

### Issue

---

The primary aim of Canada's immigration policy should be to economically benefit Canadians and Canada as a whole. It should not be used to forcibly change the cultural character and social fabric of our country. And it should not put excessive financial burdens on the shoulders of Canadians in the pursuit of humanitarian goals.

Despite Canada already accepting more immigrants than almost any other country, both the Liberals and Conservatives support an unsustainable increase in the annual immigration intake, and are using mass immigration as a political tool to buy votes among immigrant communities.

The UN's Global Compact for Migration, which the Liberal government signed in 2018, aims to normalize this kind of situation, and to make it easier for millions of people to move to Canada and other Western democracies at will.

### Facts

---

In 2022, in addition to 437,000 immigrants (or permanent residents), there was a net increase in the number of non-permanent residents (temporary foreign workers, foreign students, and refugees) in Canada estimated at 608,000. Both of these numbers represent the highest levels on record.

Commonly used arguments in support of higher immigration levels are flawed. High immigration in itself cannot solve the labour shortages that affect some sectors of the economy. Immigrants are not just workers but also consumers of goods and services, which creates demand for labour in other sectors and simply displaces the problem. This

explains why we still have labour shortages even though Canada has had one of the highest levels of immigration in the world for several years.

Moreover, only about one quarter of all newcomers to Canada every year are directly chosen because they have the right qualifications and work experience to fulfill our economic needs. The rest are dependents (spouses and children) of economic immigrants, or come through the family reunification program or as refugees. They either do not work, or do not have the skills that are most in need even if they find work.

Mass immigration partly explains why wages and productivity have been stagnant in Canada, as cheaper immigrant labour is often favoured by employers over capital investment and automation. Although a large increase in the number of workers makes our economy larger, it also makes it less productive and impede GDP growth per capita. What's important is not to have a larger economy, but to be richer.

Mass immigration increases pressure on our infrastructures, health care system, and social programs. It also inflates housing prices. More than 41% of all immigrants to Canada settle in and around Toronto and Vancouver, which have some of the least affordable housing among big cities in the world (see policy on Housing).

Finally, newcomers are a bit younger on average than Canadians, but not enough to have a noticeable impact on the rate of aging. The Liberal government has made matters worse by increasing the number of parents and grand-parents accepted under the family reunification program.

# Our Plan

Our immigration policy can benefit Canadians only if we welcome the right kind and the right number of immigrants and non-permanent residents. It should prioritize Canada's economic interests and be calibrated in a way that does not jeopardize Canadian values and the maintenance of our national identity.



## A People's Party government will:

- Substantially lower the total number of immigrants and refugees Canada accept every year, from 500,000 planned by the Liberal government in 2025, to between 100,000 and 150,000, depending on economic and other circumstances.
- Reform the immigration point system and the related programs to accept a larger proportion of economic immigrants with the right skills.
- Substantially lower the number of immigrants accepted under the family reunification program, including abolishing the program for parents and grand-parents.
- Substantially lower the number of temporary foreign workers and make sure that they fulfil temporary positions and do not compete unfairly with Canadian workers.
- Substantially lower the number of visas for foreign students.
- Change the law to make birth tourism illegal.
- Ensure that every candidate for immigration undergoes a face-to-face interview and answers a series of specific questions to assess the extent to which they align with Canadian values and societal norms (see Canadian Identity policy).
- Increase resources for CSIS, the RCMP, and Canadian Immigration and Citizenship to do interviews and thorough background checks on all classes of immigrants.
- Accept fewer refugees and give priority to refugees belonging to persecuted groups who have nowhere to go in neighbouring countries. For example: Christians, Yazidis, and members of other minority religions in majority Muslim countries; members of the Ahmadi community, and other Muslims in these countries who are persecuted because they reject political Islam and adhere to Western values; and members of sexual minorities.
- Rely on private sponsorships instead of having the government pay for all the costs of resettling refugees in Canada.
- Take Canada out of the UN's Global Compact for Migration.

*(Updated August 2023)*