

National Settlement Outcomes Survey

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Background

- In 2010, FPT Ministers tasked the FPT Settlement Working Group with developing a **Pan-Canadian Framework for Settlement Outcomes** to establish a cohesive, national approach to measurements on settlement across Canada.
- At the time, very little comparable information was available on newcomers' settlement outcomes in Canada.
- A national set of settlement outcomes was jointly developed and a survey was designed to collect relevant data.
- The goal of the survey was to assess settlement outcomes across Canada and identify the factors that influence successful settlement within the first five years after landing in Canada.
- The intent of the survey was not to assess the outcomes of specific settlement services. It serves as a snapshot of newcomer settlement and serves as a baseline from which to assess changes in settlement outcomes over time. It also provides a robust evidence base for future policy development at both the national and jurisdictional levels.

Under the *Canada-Québec Accord relating to immigration and temporary admission of aliens*, Québec fully assumes sole responsibility for establishing immigration levels, and for the selection, francization and integration of immigrants. In areas under its responsibility, Québec develops its policies and programs, legislates, regulates and sets its own standards.



Settlement Outcomes Agreed to by PTs

Goal: Newcomers acquire the knowledge, skills and experience to be able to fully participate in Canada's society and economy, and Canada welcomes and includes newcomers.

Key Success Factors

- Newcomers:
 - Understand life in Canada
 - Know how to access public services and community resources
 - Have the official language skills to function in Canadian society and the labour market
 - Have knowledge of the Canadian work environment and are aware of local labour markets
 - Have the skills to become employed in their chosen occupation
 - Are connected to social and economic networks, as well as the broader community
- People, communities, and workplaces are welcoming and inclusive of newcomers



Value of Survey

- This survey is the first large-scale, nationwide study of settlement outcomes in Canada.
 - Data was collected from 20,818 randomly selected newcomers across the country.
 - The questionnaire contained 58 questions translated into 12 languages.
- It was completed through the collaboration of all FPT jurisdictions with the involvement of over 50 immigration policy and program experts, statisticians and academics.
- The survey provides valuable information on the key settlement outcomes articulated in the Pan-Canadian Framework.
- In addition, Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) was used to detect and explain relationships between different settlement areas and how they impact each other to influence newcomers' settlement experiences.



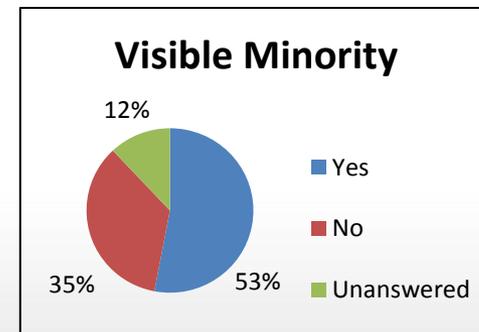
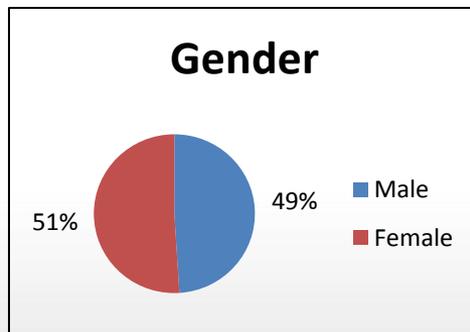
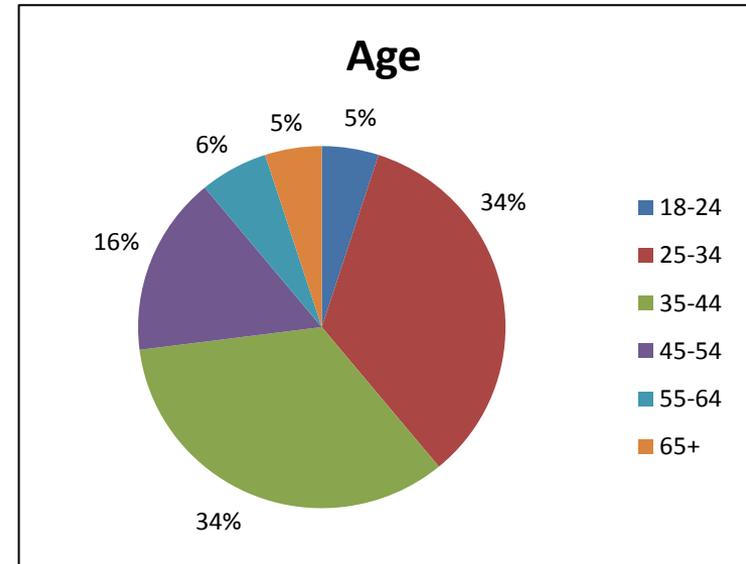
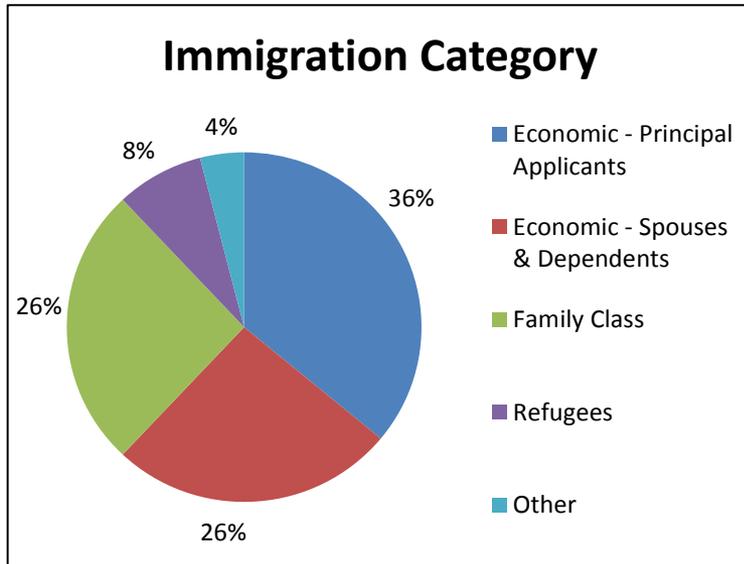
Limitations of the Survey

- Responses may or may not reflect “recent” settlement experiences.
- Results refer to a snapshot of newcomers’ perceptions at a single point in time.
- Not based on quantitative data such as employment earnings, employment patterns or language test scores.
- Results are not broken down by newcomers who have received settlement services, by settlement program service type, length or performance, etc.
- No demographic information available on respondents’ place of residence.



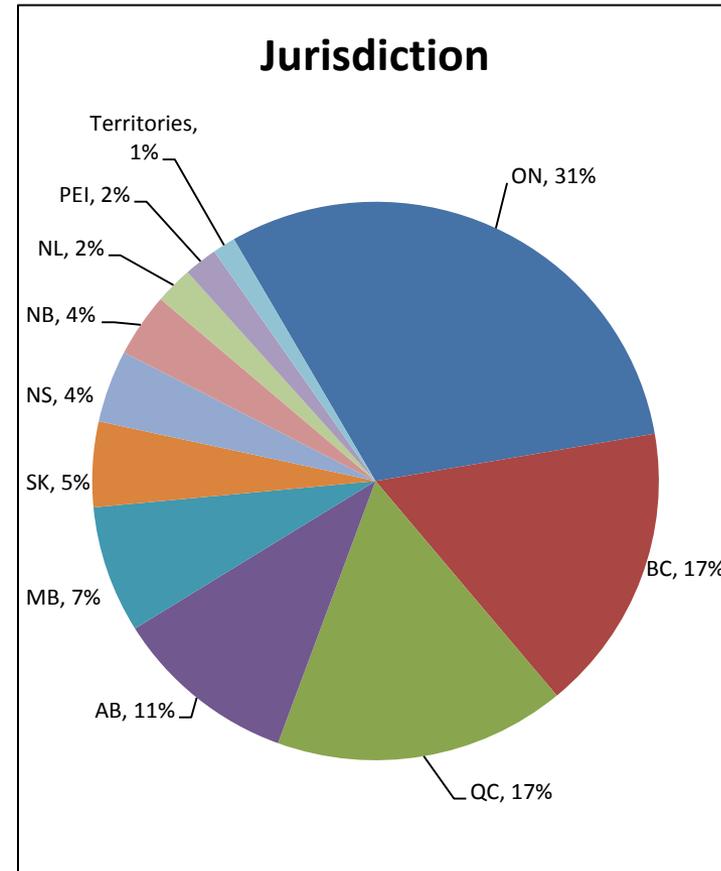
Demographic Representation

- The survey considers a number of demographic characteristics, including:



Jurisdictional Breakdown

Jurisdiction	Completed Questionnaires
Ontario	6,375
British Columbia	3,468
Quebec	3,466
Alberta	2,195
Manitoba	1,531
Saskatchewan	1,028
Nova Scotia	870
New Brunswick	767
Newfoundland and Labrador	448
Prince Edward Island	398
The Territories*	272
Total	20,818



*Data for the territories (Yukon: 164; Northwest Territories: 82; Nunavut: 26) will be grouped.



Overview of Results

- Overall, scores are high and newcomers are generally satisfied with their settlement experience and intend to stay in Canada.
- For all questions, newcomers were asked how much they agreed with a given statement by providing a response on a scale from 1 to 5.

Strong Successes

- Satisfaction with life in Canada and attachment to Canada
- Language outcomes (for those in the labour force)
- Meeting life essentials/basic needs
- Understanding rights and responsibilities

Average score of 75 or higher

Moderate Successes

- Social connection
- Service awareness and accessibility

Average score of 60-74

Challenges

- Employment fit (including employer recognition of foreign work experience and qualifications)

- Language outcomes (for those outside the labour force) – Average Score 68

Average score under 60



Strong Successes

Settlement Satisfaction and Attachment

- High satisfaction with life in Canada
- Most newcomers would rather stay in Canada than move elsewhere

Life Essentials/ Basic Needs

- Living conditions and transportation options meet most newcomers' needs
- Moderate scores regarding financial resources (e.g., housing, clothes, car, groceries, bills, etc.)

Rights and Responsibilities

- High scores for understanding of Canadian culture, laws, rights and responsibilities

Language Skills

- High confidence in ability to use English or French in daily activities, social settings, accessing services and seeking employment
- Over 82% of respondents had sufficient language skills to complete the survey in English or French



Moderate Successes

Social Connection

- Moderate scores for:
 - having good friends in their community
 - developing a strong connection with their community
 - developing social connections through participation in their community

Accessibility of Services

- Moderate scores for:
 - knowing how to access settlement services
 - ease accessing settlement services in either official language



Challenges

Employment Fit

- Low scores regarding:
 - employers' recognition of foreign work experience and qualifications
 - working in a position that matches newcomers' skills and experience

Language Skills

- Moderate scores for respondents outside the labour force:
 - understanding English or French media
 - explaining to someone in English or French what they did before immigrating to Canada
 - communicating in English or French when doing daily activities



Interpreting the Results

- In addition to these descriptive results, the statistical modeling technique (SEM) used in the study is also able to provide a sense of how:
 - different areas of settlement are connected to one another, and
 - how effecting change in one area of settlement can lead to improved outcomes in other areas.



Understanding Connections between Areas of Settlement

For example, for those in the labour force, employment fit is influenced by:

- Meeting life essentials/basic needs
- Ease with using official languages
- Understanding and knowledge of rights and responsibilities

In turn, it impacts:

- Making social connections
- Settlement satisfaction and attachment

This means that there are many possible pathways to supporting newcomers in Canada.



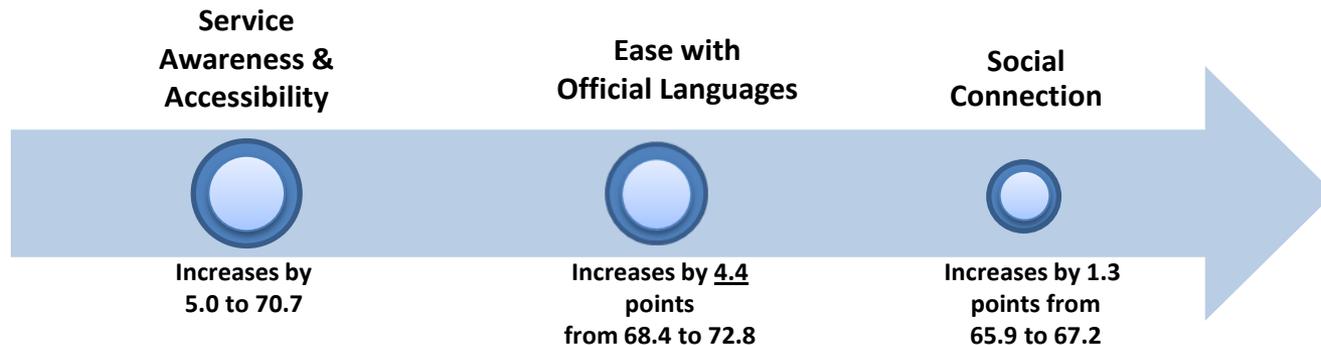
Impacts between Different Areas of Settlement: Respondents in the Labour Force

- This visual shows one possible pathway to success for newcomers in the labour force.
 - By meeting life essentials/basic needs we can have an impact on employment fit, which in turn is linked to improved outcomes for settlement satisfaction and attachment .



Impacts between Different Areas of Settlement: Respondents Not in the Labour Force

- Below is an example of one possible pathway to success for newcomers outside the labour force:
 - Improving awareness and ease of access to services increases ease of using official languages and social connections.



Preliminary Implications of the Survey

- In general, the results point to a positive picture of newcomer settlement. Newcomers in all jurisdictions are satisfied with their settlement and would rather remain in Canada than live elsewhere.
- Other areas indicating strong positive outcomes:
 - Ease with official languages
 - Life essentials
 - Rights and responsibilities
- Areas of moderate success include:
 - Service awareness and accessibility and social connection.
- Areas of challenge:
 - Employment and foreign credential recognition
 - Official language skills of newcomers not in the labour force



Next Steps

- Survey findings will be compared against the findings of previous studies on settlement and immigration in order to validate and provide greater context to the results.
- High-level survey results will be incorporated into the Pan-Canadian Framework for Settlement Outcomes to be presented for approval by FPT Deputy Ministers and Ministers in the fall and winter.
- The Framework will include a Roadmap for Improved Newcomer Outcomes across Canada that “Guides jurisdictions in establishing the most effective suite of services to offer to newcomers, and ultimately, promote Canada’s position as a destination of choice for immigrants”

