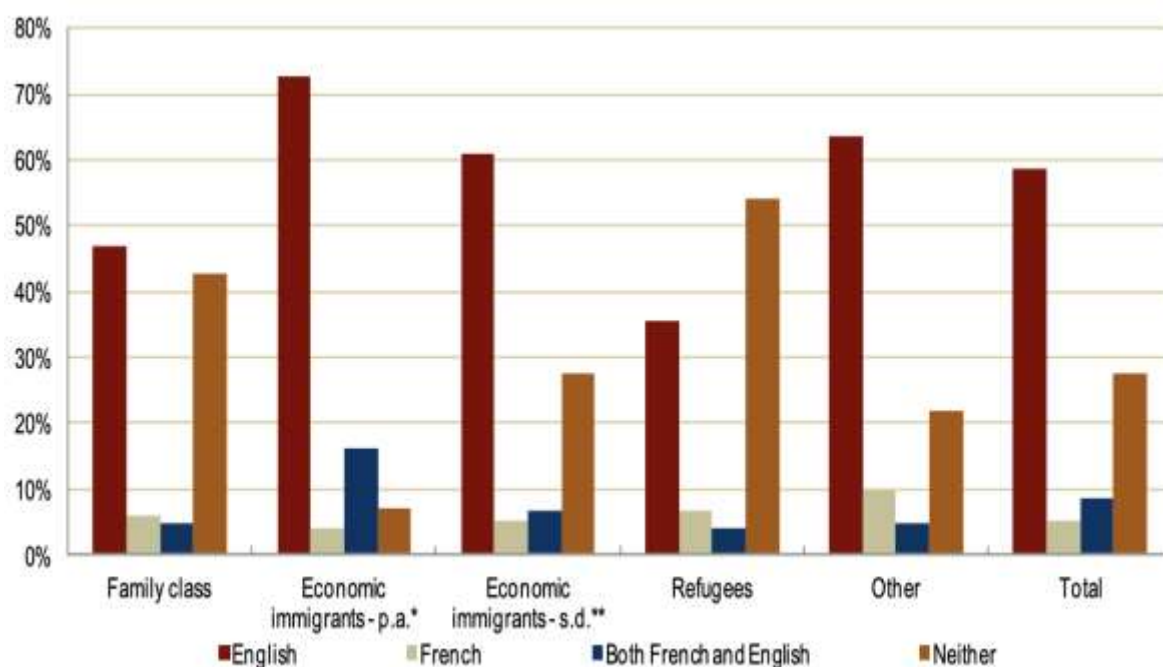
**Spouses and dependants

Source: Facts and Figures, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (2014). *Canada - Permanent Residents by category and language ability, 2005-2014*. Retrieved from https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2015/cic/Ci1-8-9-2014-eng.pdf

When compared to other migrant classes, the percentage of family class immigrants who could speak English in 2014 was below 50% and lower than other migrant classes except for the refugee class (Citizenship and Immigration Canada 2014) (See Table 3b), while less than 5% of family migrants could

communicate in French, lower than all other migrant classes (See Annex H). Less than 5% of family migrants could communicate in both French and English, which was lower than all other migrant categories, except for the refugee class, while over 40% of the family class migrants could speak either of both official languages (Ibid). The percentage of family class migrants who could neither speak English nor French surpassed other immigrant categories besides refugees (Ibid). Overall, family migrants face higher language barriers when compared to other migrant classes, which may lead to some integrational issues.

Table 3b: Canada – Permanent residents by category and language ability, 2014 – percentage distribution



Source: Facts and Figures, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (2014) - *Canada - Permanent Residents by category and language ability, 2014 (showing % distribution)*. Retrieved from https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2015/cic/Ci1-8-9-2014-eng.pdf

Gender:

To support Ramos et al. (2009) that family class immigration is a highly gendered process, it was observed that between 2008 to 2017, the number of females, sponsored parents and grandparents have

always exceeded their male counterpart (IRCC 2017) (See Tables 4 and 5a). Though the number of female sponsored parents and grandparents were at the lowest at 8,084 in 2011, they still surpassed the number of male sponsored parents and grandparents at 6,005, while the highest number of sponsored female parents and grandparents were 18,626 in 2013 surpassed the highest number of sponsored male parents and grandparents at 13,691 in the same year (IRCC 2017) (See Tables 4 and 5a). The same holds true for sponsored spouse or partner category, year-over-year, female migrants are more than male migrants with the female-to-male sex ratio as wide as 1.56 in 2008 but steadily narrowed over time to 1.355 in 2017 (Ibid). The opposite applies to the economic migrant class where year-over-year, there is a gender imbalance with male migrants typically surpassing the female migrants in this category (Ibid). In 2017, there were 81,760 male economic migrants and 77,297 female economic migrants (Ibid).

Table 4: Canada – Female permanent residents by category, 2008-2017 – number distribution

Category	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Atlantic Immigration Pilot Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
Canadian Experience	0	1,228	1,859	2,839	4,465	3,435	11,225	9,257	8,073	14,725
Caregiver	7,222	8,041	9,299	6,811	5,307	6,028	13,117	16,210	10,545	13,213
Skilled Trade	0	0	0	0	0	5	59	786	1,091	852
Skilled Worker	49,441	45,689	56,773	42,297	43,675	39,899	32,558	33,324	31,654	22,296
Entrepreneur	795	639	518	365	205	205	240	114	72	102
Investor	4,970	4,988	5,682	5,163	4,583	4,119	3,606	2,640	2,231	2,122
Self-Employed	245	268	237	169	112	137	198	330	333	212
Start-up Business	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	30	40	60
Provincial Nominee Program	10,659	14,444	17,608	18,445	19,667	18,774	22,616	21,143	22,143	23,680
Economic	73,332	75,297	91,976	76,089	78,014	72,602	83,623	83,834	76,182	77,297
Sponsored Spouse or Partner	27,498	26,748	24,605	23,090	23,686	26,643	26,490	27,113	33,490	33,406
Sponsored Children	2,214	1,895	1,825	1,611	1,457	1,487	1,691	1,561	1,824	1,667
Sponsored Parent or Grandparent	9,481	9,878	8,954	8,084	12,333	18,626	10,347	8,715	9,833	12,155
Sponsored Extended Family Member	165	151	195	223	265	176	163	163	211	165
Sponsored Family Member - H&C Consideration	2,685	2,924	2,184	2,077	1,855	794	205	0	0	0
Sponsored Family	42,043	41,596	37,763	35,085	39,596	47,726	38,896	37,552	45,358	47,393
Government-Assisted Refugee	3,734	3,747	3,696	3,806	2,772	2,909	3,770	4,656	11,584	4,284
Privately Sponsored Refugee	1,662	2,418	2,236	2,591	1,940	2,924	2,383	4,652	8,867	7,935
Blended Sponsorship Refugee	0	0	0	0	0	73	87	400	2,168	610
Protected Person in Canada	5,464	5,092	6,161	7,512	6,840	6,062	5,656	6,114	6,071	7,130
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	10,860	11,257	12,093	13,909	11,552	11,968	11,896	15,822	28,690	19,959
Humanitarian & Compassionate	2,346	1,995	1,799	1,736	1,940	1,787	1,805	2,077	1,811	1,676
Public Policy	1	0	5	78	222	12	8	0	0	0
Other Immigrants not included elsewhere	58	59	51	45	35	18	12	23	15	30
All Other Immigration	2,405	2,054	1,855	1,859	2,197	1,817	1,825	2,100	1,826	1,706
Females	128,640	130,204	143,687	126,942	131,359	134,113	136,240	139,308	152,056	146,355

Source: Facts and Figures 2017: Immigration Overview – Permanent Residents- *Canada 4 – Female permanent residents by category (number distribution)*. Retrieved from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/082f05ba-e333-4132-ba42-72828d95200b>

Table 5a: Canada – Male permanent residents by category, 2008-2017 – number distribution

Category	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Atlantic Immigration Pilot Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47
Canadian Experience	0	1,317	2,060	3,187	4,891	3,774	12,559	10,803	9,751	18,017
Caregiver	3,289	4,417	4,613	4,437	3,706	2,771	4,573	11,017	7,942	9,035
Skilled Trade	0	0	0	0	0	12	80	1,186	1,337	1,023
Skilled Worker	54,322	50,282	62,604	46,471	47,741	43,331	35,044	36,811	33,952	25,114
Entrepreneur	905	674	568	340	270	221	259	145	74	123
Investor	5,232	5,316	6,035	5,424	4,778	4,288	3,846	2,819	2,334	2,253
Self-Employed	260	274	263	180	130	128	201	347	352	232
Start-up Business	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	32	65	72
Provincial Nominee Program	11,757	15,936	18,821	19,971	21,212	21,124	25,012	23,388	24,037	26,044
Economic	75,765	78,216	94,964	80,010	82,728	75,649	81,579	86,548	79,844	81,960
Sponsored Spouse or Partner	17,537	17,998	16,658	15,967	16,344	18,987	18,575	19,234	23,273	24,650
Sponsored Children	2,249	1,948	1,945	1,821	1,695	1,619	1,869	1,689	1,999	1,918
Sponsored Parent or Grandparent	7,127	7,303	6,379	6,005	9,477	13,891	7,855	6,748	7,204	8,337
Sponsored Extended Family Member	146	135	168	177	243	143	122	166	164	165
Sponsored Family Member - H&C Consideration	2,792	3,002	2,637	2,277	2,513	1,204	329	0	0	0
Sponsored Family	29,851	30,386	27,787	26,247	30,272	35,644	28,750	27,837	32,640	35,070
Government-Assisted Refugee	3,561	3,678	3,570	3,557	2,653	2,813	3,855	4,825	12,040	4,539
Privately Sponsored Refugee	1,850	2,618	2,596	2,993	2,288	3,408	2,688	5,092	9,779	8,939
Blended Sponsorship Refugee	0	0	0	0	0	82	90	411	2,267	674
Protected Person in Canada	5,589	5,298	6,440	7,417	6,602	5,868	5,541	5,949	6,137	7,365
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	11,000	11,594	12,606	13,967	11,543	12,171	12,174	16,277	30,223	21,517
Humanitarian & Compassionate	1,928	1,719	1,560	1,365	1,505	1,406	1,528	1,721	1,580	1,540
Public Policy	1	1	25	121	319	17	7	0	0	0
Other immigrants not included elsewhere	56	49	58	46	33	26	17	22	24	29
All Other Immigration	1,985	1,769	1,643	1,532	1,857	1,449	1,552	1,743	1,604	1,569
Males	118,601	121,965	137,000	121,756	126,400	124,913	124,055	132,405	144,311	140,116

Source: Facts and Figures 2017: Immigration Overview – Permanent Residents - *Canada 3 – Male permanent residents by category (number distribution)*. Retrieved from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/082f05ba-e333-4132-ba42-72828d95200b>

Table 5b: Gender ratios of Family and Economic Class Migrants

Family Class Migrant: Ratio of Female: Male											
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Average
Ratios	1.408	1.369	1.359	1.337	1.308	1.338	1.352	1.349	1.39	1.351	1.3561

Economic Class Migrant: Ratio of Male: Female											
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Average
Ratios	1.033	1.039	1.032	1.052	1.06	1.042	0.976	1.035	1.048	1.06	1.0377

Source: Facts and Figures 2017: Immigration Overview – Permanent Residents - *Canada 3 – Male permanent residents by category (number distribution)*. Retrieved from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/082f05ba-e333-4132-ba42-72828d95200b>

Either stream is likely to be ‘gendered’ (ratio that is not equal to 1) in favour of men or in favour of women, but the main measure of the streams being over-gendered would be the tolerance on the deviation from 1. The male-to-female ratio (1.0377) of the economic class is much closer to 1 than the female 1.3561 (See Table 5b), but in the same way it can be argued that for the family class, it probably just comes down to the surviving member who is doing the sponsoring, it can also be argued that overall in the economic stream, most of the time more men meet the requirements than women hence, the discrepancy in numbers, and yet the ratio is upheld as close to 1 as possible, and in some years (like 2014), the number of women might actually surpass the number of men in the economic stream.

Age:

Most Canadian immigrants are subject to meeting set minimum criteria in the point system such as age, education, language ability and others, except for refugees and sponsored family class migrants (parents, grandparents, spouses, and dependents of principal economic applicants). There have been arguments that sponsored dependents, parents, and grandparents do not fall within the prime working age (20-54 years old), and therefore are unable to fully contribute economically to Canadian society. Sponsored spouses usually fall within a similar age group as the principal (economic migrant) and are expected to contribute to the system. The data derived from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants (LSIC) for permanent residents over 15 years old, between 2008-2017, show that there were 9,655 sponsored family migrants (dependents) between the ages of 15 to 24 (IRCC 2017) (See Table 6a). This group makes up the second largest number of permanent residents, 30.6% (See Table 6b), in that age category for the year, after the economic migrant group with 14,380 permanent residents (Ibid) (See Table 6a).

In line with the prime working age and large economic migrant intake, Canada welcomed 101,485 permanent residents in the economic migrant class between the ages of 25-44 years old, making up the largest portion (64.1% of all permanent residents) (See Tables 6a & b) and 39,947 sponsored family migrants (25.2% of total permanent residents in 2017) (Ibid). Most sponsored family migrants that

fall within this age group (25-44 years) are the spouses of the principal applicants, though not subject to the point system/age requirement, often contribute upon arrival in Canada to support their family.

The number of permanent residents in the sponsored family class between the ages of 45 to 64 years surpassed those in the economic category; 14,067 and 11,985 respectively (See Table 6a) (Ibid). One reason for the smaller number of permanent residents in the economic category within this age group may be due to the age requirement in the point system for economic class migrants. Permanent residents in the sponsored family class within this age group are made up mostly of parents, grandparents, and some spouses of the principal applicants. According to the Government of Canada, the standard retirement age is 65 years Government of Canada (2022), meaning this would still be considered a working age group and some sponsored parents or grandparents are still able to contribute economically to the labour force. Table 6a shows a sizable proportion of family class immigrants fall within the prime or general working age group and can contribute to the Canadian economy despite the misconceptions about this immigration stream.

In 2017, there were only 172 (1.3%) economic migrants and 11,613 (See Table 6a) permanent residents in the sponsored family class within the 65 years of age group or more, which made up 87.8% of the total permanent residents in that age group. Sponsored parents or grandparents make up the majority of this age group.

Table 6a: Canada – Permanent residents 15 years of age or older by age and category, 2008-2017 – number distribution

Category	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Economic	16,547	17,326	19,092	15,968	15,960	14,367	15,412	16,557	14,011	14,380
Sponsored Family	15,295	14,446	12,282	10,963	10,848	10,678	10,219	9,817	10,404	9,655
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	4,863	4,959	5,092	5,603	4,803	4,962	4,765	6,079	9,015	7,041
All Other Immigration	720	603	562	602	732	506	508	623	502	470
15 to 24 years of age	37,425	37,334	37,028	33,136	32,343	30,513	30,904	33,076	33,932	31,546
Economic	78,540	81,266	99,817	84,194	88,742	83,421	98,102	100,473	93,273	101,485
Sponsored Family	32,576	32,918	30,734	29,202	30,736	33,030	32,034	32,538	39,754	39,947
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	8,054	8,353	9,261	10,789	8,840	9,420	9,454	11,565	20,039	15,466
All Other Immigration	1,641	1,507	1,345	1,295	1,466	1,209	1,309	1,493	1,371	1,315
25 to 44 years of age	120,811	124,044	141,157	125,480	129,784	127,080	140,899	146,069	154,437	158,213
Economic	16,867	17,125	19,718	15,829	15,805	14,184	15,516	14,665	12,171	11,985
Sponsored Family	11,698	12,192	10,766	9,609	13,023	17,989	11,636	10,814	12,126	14,067
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	2,462	2,874	3,303	3,673	2,831	3,209	3,021	4,156	6,109	5,122
All Other Immigration	733	750	803	727	787	693	705	856	829	857
45 to 64 years of age	31,760	32,941	34,590	29,838	32,446	36,075	30,878	30,491	31,235	32,031
Economic	199	193	179	185	158	138	197	193	181	172
Sponsored Family	5,804	6,290	6,006	6,084	9,936	15,878	7,999	6,365	8,662	11,613
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	423	662	713	826	604	669	689	959	1,407	1,193
All Other Immigration	520	391	337	303	391	299	247	283	219	244
65 years of age or more	6,946	7,536	7,235	7,398	11,089	16,984	9,132	7,800	10,469	13,222
Economic	112,153	115,910	138,806	116,176	120,665	112,110	129,227	131,888	119,636	128,022
Sponsored Family	65,373	65,846	59,788	55,858	64,543	77,575	61,888	59,534	70,946	75,282
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	15,802	16,848	18,369	20,891	17,078	18,260	17,929	22,759	36,570	28,822
All Other Immigration	3,614	3,251	3,047	2,927	3,376	2,707	2,769	3,255	2,921	2,886
Total	196,942	201,855	220,010	195,852	205,662	210,652	211,813	217,436	230,073	235,012

Source: Facts and Figures 2017: Immigration Overview – Permanent Residents- Canada 9 – Permanent residents 15 years of age or older by age and category (number distribution). Retrieved from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/082f05ba-e333-4132-ba42-72828d95200b>

Table 6b: Canada – Permanent residents 15 years of age or older by age and category, 2008-2017 – percentage distribution

Category	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Economic	44.2	46.4	51.6	48.2	49.3	47.1	49.9	50.1	41.3	45.6
Sponsored Family	40.9	38.7	33.2	33.1	33.5	35.0	33.1	29.7	30.7	30.6
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	13.0	13.3	13.8	16.9	14.9	16.3	15.4	18.4	26.6	22.3
All Other Immigration	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.8	2.3	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.5
15 to 24 years of age	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Economic	65.0	65.5	70.7	67.1	68.4	65.6	69.6	68.8	60.4	64.1
Sponsored Family	27.0	26.5	21.8	23.3	23.7	26.0	22.7	22.3	25.7	25.2
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	6.7	6.7	6.6	8.6	6.8	7.4	6.7	7.9	13.0	9.8
All Other Immigration	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8
25 to 44 years of age	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Economic	53.1	52.0	57.0	53.0	48.7	39.3	50.2	48.1	39.0	37.4
Sponsored Family	36.8	37.0	31.1	32.2	40.1	49.9	37.7	35.5	38.8	43.9
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	7.8	8.7	9.5	12.3	8.7	8.9	9.8	13.6	19.6	16.0
All Other Immigration	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	1.9	2.3	2.8	2.7	2.7
45 to 64 years of age	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Economic	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.5	1.4	0.8	2.2	2.5	1.7	1.3
Sponsored Family	83.6	83.5	83.0	82.2	89.6	93.5	87.6	81.6	82.7	87.8
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	6.1	8.8	9.9	11.2	5.4	3.9	7.5	12.3	13.4	9.0
All Other Immigration	7.5	5.2	4.7	4.1	3.5	1.8	2.7	3.6	2.1	1.8
65 years of age or more	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Economic	56.9	57.4	63.1	59.3	58.7	53.2	61.0	60.7	52.0	54.5
Sponsored Family	33.2	32.6	27.2	28.5	31.4	36.8	29.2	27.4	30.8	32.0
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	8.0	8.3	8.3	10.7	8.3	8.7	8.5	10.5	15.9	12.3
All Other Immigration	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Facts and Figures 2017: Immigration Overview – Permanent Residents- *Canada 9 – Permanent residents 15 years of age or older by age and category (percentage distribution)*. Retrieved from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/082f05ba-e333-4132-ba42-72828d95200b>

Place of Origin:

There is extensive research that tracks the settlement progress of economic immigrants and the resettlement experiences of the refugee class, but limited research exists that monitors how family class immigrants are settling within Canada, and the impact of immigration policies on their experience.

According to IRCC (2017), using descriptive analysis, most sponsored families who are permanent residents moved from Africa and the Middle East, and Asia and Pacific regions between 2008-2017 (See Table 7).

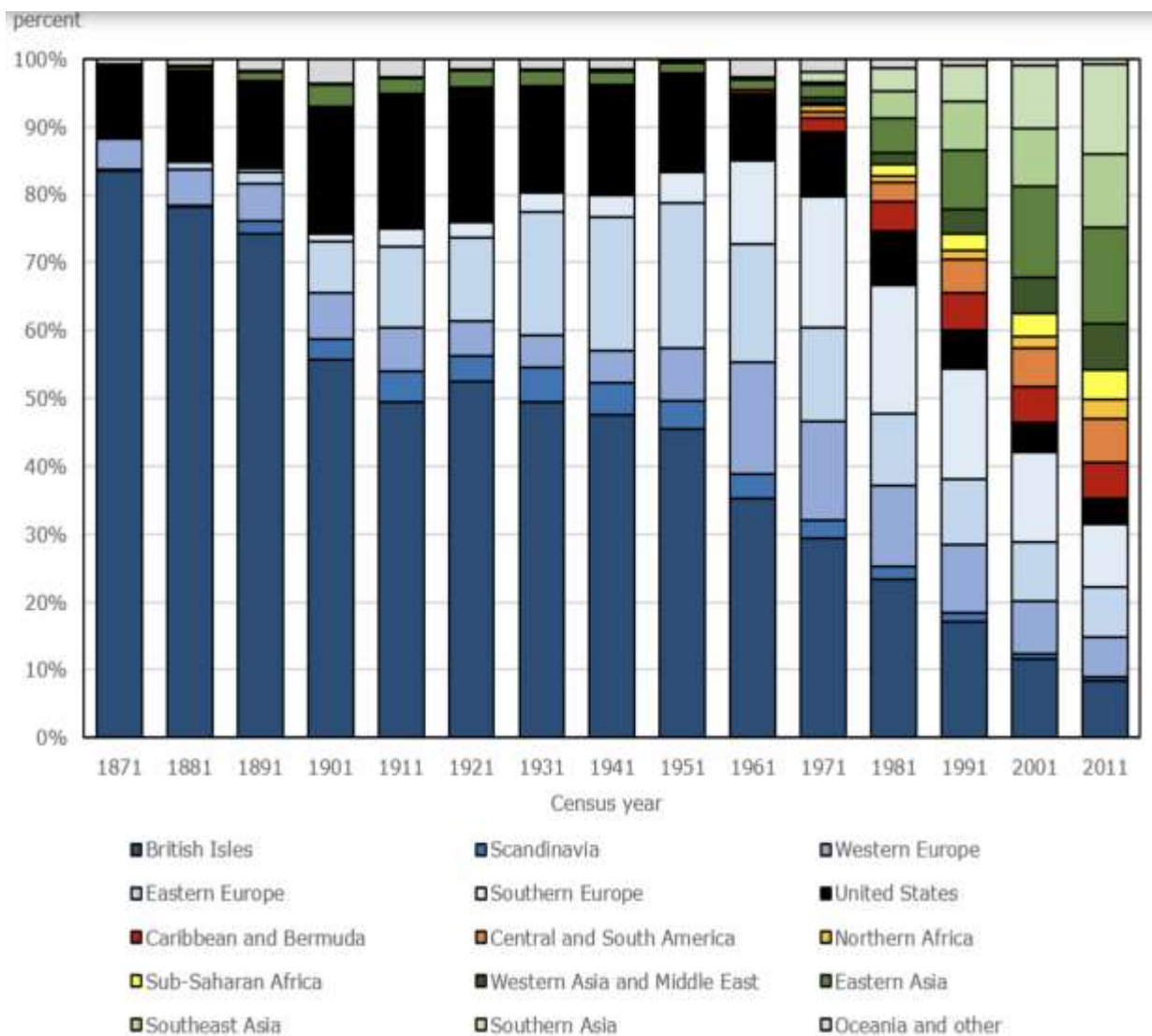
Table 7: Permanent Residents by category and source area, 2008-2017

Source Area	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Sponsored Family	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Africa and the Middle East	42.2	48.4	45.4	45.9	46.4	55.7	57.9	67.6	82.8	71.3
Asia and Pacific	29.2	28.9	27.1	25.6	24.7	19.9	18.5	16.8	10.2	16.0
Europe and the United Kingdom	4.5	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.8	4.0	5.0	3.7	2.1	4.0
United States	1.1	1.3	2.7	2.8	3.0	1.9	1.4	0.8	0.3	0.5
South and Central America	22.1	17.0	20.0	21.3	21.1	17.8	14.8	9.2	3.6	6.6
Stateless	0.8	0.9	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.7	2.4	1.9	1.0	1.5
Source area not stated	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1

Source: Facts and Figures, Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (2017). *13- Canada - Permanent Residents by category and source area, 2008-2017*. Retrieved from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/082f05ba-e333-4132-ba42-72828d95200b>

When family class migration started in 1870, most migrants originated from the British Isles, accounting for 83.6% of the population (Statistics Canada 2016) (See Table 8). Overtime, migration slowed from this region and there was a new wave of immigrants from Eastern Europe (Russia, Poland, and Ukraine) in the late 1800s and early 1900s (Statistics Canada 2016) (See Table 8). There has been a shift in the source of origin as Canada is experiencing increasing migration from Asia – the People’s Republic of China, India, and the Philippines – making up the largest source of origin in the 2000s, and the number of migrants from Africa is also increasing (Ibid) (See Table 8).

Table 8: Distribution in percentage of the foreign-born population, by place of birth, Canada, 1871 to 2011.



Data Source: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1871 to 2001. *National Household Survey, 2011*. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-630-x/11-630-x2016006-eng.htm>

Between 2015-2022, most sponsored parents or grandparents originated from Asian countries such as India, China, and the Philippines (IRCC 2022) (See Table 9). In 2015, 5,540 sponsored parents or grandparents were Indian citizens, 2,205 were Chinese and 940 were Filipinos (Ibid). Over the years, the total number of sponsored parents or grandparents from all countries, even the top source countries, has

reduced, especially during the pandemic. In 2021, India dominated the source countries with 2,155 sponsored parents or grandparents (P/G), then China with 1,130 sponsored P/G, and Iran with 235 P/G. Pakistan, Vietnam, and Bangladesh were also among the top source countries of sponsored parents or grandparents between 2015-2022. There is a recurring range of countries where parents and grandparents are selected year-over-year, and this is due to the substantial number of migrants residing in Canada from those countries.

Table 9: Admissions of Sponsored Parents or Grandparents by Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category, January 2015-March 2022 - Top 7 Source Countries

Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2015 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2016 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2017 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2018 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2019 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2020 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2021 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2022 Total
India	5540 India	China, People's Republic	4535 China, People's Republic	India	4540 India	India	5535 India	China, People's Republic	6520 China, People's Republic	India	2700 India	India	3185 India		2155
China, People's Republic	2235 China, People's Republic	India	3915 India	China, People's Republic	4485 China, People's Republic	China, People's Republic	4719 China, People's Republic	India	5265 India	China, People's Republic	2650 China, People's Republic	China, People's Republic	2655 China, People's Republic		1130
Philippines	940 Philippines	Philippines	1395 Philippines	Philippines	1210 Philippines	Philippines	1110 Philippines	Philippines	3080 Philippines	Iran	740 Iran	Iran	855 Iran		235
Pakistan	745 Pakistan	Iran	840 Iran	Iran	765 Iran	Iran	600 Iran	Pakistan	1000 Pakistan	Philippines	545 Philippines	Philippines	655 Philippines		210
Vietnam	730 Vietnam	Pakistan	715 Pakistan	Pakistan	780 Pakistan	Bangladesh	585 Bangladesh	Iran	465 Iran	Pakistan	360 Pakistan	Pakistan	265 Pakistan		200
Iran	680 Bangladesh	Russia	490 Russia	Russia	380 Russia	Pakistan	385 Pakistan	Vietnam	425 Vietnam	Cameroon	170 Cameroon	Ukraine	195 Ukraine		145
Bangladesh	415 Vietnam	Lanka	480 Sri Lanka	Lanka	380 Sri Lanka	Vietnam	355 Vietnam	Bangladesh	390 Bangladesh	Bangladesh	340 Bangladesh	Bangladesh	190 Bangladesh		90

Data Source: IRCC 2022. Permanent Residents –Monthly IRCC Updates. Retrieved from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/f7e5498e-0ad8-4417-85c9-9b8aff9b9eda>

To understand the socio-economic outcomes of various immigrant groups, the paper considers factors such as labour force participation rate, employment rate, employment earnings, and usage of social assistance and settlement services upon arrival in Canada.

Labour force participation rate:

Based on the 2016 Census result from a 25% sample-size data, the labour force participation rate for immigrants sponsored by family was 65%, employment rate was at 59.8% and unemployment rate was at 8%, which is comparable to the total participation rate of all immigrants – including economic migrants, refugees, and others – at 70.7%, employment rate of 64.9% and unemployment rate of 8.2% (Statistics Canada 2016, See Table 10).

Table 10: Admission Category and Applicant Type (7), Period of Immigration (7), Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (7), Location of Study (5), Age (13A) and Sec (3) for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over that Immigrated between 1980 and 2016, Living in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas, and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census – 25% Sample Data.

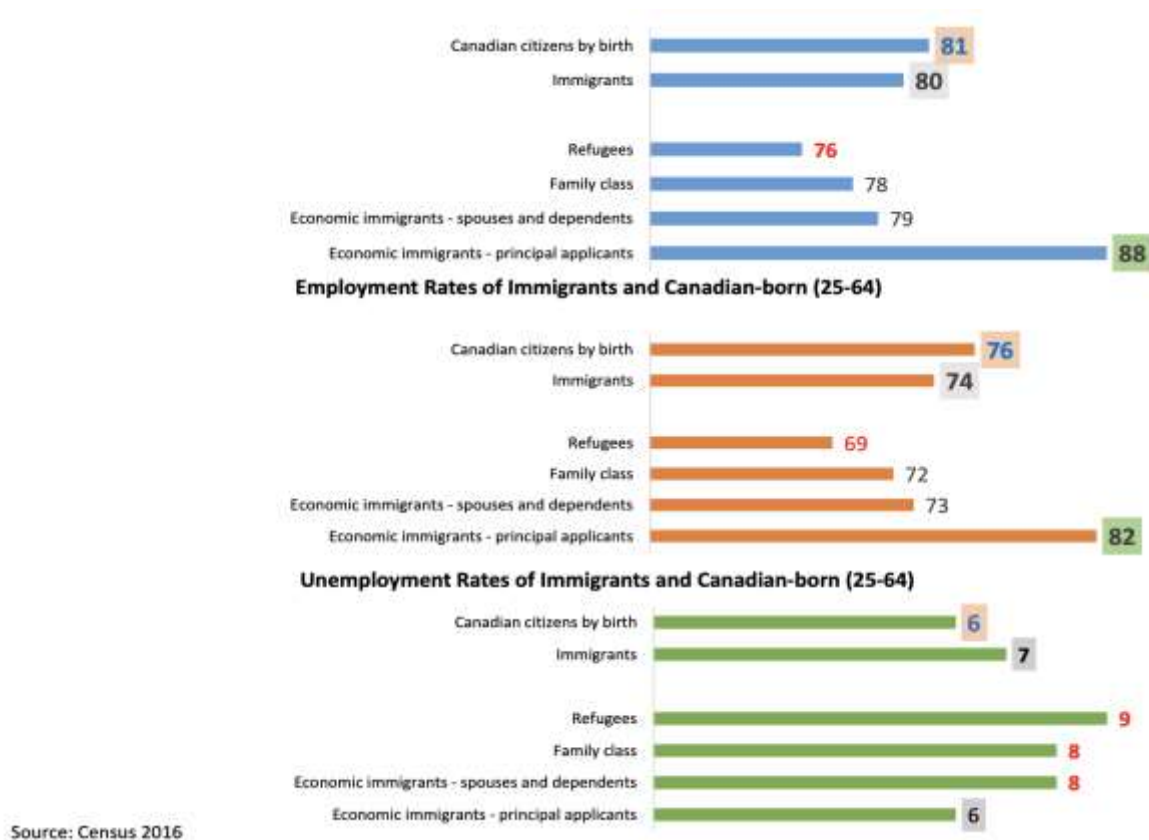
Canada								
Data quality								
Admission category and applicant type (7)	Labour force status (8)							
	Total - Labour force status ⁴	In the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Participation rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
Total - Admission category and applicant type ⁵	5,327,955	3,766,545	3,459,135	307,405	1,561,415	70.7	64.9	8.2
Economic immigrants ⁶	2,741,505	2,062,550	1,899,500	163,050	678,950	75.2	69.3	7.9
Principal applicants ⁷	1,220,755	1,005,155	941,885	63,265	215,600	82.3	77.2	6.3
Secondary applicants ⁸	1,520,750	1,057,395	957,610	99,785	463,355	69.5	63.0	9.4
Immigrants sponsored by family ⁹	1,718,990	1,117,735	1,028,370	89,365	601,250	65.0	59.8	8.0
Refugees ¹⁰	803,565	547,310	495,650	51,665	256,250	68.1	61.7	9.4
Other immigrants ¹¹	63,895	38,940	35,610	3,330	24,960	60.9	55.7	8.6

Data Source: Data tables, 2016 Census. Retrieved from <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=1&PID=111335&PRID=10&PTYPE=109445&S=0&SHOWALL=0&SUB=0&Temporal=2017&THEME=123&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=>

Based on extracted data from the 2016 Census, in 2019 the IRCC's Department of Research and Evaluation outcome ranked each immigrant class based on labour force indicators such as participation, employment rate, and unemployment rate to determine their economic and integration outcomes (Cédric de Chardon 2019). The family class (ages 25-64 years old) scored the second lowest (78) based on labour participation rates, right behind the spouses and dependents of economic immigrants, while the economic immigrants scored 88, the highest out of the different immigrant classes (Ibid) (See Table 11). The family class migrants also scored the second lowest (72) below the average Canadian citizen score of 76 based on their employment rates in the economy, and relative to economic immigrants (principal applicants), who had the highest score of 82 (Ibid). Interestingly, according to the 2016 census, economic immigrants

outperformed Canadian born citizens both on labour force participation and employment rate and scored the same on unemployment rate (See Table 11).

Table 11: “Labour Force Participation Rates of Immigrants and Canadian-born (25-64 years old).



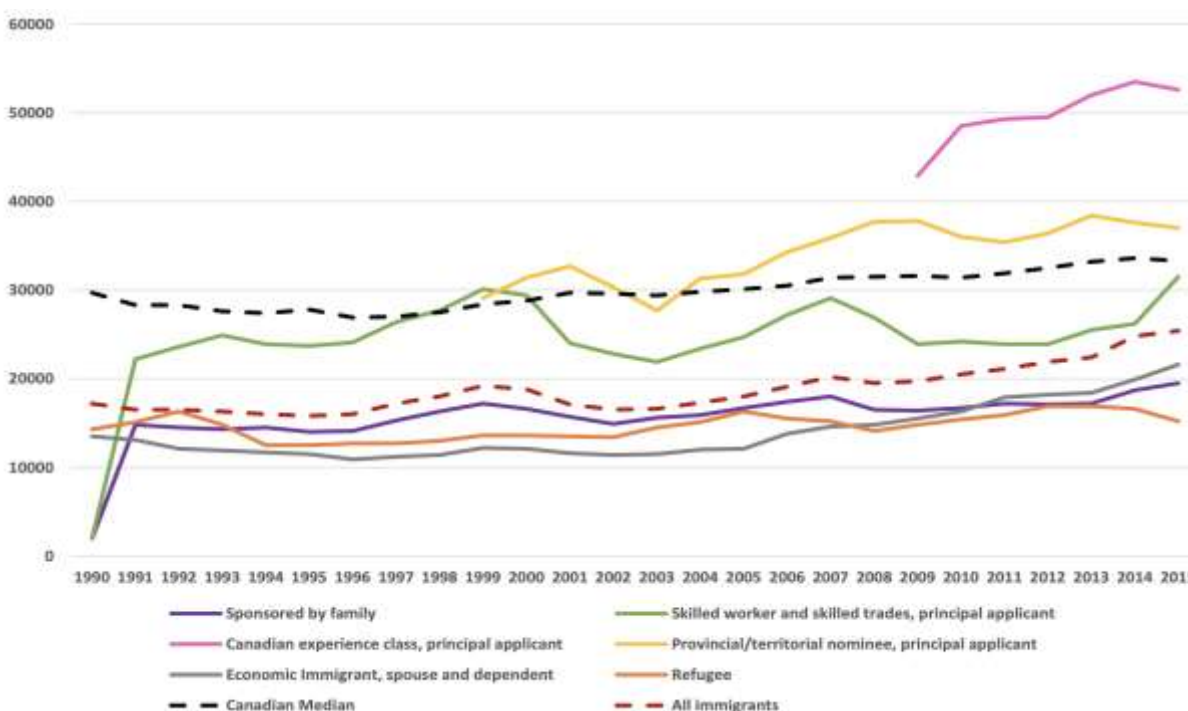
Data source: Census 2016 - Table: Cédric de Charon 2019. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada 2019. Retrieved from <http://p2pcanada.ca/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files/2019/06/2-cedric-de-chardon-new.pdf>

Based on the IMDB that compared the employment earnings of all migrant classes between 1990 to 2015 (Cédric de Chardon 2019) (See Table 12), the employment earnings have increased for all migrant classes during this period but dropped slightly for the refugees between 2014-2015 (Ibid). The provincial/territorial nominee principal applicants that fall under the economic migrant class, have experienced the most significant increase in earnings from 1999 to 2008, even higher than Canadians (Ibid). The Canadian Experience Class (CEC) is a program designated to offer skilled foreign temporary

workers and international graduates within Canada a pathway to obtain permanent residency. This group also falls under the economic migrant class and has earned higher than both their immigrant counterparts and Canadians, earning an estimated \$55,000 annually (Ibid) (Census 2016). The principal applicants for both CEC and provincial/territorial nominees (both under the economic category) have needed less than 5 years to catch up to the average Canadian employment income and even surpass them.

Immigrants sponsored by family have not performed the worst but are in the bottom category in terms of employment earnings, with the average income below \$20,000 between 1990 to 2015. Between 1990 and 1991, the skilled worker and skilled trades principal applicant class and family-sponsored migrants were earning below \$10,000 but the former has outperformed the latter, earning on average over \$30,000, just below the Canadian median (Ibid). In recent years, spouses and dependents of economic immigrants and family-sponsored migrants reported almost equal employment earnings (Ibid). Family-sponsored immigrants have needed more time, over 10 years, to catch up to the average Canadian's employment earnings and as of 2015, still have not come close to doing so.

Table 12: “Median Entry Employment Earnings by Immigration Category (1990-2015) calculated based on tax filers.”

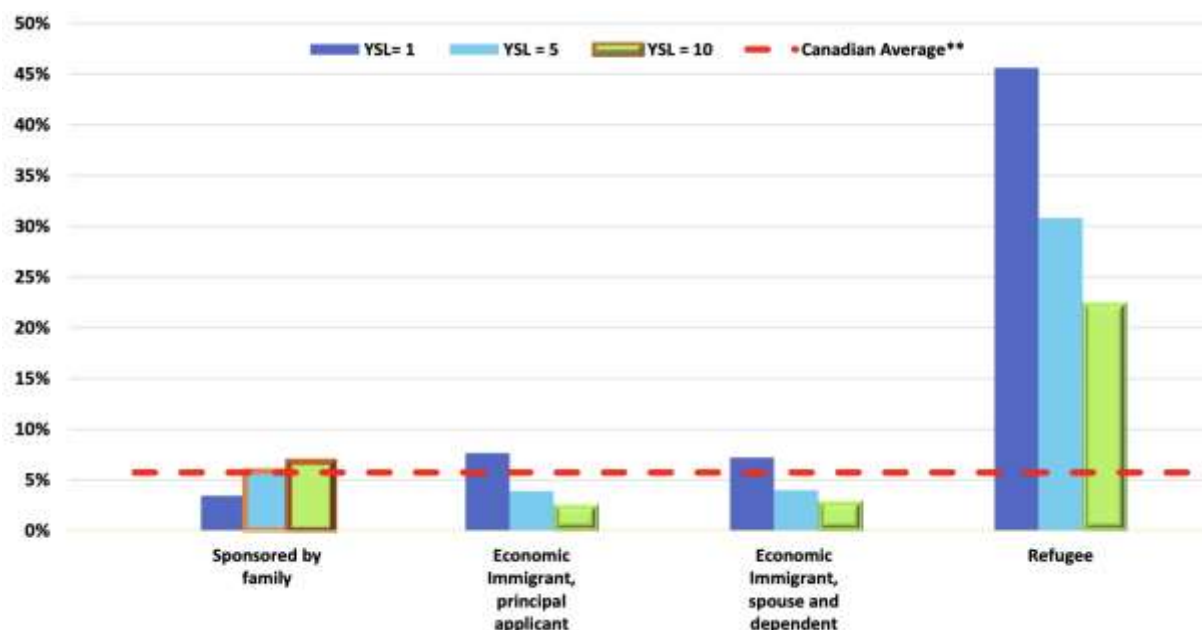


Data source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) 2016, Statistics Canada - Table 11:10-0239-01: Cédric de Charon 2019. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada 2019. Retrieved from <http://p2pcanada.ca/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files/2019/06/2-cedric-de-charon-new.pdf>

In terms of social assistance usage, it is notable that reliance on social assistance drastically reduces based on the length of years since landing (YSL). Across all immigration streams, the usage of social assistance dropped by almost half within 10 years of landing (YSL) in comparison to usage within the first year of landing, except for migrants sponsored by family, who experienced an increase in their social assistance usage during this period (Cédric de Charon 2019) (See Table 13). On average, the family class relied twice as much on social assistance after 10 years since their initial arrival than they did a year after landing but this group relied the least (at just 3%) on social assistance in comparison to other immigration categories and Canadians a year after landing (Ibid). This may be due to the financial undertaking that their sponsors signed during the application as one of the requirements for approval. According to IMDB, five years after landing, family class migrants rely on social assistance just as much as the average Canadian at slightly over 5% rate (Ibid). Economic migrants (principal applicants, spouses,

and dependents) relied more on social assistance than the average Canadian after the first year of landing, but their usage declined over time both after 5 years and 10 years since arrival.

Table 13: Level of social assistance usage by immigration category and Years Since Landing (YSL)

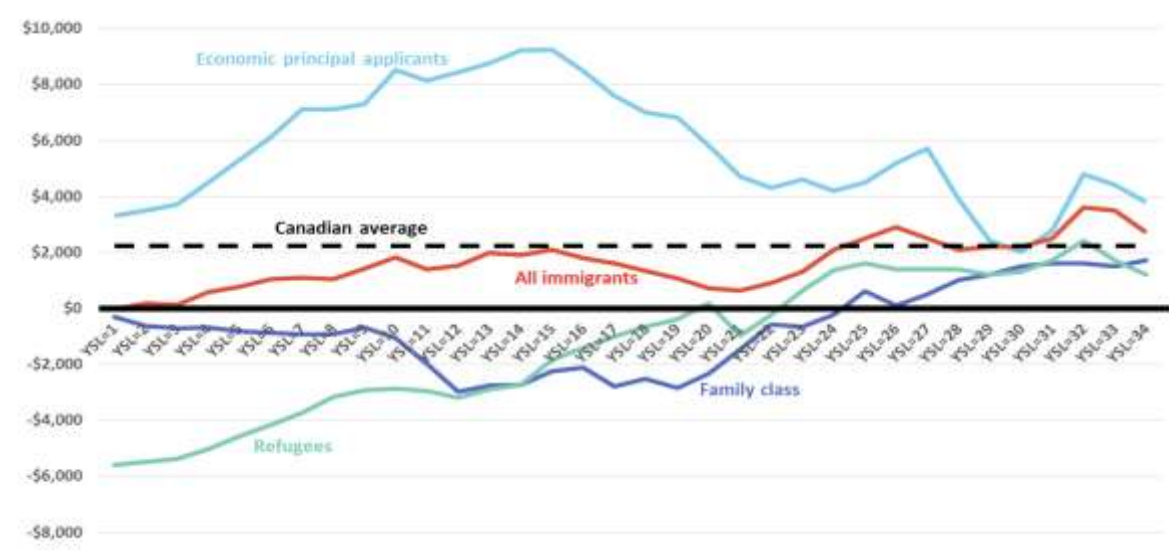


Data source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) 2016, Statistics Canada - Table 11:10-0239-01: Cédric de Charon 2019. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada 2019. Retrieved from <http://p2pcanada.ca/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files/2019/06/2-cedric-de-charon-new.pdf>

To measure the direct fiscal contribution that each immigrant group has made, Table 14 shows the average tax paid over a 34-year span after landing (Cédric de Charon 2019) (Table 14). On average, principal applicants belonging to the economic immigrant category have paid the highest amount of taxes, even higher than the average Canadian citizen (Ibid). In terms of the direct fiscal contributions that the family class immigrants have made with regards to the income taxes paid, it has been lower than the total average of all immigrants both in the short and long-term (See Table 14). The data shows that immigrants in the family class are owed net taxes or have a tax refund until around the 24th or 25th year, when the net taxes they pay are in the positive but still less than \$2,000. A probable reason for the lower net taxes paid by the family class especially dependents, parents or grandparents may be due to not belonging to the prime working age and reduction in the tax bracket due to reduced earnings. The taxes paid into the

Canadian system for all immigration categories and Canadian citizens decline over time as people approach their retirement ages.

Table 14: Average Income Tax paid net of transfers received based on 2014 Tax Year by Immigration category and Years since Landing (YSL)



Data source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) 2014, Statistics Canada (2014). Cédric de Charon 2019. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada 2019. Retrieved from <http://p2pcanada.ca/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files/2019/06/2-cedric-de-charon-new.pdf>

Section 6 - Policy recommendations/proposals

Based on the data on the admission of sponsored parents or grandparents by country of citizenship, there is a narrow list of top countries from which most sponsored parents or grandparents are selected from, year-over-year. Given that there is an annual quota on the number of migrants selected in this stream, IRCC should consider broadening the range of source countries that sponsored parents or grandparents are selected from to allow a fairer chance for applicants from countries, such as Angola, Iceland, and Namibia. Sponsored parents or grandparents were not selected from those countries between 2015 and 2022 (See Table 15), while regions like Antigua & Barbuda, Grenada, Hong Kong, and Nigeria have an extremely low selection rate during the same period, even though Hong Kong, South Korea and

Nigeria have high population rates and existing Canadian migrants (IRCC 2022). Family migration is important to people from countries all over the world. IRCC can have a cap or limit on the maximum number of sponsored parents or grandparents that can be selected from a particular country e.g., 2,000 citizens from Country X out of the 10,000-15,000 annual quota for this stream. Having a cap or limit on the maximum number of sponsored parents or grandparents that are selected from one source country will give a fairer chance to source countries with lower or no selection rate in the past and this will show people from those countries that IRCC and Canada believe that family migration is equally as important to them as source countries with previously high annual sponsorship selection rates of parents or grandparents.

Table 15: Admissions of Sponsored Parents or Grandparents by Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category, January 2015-March 2022 - Source Countries with low selections

Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2015 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2016 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2017 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2018 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2019 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2020 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2021 Total	Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category	2022 Total
Angola	0	Algeria	0	Argentina	5	Armenia	28	Angola	0	Angola	-	Angola	0	Bahamas Islands	0
Antigua and Barbuda	-	Antigua and Barbuda	-	Antigua and Barbuda	5	Antigua and Barbuda	0	Barbados	18	Antigua and Barbuda	0	Antigua and Barbuda	6	Honduras	-
Belgium	5	Gabon Republic	15	Belgium	10	Belgium	18	Belgium	18	Belgium	-	Belgium	5	Belgium	0
Grenada	5	Guatemala	-	Iceland	0	Ireland	5	Ivory Coast	15	Japan	10	Hong Kong, SAR	40	Namibia	-
Haiti	20	Hungary	20	Mauritius	60	Kenya	28	Poland	55	Liberia	0	Jordan	25	Sweden	-
Luxembourg	0	Kazakhstan	35	Netherlands	-	Panama	-	Saudi Arabia	0	Serbia	13	Portugal	16	Turkmenistan	0
Malaysia	40	Korea, Republic of	75	Nigeria	10	Paraguay	5	Taiwan	70	Uruguay	-	Slovak Republic	-	Czechia	-

Source: IRCC 2022. Permanent Residents –Monthly IRCC Updates. Retrieved from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/f7e5498e-0ad8-4417-85c9-9b8aff9b9eda>

Given the level of contributions - nonfinancial and financial - of immigrants regardless of their stream into the Canadian system, the Parents and Grandparents sponsorship program should not rely solely on the lottery system or random selection, as this is neither efficient nor transparent. The way the parents and grandparents sponsorship program has been and is currently being administered is problematic. A proposed policy that may address the issue of the short-term duration and lack of security associated with the Super-visa, as well as the lack of fairness related to the current parents and grandparents' sponsorship program is the implementation of a hybrid immigration policy comprising of both the lottery program and first-come, first-served system. To be as equitable as possible, the lottery system will be implemented to allow a fair probability of being selected for all who express an interest in

sponsoring, while factoring in the sponsor's length of stay and permanent status in Canada and put a cap on the number of sponsors that can be selected from a particular source country each year.

The hybrid system will implement a component of a first come (based on how early immigrants acquired a permanent status), first-served system, which will allow for a higher allotment of slots for those who received their permanent residence/citizenship status first. For example, if this hybrid program was to be implemented in the year 2023 draw, out of the 15,000 selected interested sponsors - 7,000 slots will be reserved or allotted to those who became Canadians and permanent residents between 1990-2000, 5,000 slots to Canadians and permanent residents from 2001-2010, and finally 3,000 for those who were granted their status from 2011-2022. The hybrid system will also factor in the number of prior attempts that each potential sponsor has made based on IRCC's record of past interest forms received to apply to sponsor their parents or grandparents. For example, a potential sponsor who has attempted five time and more within the last 10 years and has obtained a permanent residence status for 10 years or more, will be given priority and have a higher chance of getting selected, over someone who has just only attempted to sponsor their parents or grandparents once, even if he or she has obtained and maintained a permanent residence status for the same duration of time.

Of the estimated 150,000-160,000 who submit an interest to sponsor their parents or grandparents, more potential sponsors will be selected based on how early they obtained a permanent status and the number of times they have attempted to sponsor their parents or grandparents to fill the allotted spots accordingly. The year bracket will be expanded and adjusted over time to ensure that it is applicable to the potential sponsors applying within a given period. For example, in the year 2050, there is a high likelihood that the year bracket used in the year 2023 may not be applicable to the current potential sponsors. IRCC would have to factor in these changes and reflect the appropriate year brackets accordingly. The proposed hybrid system will consider several critical factors such as the length of time that each interested sponsor has spent in Canada and for which they have held a permanent residency status. There is a higher likelihood that those who have resided and held a permanent residency status in

Canada longer have attempted on multiple occasions to submit an interest to sponsor their parents or grandparents than those who recently migrated or obtained a permanent residency status. Priority should be given to the former group as one of the criticisms of the PGP is that some potential sponsors have attempted to sponsor their loved ones for an extended period, and in the process of waiting to get selected, their loved ones have passed away. This proposed policy gives those who have obtained and held a legal status longer and submitted an interest to apply to sponsor multiple times, a fairer and higher chance of bringing their loved ones into the country. The hybrid policy will tackle the issue of how problematic the previous and current programs have been administered.

The lengthy processing time for the PGP is also a contentious issue in public discourse and can be interpreted by the public that neither IRCC nor the Government deem family migration important. As mentioned earlier in the paper, the average processing time for sponsoring parents or grandparents is significantly greater than that for sponsoring other members of the family such as spouses or dependents (Table 16). Several potential sponsors have been dissuaded from submitting an interest to sponsor their parents or grandparents due to the number of years it takes to process, and financial and life situations can change during the processing time, which must be reported. For example, if in 2021 a potential applicant was single when they were selected to sponsor both parents, the income required would be for a household of 3 (the sponsor and both parents for which they would be responsible). The proof of minimum income required for a family of three was \$49,641 in 2018, \$50,414 in 2019 and \$39,672 in 2020 (reduced due to loss of income during the pandemic) (CIC 2022) (See Table 17).

Currently, the processing time for parents or grandparents' sponsorship application is 34 months (IRCC 2022), and a lot can change for a sponsor during the processing period. If the single applicant gets married within those three years and has a child, that increases the number of people that the applicant is responsible for to 5 and the income requirement changes automatically and drastically for this applicant (See Table 17). IRCC should consider hiring more staff to tackle the backlog, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and prioritize applications submitted on a first-come, first-serve basis. It is

recommended that IRCC looks in the processing time that was indicated on the website for the applicant as of when the application was submitted thus, giving priority to those who submitted first. Also, even if their circumstances – marital or financial – change during the processing time, they should not automatically be disqualified from the process, and IRCC can factor in those who qualified given the requirements when the initial application was submitted to accommodate for the delayed processing times.

Table 16: Processing times for Family sponsorship by category

Family Sponsorship	Processing Time (months)
Parents or Grandparents	34
Spouse or common-law partner living outside Canada	23
Spouse or common-law partner living inside Canada	15
Dependent Child	Processing times vary based on: -the country -the type of application submitted -if the application is complete -how quickly IRCC expects to process the current backlog -how easily IRCC can verify the applicant's information -length of time it takes applicant to respond to any requests or concerns -other factors
Adopted child or other relative	Processing times vary based on: -the country -the type of application submitted -if the application is complete -how quickly IRCC expects to process the current backlog -how easily IRCC can verify the applicant's information -length of time it takes applicant to respond to any requests or concerns -other factors

Source: IRCC 2022. Check processing times. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/check-processing-times.html>

Table 17: Income required for the 3 tax years right before the day you apply (sponsors applying in 2021)

Total number of people you'll be responsible for	2020 ¹	2019 ¹	2018 ¹
2 people	\$32,270	\$41,007	\$40,379
3 people	\$39,672	\$50,414	\$49,641
4 people	\$48,167	\$61,209	\$60,271
5 people	\$54,630	\$69,423	\$68,358
6 people	\$61,613	\$78,296	\$77,095
7 people	\$68,598	\$87,172	\$85,835
If more than 7 people, for each additional person, add:	\$6,985	\$8,876	\$8,740

Source: CIC 2022. How much income do I need to sponsor my parents and grandparents? Retrieved from <https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=1445&top=14>

Immigration fees for all categories are considerably high in Canada, even the humanitarian and compassionate category (refugees) are required to pay \$1,085 to process a permanent resident application ((See Table 18) (CIC 2022). The fees to sponsor family members in Canada (See Table 18) are relatively high in comparison to other countries such as the U.S. that charges US\$ 535 (equivalent of C\$680) for processing an alien relative's green card and does not increase the fees as frequently – last increase was as of 2020 (Visa Nation 2020). Over the years, IRCC has increased the fees for all permanent residence applications, with the most recent increase in April 2022 (Ibid), without improvement in the level of backlogs, delayed processing time and services. Between 2019 and 2020 alone, IRCC collected revenue worth over \$1.3 billion on behalf of the Government of Canada from over 70 user fees it charged (Government of Canada 2022). The permanent residence fees revenue during this period was \$306 million (accounted for 23% of total IRCC fee revenue, temporary residence fees revenue totalled \$473 million (accounted for 35% of total IRCC fee revenue) and citizenship fees revenue was \$133 million (which represented 10% of total IRCC fee revenue (Ibid). In economic terms, Canada's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2020 was 1.643 trillion, which indicates that the revenue IRCC received from immigrants in the form of user fees accounted for 0.08% of the Real GDP (Data Commons Catalog, World Bank 2020). Immigrants, including family class migrants, contribute economically and financially

to the Canadian system, even prior to their arrival in Canada. IRCC should consider a freeze on their fee increases, until they have cleared the current backlog, improve the way the parents and grandparents sponsorship program is administered, and significantly reduced their processing times across all immigration categories, to provide a legitimate rationale behind the increase.

Table 18: Fee list for various immigration streams under family class sponsorship

Economic immigration	Fees (CAN\$)
*Principal applicant	\$1,365
*Principal applicant (without right of permanent residence fee)	\$850
*Include your spouse or partner	\$1,365
*Include your spouse or partner (without right of permanent residence fee)	\$850
*Include a dependent child	\$230 (per child)
Family Sponsorship	Fees (CAN\$)
<u>Adopted child or other relative</u>	
*Sponsor your relative (22 years or older)	\$1,080
*Sponsor your relative (22 years or older without right of permanent residence fee)	\$565
*Sponsor a dependant, adopted child (or child to be adopted) or orphaned relative	\$150 (per child)
*Include a dependant, adopted child (or child to be adopted) or orphaned relative on an application with your relative	\$155 (per child)
*Sponsor your relative (under 22 years old and not your dependent child)	\$665
*Include the spouse or partner of your relative	\$1,085
<u>Parents and grandparents</u>	
*Sponsor your parent or grandparent	\$1,080
*Sponsor your parent or grandparent (without the right of permanent residence fee)	\$565
*Include the spouse or partner of your parent or grandparent	\$1,085
*Include the spouse or partner of your parent or grandparent (without the right of permanent residence fee)	\$570
*Include a dependent child of your parent or grandparent	\$155 (per child)
<u>Spouse, partner or children</u>	
*Sponsor your spouse or partner	\$1,080
*Sponsor your spouse or partner without right of permanent residence fee	\$565
*Sponsor a dependent child	\$150 (per child)
*Include any dependent child	\$155 (per child)
Humanitarian and compassionate	Fees (CAN\$)
<u>Category</u>	
*Principal applicant	\$1,085
*Principal applicant (without right of permanent residence fee)	\$570
*Include your spouse or partner	\$1,085
Citizenship	Fees (CAN\$)
<u>Category</u>	
*Adult (18 and over)	\$630
*Stateless adult (18 or over) born to Canadian parent	\$100
*Minor (under 18)	\$100

Source: CIC 2022. Fee list. Retrieved from <https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/fees/fees.asp#sponsorship>

IRCC can educate the public about the family class stream by providing quick facts about the financial and nonfinancial contributions of this group to Canadian society. Based on the analysis on the age of the family class immigrants, the stereotypical misconceptions that members of this group are either too young or old to contribute to the system are debunked. The public could perform better due diligence by viewing readily accessible information about family class immigration that will help challenge or break down these misconceptions. Also, data shows that immigrants, besides those from the family class category, rely less on social assistance than the average Canadian after their first year of landing. The public can be educated on the reliance on social assistance by immigrants versus the average Canadian, to challenge misconceptions. IRCC's investment in the education of the public about the financial contributions of migrants, including family class migrants, will help debunk the misconceptions that this migrant category is an economic burden or does not contribute to the Canadian welfare system. Investment in proper education by IRCC will also show migrants and those looking to sponsor their loved ones that both IRCC and Canada believe that family migration is important to them.

Section 7 – Conclusion

More than ever, Canadian immigration policies are moving towards aligning immigration with the labour market with huge emphasis on economic contributions of newcomers to the Canadian system (Neborak 2013). Although family migration is important to people, including Canadians, the Canadian family reunification migration policy is highly politicized, favourability heavily depends on the political party in power, and negative construction and portrayal of this migrant class trickles down to public discourse. This paper offers an examination of the different arguments for and against family reunification policies in Canada and compares similar policies in Australia and the United Kingdom. The paper focuses on both the socio-demographic and economic profiles of each immigrant category. The data from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) provides an in-depth analysis as it captures a larger group of immigrants over an extended period. The hope is that this paper not only highlights the pros and cons of previous and current parents and grandparents sponsorship programs (PGP), and how problematic

these PGP programs have been administered but also proposes substantial recommendations that IRCC could factor in when designing future PGP immigration policies and programs.

The definition of family extends beyond the constrained western, nuclear form for a lot of other cultures, as extended family members are just as important and instrumental to the institution. Immigrants have reported that having their family members provide social and psychological support substitutes for the lack of established networks that long-term residents and members of a country enjoy such as alumni groups, associations, and clubs. Some have argued that family immigrants, especially parents and grandparents, offer limited to no economic contributions to the Canadian system, but this misconception is quite easily dispelled by the sufficient empirical evidence that indicates comparable family migrants' participation and employment rates in the labour force relative to other groups of immigrants, notably economic immigrants. Chen et al. (2005) provide evidence that nearly half (40%) of sponsored parents and grandparents reported work-related activities in the form of self-employment within 2 years of arriving in Canada. Furthermore, the data from the IMDB shows that a sizable proportion of family class immigrants fall within the prime working age, while others are under 64 and are still able to work. In 2017, the sponsored family class made up 30.6% of total immigration between the ages of 15-24 years, 25.2% of total immigration between the ages of 25-44 years and 43.9% of total immigration between the ages of 45-64 years. This indicates that immigrants in the family class are not as old or as young as portrayed in public discourse.

This paper also aimed to clarify that parents and grandparents are not an economic liability on the Canadian welfare system contrary to widely held belief, but they, in fact, directly and indirectly contribute both economically and non-economically. It compared the economic integration of all immigration categories and analyzed the trends of each group's direct economic contributions made to the Canadian system. Though data from the IMDB shows that over an extended period, the family class category does not make as much direct fiscal contributions as other immigrant groups such as the economic class in terms of net taxes paid, this may be due to the inability to work of some family class

sub-members. For dependents of principal applicants, the reason for their low direct fiscal contributions may be because of their inability to participate in the labour force due to the legal age restrictions, while the elderly may be unable to work as they approach retirement age. Also, sponsored parents or grandparents who are now permanent residents contribute in other meaningful ways both socially and culturally after settling in Canada such as volunteering, self-employment, homemaking, caring for family members or engaging in retirement activities, based on the data provided through the LSIC. To truly capture the successful contribution and integration of sponsored parents and grandparents in Canada after settlement, contributions should not be limited to economic factors but should be extended to cultural, social/community outcomes, and other important components.

Interestingly, data from Statistics Canada, analyzed by IRCC, found that immigrants typically rely on social assistance less than the average Canadian over time. For the sponsored family class, they relied the least on social assistance, such as employment insurance, upon their first year after landing, and this may be due to the financial undertaking that was signed by their sponsors, but dependence on social assistance increases, slightly more than the average Canadian's, over the span of 10 years after landing.

Though Canada is considered favourable based on its overall immigration policies and family reunification policies, there is room for improvement. The current administered lottery system for the parents and grandparents' sponsorship program has garnered a lot of criticism based on its lack of transparency and fairness, lengthy processing times and inability to factor in the duration of legal permanent status of interested sponsors. The above constraints may factor into why the number of sponsored parents or grandparents have declined from 103,795 between 1980-1990 to 86,780 from 2011 to 2016 based on a study drawn on a 25% sample size by (Statistics Canada 2016) (See Annex I). In 2019, IRCC processed 80% of the parents and grandparents sponsorship applications within 19 months, which was a drastic drop from 72 months in 2017 (IRCC 2020) (See Annex J). It is important to note that recently, the application processing time for sponsoring parents and grandparents changed from 20-24 months to 34 months – almost double the 2019 levels (IRCC 2022).

The total number of sponsored parents and grandparents have reduced over the last few years relative to other immigration categories except for the humanitarian and protected persons category (refugees). In 2019, 22,011 parents and grandparents and 68,809 spouses, partners, and children of principal economic migrants were admitted into Canada out of a total 91,311 family class immigrants (Ibid) (See Annex K). The total number of economic immigrants admitted into Canada in 2019 was 196,658 while 48,530 people were admitted under the humanitarian and protected persons categories (Ibid). There seems to be a correlation between the allotted number of people admitted into Canada within a particular category and the perceived level of economic and fiscal contributions that group can make to the Canadian system.

The paper proposes that a hybrid sponsorship system be introduced rather than the current lottery or previous first-come, first-serve system, as this would permit for a fairer system that is not solely based on random selection but also factors in the length of time that potential sponsors have spent in Canada and obtained a permanent, legal immigration status. This hybrid system would also consider the number of applications received from a particular source country and cap or limit the number of selected applicants from a specific source country if the number of applicants is significantly disproportionate to other source countries, to allow a fairer possibility of selection for applicants from various countries. This factor should be considered as there is a trend, year-over-year, that shows that applicants from three source countries have repeatedly had a significantly higher number of sponsored parents and grandparents in comparison to some source countries that had no selection during the same period.

The proposal of this hybrid system addresses the importance of family to the people, especially recognizing those who have resided in Canada permanently for an extended period and have been separated from their loved ones. It tackles the problematic nature of the manner in which previous and current programs have been administered, usually based on luck or a sponsor's financial influence. This hybrid system factors in more important criteria such as the number of years the sponsor has resided in the country and obtained a permanent residency status. These factors are aligned with the sponsored

parents and grandparents' ability to integrate into the Canadian society, especially given that there is a higher probability that the sponsored parents and grandparents' adult children are more established in Canada if they have resided permanently in the country longer.

The analysis of the socio-demographic factors reveals that the PGP program is a highly gendered process, and a considerable proportion of those that are sponsored are female, older migrants while there are typically more males in the economic immigration stream. Findings support that the female immigrants contribute more than their male counterparts both socially and culturally – volunteering, homemaking, self-employment (Chen et al. 2005). This finding shows that the sponsored parents and grandparents directly and indirectly contribute to their familial unit and the overall Canadian economy. There needs to be more acknowledgement and light shed on the contributions provided by this group of migrants to portray a more accurate narrative, and more efforts should be taken to properly track the comprehensive immigration, integration, and settlement journey of family class migrants into Canadian society.

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Annex

Annex A: Year-over-year MIPEx score for Canada



Source: Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEx) 2020.

Annex B: Top 10 countries of birth of recent immigrants, Canada 2016

	number	%
Recent immigrants	1,212,075	100.0
Philippines	188,805	15.6
India	147,190	12.1
China	129,020	10.6
Iran	42,070	3.5
Pakistan	41,480	3.4
United States	33,060	2.7
Syria	29,945	2.5
United Kingdom	24,445	2.0
France	24,155	2.0
South Korea	21,710	1.8
Other countries	530,195	43.7

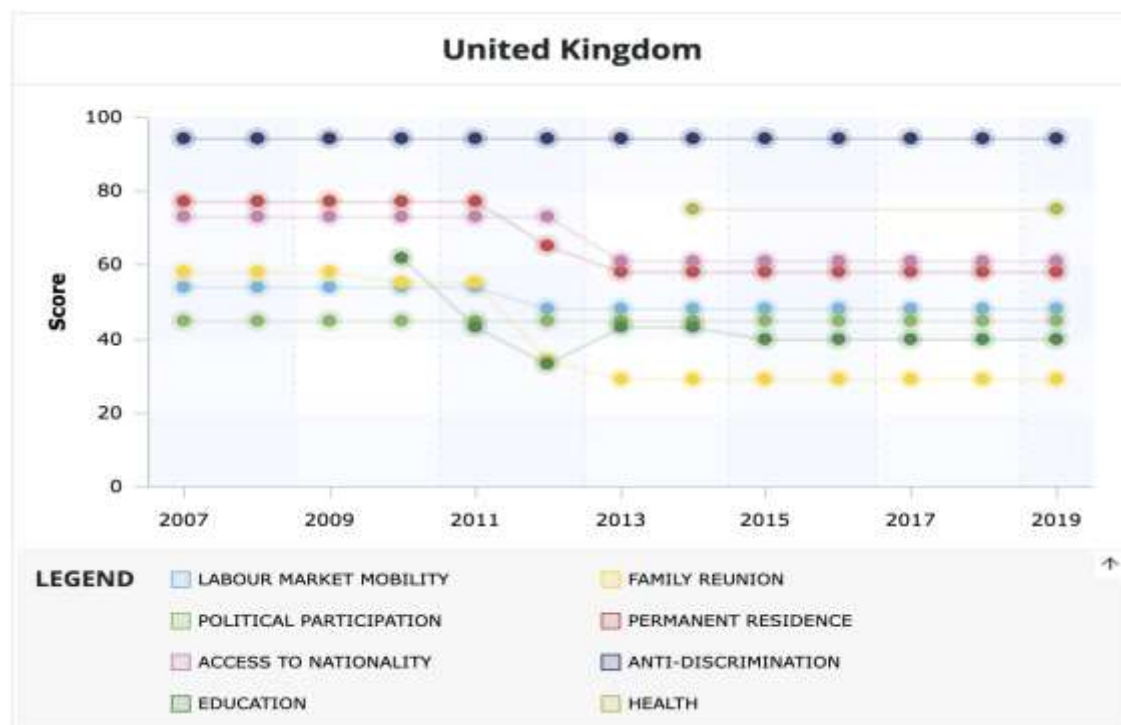
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

Annex C: Year-over-year MIPEX score for Australia



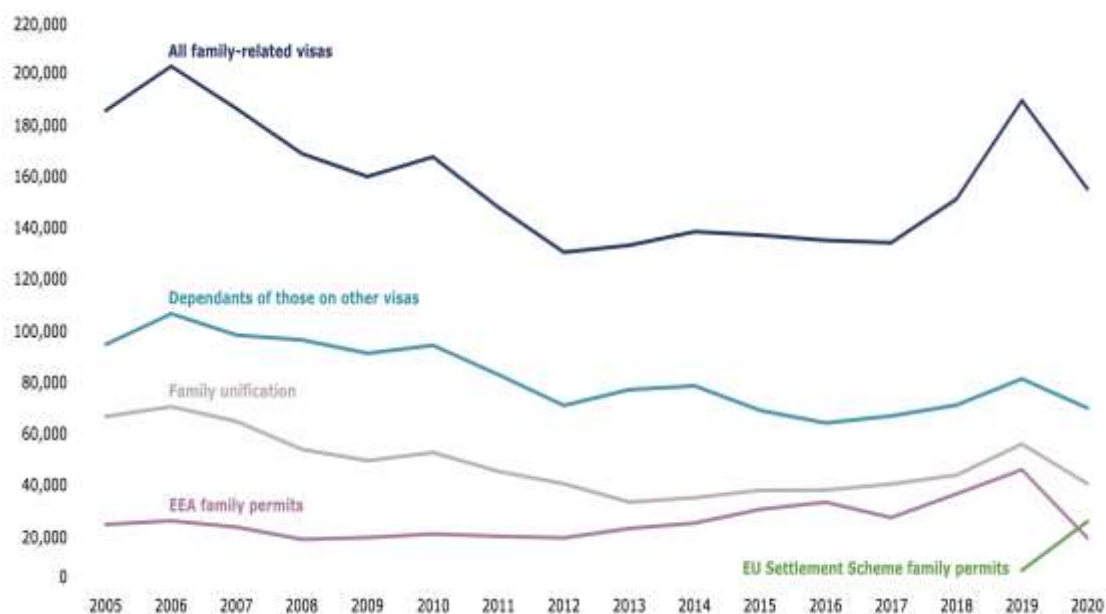
Source: Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) 2020.

Annex D: Year-over-year MIPEX score for the United Kingdom



Source: Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) 2020.

Annex E: Family-related visas and permits issued by the UK per year, by type, 2005 to 2020



Source: Migration Observatory analysis of Home Office Immigration Statistics, Entry clearance visas – Applications and Outcomes

Annex F: Permanent Residents by Category (No Backlog Reallocation)

CATEGORY	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number										
Spouses and partners	35,587	30,152	31,563	29,775	28,066	32,792	35,295	37,760	35,468	42,491
Parents and grandparents	41,364	33,001	24,546	20,156	14,164	14,482	17,767	21,334	22,526	19,376
Others (including children)	16,068	13,307	11,617	9,611	8,370	7,958	7,549	7,689	7,302	6,996
Family class	93,019	76,460	67,726	59,542	50,600	55,232	60,611	66,783	65,296	68,863
Skilled workers*	68,505	80,823	97,131	104,925	80,813	92,369	118,562	137,185	123,294	105,232
Business immigrants	27,404	19,417	22,452	19,924	13,777	13,019	13,664	14,590	11,027	8,101
Provincial/territorial nominees	0	0	228	47	0	477	1,252	1,275	2,126	4,418
Live-in caregivers	4,953	5,414	4,723	2,718	2,867	3,261	2,783	2,626	1,985	3,304
Economic immigrants	100,862	105,654	124,534	127,614	97,457	109,146	136,261	155,676	138,432	121,055
Government-assisted refugees	7,621	8,180	7,856	7,661	7,387	7,444	10,671	8,697	7,507	7,504
Privately sponsored refugees	2,838	3,244	3,063	2,580	2,140	2,329	2,921	3,571	3,035	3,253
Refugees landed in Canada	7,498	12,352	13,242	10,432	10,062	11,779	12,993	11,897	10,547	11,265
Refugee dependants**	1,437	3,420	3,938	3,194	2,919	2,806	3,493	3,746	4,021	3,959
Refugees	19,394	27,196	28,099	23,867	22,508	24,358	30,078	27,911	25,110	25,981
Refugees	7,437	304	147	46	8	9	0	0	-	0
DROC and PDRC***	18	314	3,275	3,233	2,486	1,020	460	205	125	79
Temporary resident permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	97
Humanitarian and compassionate cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	5,265
Other immigrants	7,455	618	3,422	3,279	2,494	1,029	460	205	165	5,441
All immigrants and refugees	220,730	209,928	223,781	214,302	173,059	189,765	227,410	250,575	229,003	221,340
Backlog cases	3,668	2,938	2,291	1,737	1,137	197	48	41	33	12
Category not stated	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Total permanent residents	224,399	212,866	226,072	216,039	174,196	189,963	227,459	250,616	229,036	221,352

* Includes independent and assisted relatives

** Dependents of refugees landed in Canada including spouses and partners

*** Deferred removal orders and post-determination refugee claimants

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures 2003.

Annex G: New Permanent Residents in 2004, by Immigration Category (Compared to the Immigration Plan)

	Plan Target Ranges	Admitted	
		Number	%
ECONOMIC CLASS			
Skilled workers	119,500 – 135,500	113,442	48.10
Business immigrants	6,000 – 6,000	9,764	4.14
Provincial/territorial nominees	3,500 – 3,500	6,248	2.65
Live-in caregivers	3,000 – 3,000	4,292	1.82
Total Economic Class (including dependants)	132,000 – 148,000	133,746	56.71
FAMILY CLASS			
Spouses, partners, children and others	42,000 – 42,000	49,514	21.00
Parents and grandparents	10,500 – 13,500	12,732	5.40
Total Family Class	52,500 – 55,500	62,246	26.40
PROTECTED PERSONS			
Government-assisted refugees	7,500 – 7,500	7,411	3.14
Privately sponsored refugees	3,400 – 4,000	3,115	1.32
Refugees landed in Canada	14,500 – 16,500	15,901	6.74
Dependants abroad	4,000 – 4,800	6,258	2.65
Total Protected Persons	29,400 – 32,800	32,685	13.86
Humanitarian and Compassionate/ Public Policy	6,100 – 8,700	6,945	2.94
Other		202	0.09
TOTAL	220,000 – 245,000	235,824	100.00

Source: Facts and Figures 2004: Immigration Overview- Permanent and Temporary Residents.

Annex H: Permanent residents by category and language ability, 2014 (showing percentage distribution)

Language ability	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Percentage distribution										
English	52.7	50.5	54.1	57.5	58.0	57.4	62.4	49.2	40.5	46.7
French	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.6	4.4	7.2	7.5	5.1	4.8	5.8
Both French and English	4.0	3.9	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	3.8	3.9	4.6
Neither	39.3	41.5	37.5	33.4	32.9	30.6	25.3	41.9	50.8	42.8
Family class	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English	58.8	62.2	61.7	64.2	61.6	64.2	63.2	63.4	66.0	72.7
French	4.0	4.7	5.1	4.5	4.9	5.0	5.5	5.8	5.5	4.1
Both French and English	20.1	22.3	25.1	22.7	25.3	21.7	22.3	21.7	19.3	16.3
Neither	17.1	10.9	8.2	8.7	8.3	9.1	9.0	9.1	9.2	6.8
Economic immigrants - p.a.*	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English	40.5	46.0	46.6	51.0	51.9	52.4	51.1	55.2	54.7	60.8
French	3.8	4.4	5.1	5.0	5.8	5.0	5.7	6.5	6.1	5.3
Both French and English	6.5	7.1	8.1	7.6	8.4	7.5	7.8	7.6	6.4	6.5
Neither	49.2	42.5	40.2	36.4	33.9	35.1	35.4	30.7	32.8	27.4
Language ability not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Economic immigrants - s.d.**	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English	55.3	52.2	46.9	43.4	45.2	47.0	53.7	47.1	41.6	35.3
French	7.6	8.1	8.9	7.8	7.1	8.6	9.0	10.9	8.5	6.5
Both French and English	4.5	2.7	2.6	2.8	3.3	3.6	5.4	5.2	3.7	4.0
Neither	32.6	37.0	41.5	46.1	44.4	40.9	32.0	36.8	46.1	54.2
Refugees	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English	77.4	76.2	79.3	81.9	83.5	81.5	82.1	80.6	74.6	63.7
French	10.8	7.9	9.2	8.0	8.6	11.5	10.9	9.6	11.8	9.7
Both French and English	5.4	7.1	5.7	4.0	3.7	3.1	3.2	3.5	4.0	4.7
Neither	6.4	8.8	5.8	6.1	4.3	3.8	3.8	6.4	9.6	21.9
Other immigrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English	50.7	52.9	53.7	56.6	56.7	57.1	58.1	56.0	52.2	58.6
French	4.6	5.0	5.4	5.1	5.4	6.0	6.6	6.5	5.9	5.3
Both French and English	8.8	9.0	10.2	10.0	11.1	10.3	10.4	10.0	8.5	8.7
Neither	35.9	33.1	30.7	28.3	26.8	26.6	24.8	27.5	33.4	27.5
Language ability not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Category not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Principal applicants

**Spouses and dependants

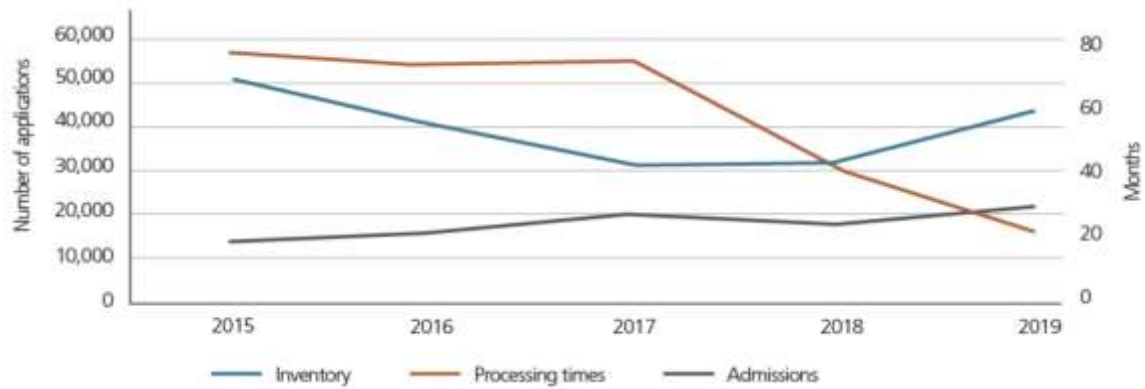
Source: Facts and Figures, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (2014). - *Canada - Permanent Residents by category and language ability, 2014 (showing % distribution)*. Retrieved from https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2015/cic/Ci1-8-9-2014-eng.pdf

Annex I: Admission Category and Applicant Type (46), Period of Immigration (7), Age (12) and Sex (3) for the Immigrant Population Who Landed Between 1980 and 2016, in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census – 25% Sample Data.

Canada							
Data quality							
Admission category and applicant type (46)	Period of immigration (7)						
	Total - Period of Immigration ¹	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2001 to 2005	2006 to 2010	2011 to 2016 ²
Total - Admission category and applicant type ³	5,703,615	1,019,845	1,466,655	1,985,030	928,940	1,056,095	1,212,075
Economic immigrants ⁴	2,994,130	428,360	668,040	1,136,615	522,010	614,600	731,115
Worker programs ⁵	2,377,450	371,360	588,365	925,495	463,890	461,605	492,225
Skilled workers ⁶	2,113,300	355,355	553,575	853,475	446,375	407,100	350,895
Principal applicants	861,005	158,300	223,925	334,130	175,205	158,925	144,650
Secondary applicants	1,252,295	197,050	329,655	519,345	271,170	248,175	206,250
Skilled trades workers ⁷	3,140	0	0	0	0	0	3,140
Principal applicants	1,280	0	0	0	0	0	1,280
Secondary applicants	1,860	0	0	0	0	0	1,855
Canadian experience class ⁸	71,385	0	0	6,240	0	6,240	65,140
Principal applicants	42,105	0	0	4,295	0	4,295	37,810
Secondary applicants	29,280	0	0	1,950	0	1,950	27,330
Caregivers ⁹	189,620	16,005	34,790	65,780	17,510	48,265	73,055
Principal applicants	114,490	15,525	27,550	37,865	12,005	25,860	33,550
Secondary applicants	75,135	485	7,240	27,910	5,510	22,400	39,500
Business programs ¹⁰	284,845	57,000	107,140	81,180	36,740	44,445	39,530
Entrepreneurs ¹¹	114,595	33,555	57,935	20,270	12,950	7,315	2,840
Principal applicants	27,460	8,025	13,990	4,755	3,050	1,705	685
Secondary applicants	87,135	25,530	43,940	15,510	9,900	5,610	2,155
Investors ¹²	121,650	3,005	30,460	53,185	18,225	34,960	35,000
Principal applicants	27,640	620	6,815	11,505	3,915	7,595	8,705
Secondary applicants	94,010	2,385	23,645	41,680	14,310	27,365	26,295
Self-employed ¹³	48,600	20,440	18,745	7,730	5,565	2,170	1,685
Principal applicants	13,675	5,415	5,405	2,225	1,605	625	630
Secondary applicants	34,930	15,020	13,345	5,505	3,960	1,545	1,055
Provincial and territorial nominees ¹⁴	331,835	0	2,535	129,940	21,385	108,555	199,360
Principal applicants	133,105	0	835	47,695	7,085	40,615	84,570
Secondary applicants	198,730	0	1,705	82,240	14,300	67,940	114,790
Immigrants sponsored by family ¹⁵	1,782,485	355,340	529,845	572,705	270,465	302,245	324,595
Sponsored spouses or partners ¹⁶	1,081,910	198,425	299,240	373,395	178,135	195,260	210,845
Sponsored parents or grandparents ¹⁷	483,365	103,795	164,130	128,660	64,070	64,590	86,780

Source: Data tables, 2016 Census

Annex J: Processing time (months), admissions and inventory of Parents and Grandparents application.



Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Processing time (months)	74	71	72	40	19
Admissions	15,489	17,043	20,495	18,030	22,011
Inventory	50,661	40,511	32,165	32,411	43,666

Source: IRCC 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/annual-report-parliament-immigration-2020.html#permanent>

Annex K: Permanent Residence Data by Category

Immigration Category	2019 Planned Admission Ranges		2019 Admissions			
	Low	High	Female	Male	Gender X	Total
Federal economic – Skilled ⁴³	76,000	86,000	42,702	47,540	0	90,242
Federal economic – Caregiver ⁴⁴	8,000	15,500	5,747	4,060	0	9,807
Federal economic – Business ⁴⁵	500	1,500	634	702	0	1,336
Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program	1,000	5,000	2,019	2,122	0	4,141
Provincial Nominee Program	57,000	68,000	31,848	36,799	0	68,647
Quebec skilled workers and business immigrants	21,100	23,500	10,806	11,678	1	22,485
Economic Total	174,000	209,500	93,756	102,901	1	196,658
Spouses, partners, and children	66,000	76,000	40,433	28,376	0	68,809
Parents and grandparents	17,000	22,000	13,045	8,966	0	22,011
Family – Other ⁴⁶	-	-	251	240	0	491
Family Total	83,000	98,000	53,729	37,582	0	91,311
Protected persons in-Canada and dependants abroad	14,000	20,000	8,936	9,506	1	18,443
Blended visa office-referred refugees	1,000	3,000	480	513	0	993
Government-assisted refugees	7,500	9,500	4,862	5,088	1	9,951
Privately sponsored refugees	17,000	21,000	8,746	10,397	0	19,143
Refugees and Protected Persons Total	39,500	53,500	23,024	25,504	2	48,530
Humanitarian and Other ⁴⁷	3,500	5,000	2,563	2,116	2	4,681
Total	310,000	350,000	173,072	168,103	5	341,180

Source: IRCC, CDO, Permanent Resident Data as of March 31, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/annual-report-parliament-immigration-2020.html#permanent>