

Good Problems to Have

Economic Growth, Demographics and BC's Immigration Policy Landscape

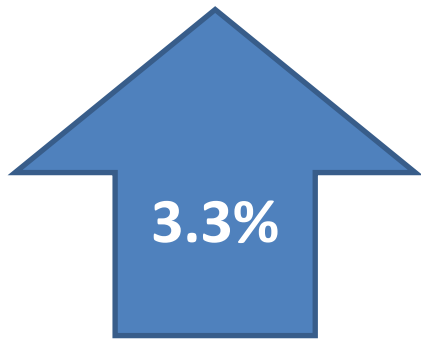
Cloë Nicholls, Executive Director, Immigration Policy Branch



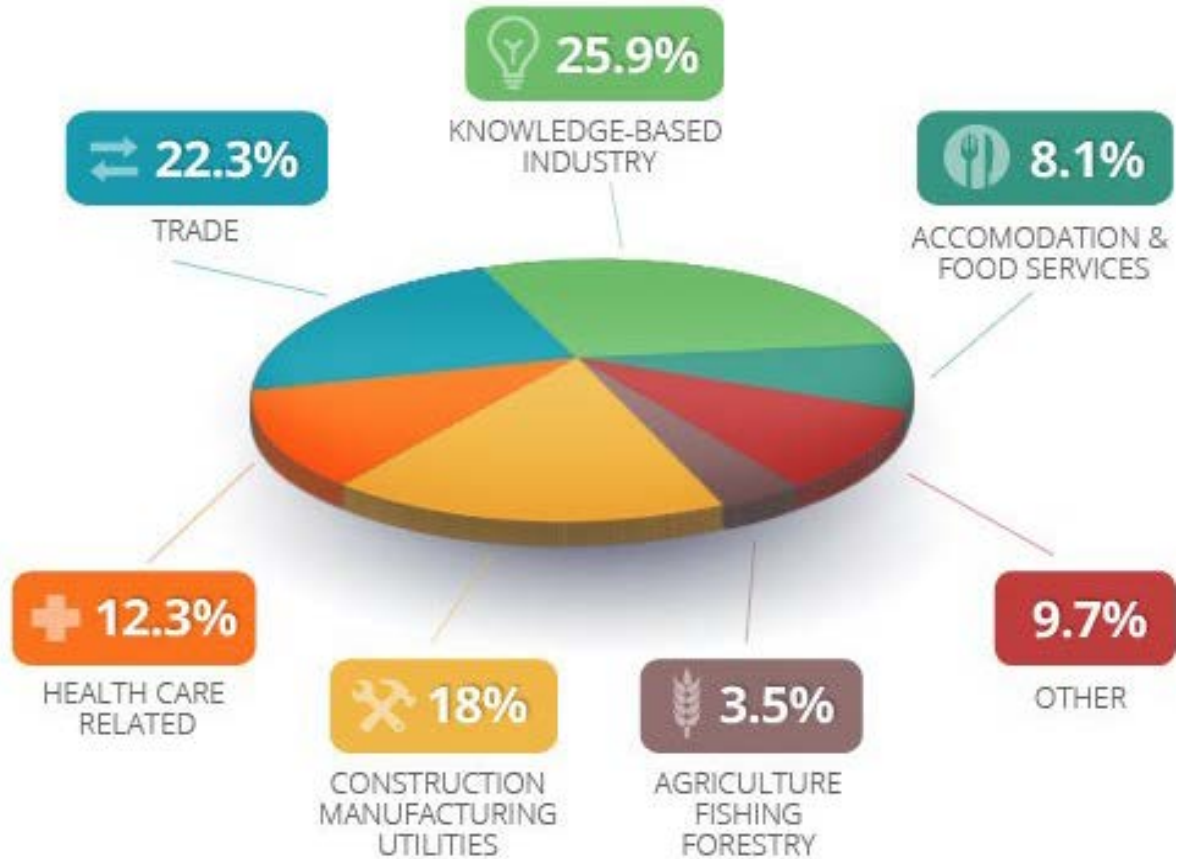
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills
Training

*Workforce Development and
Immigration Division*

BC's Economic Outlook



Strong GDP Growth
(2015)



Diverse Economy: Employment by Sector

Maximizing the Domestic Workforce

British Columbians first in line for jobs

- Invest in education and skills training
- Maximize participation of underrepresented groups
- Improve labour mobility between provinces
- Encourage people to move where the jobs are



The Immigration Pathway

**Pre-
Decision**

Recruitment

Selection

Integration

Citizenship

BC's Immigration Role

WelcomeBC



Pre-Decision

Recruitment

Selection

Integration

Citizenship

Skills Connect

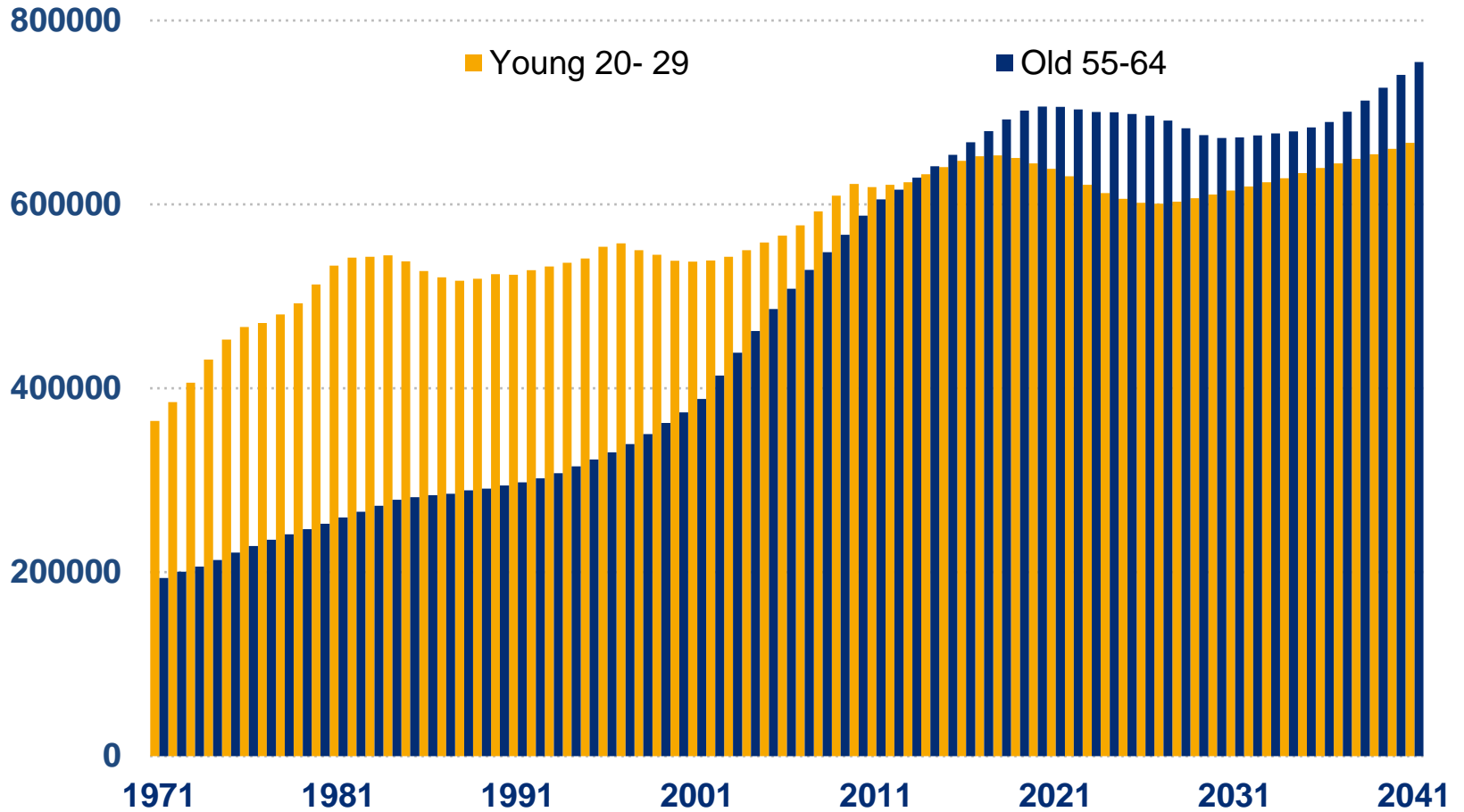
BC Settlement & Integration Services

Refugee Readiness Fund

Canada-BC Job Grant: New Immigrants / Refugees

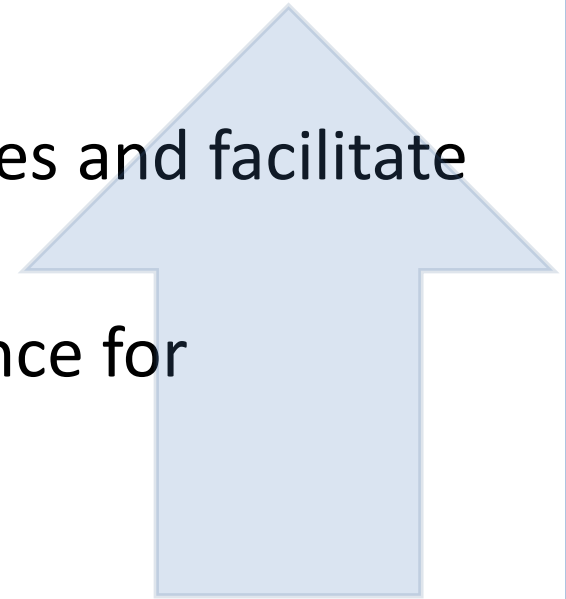
Foreign Qualifications Recognition

Challenge 1: Demographics



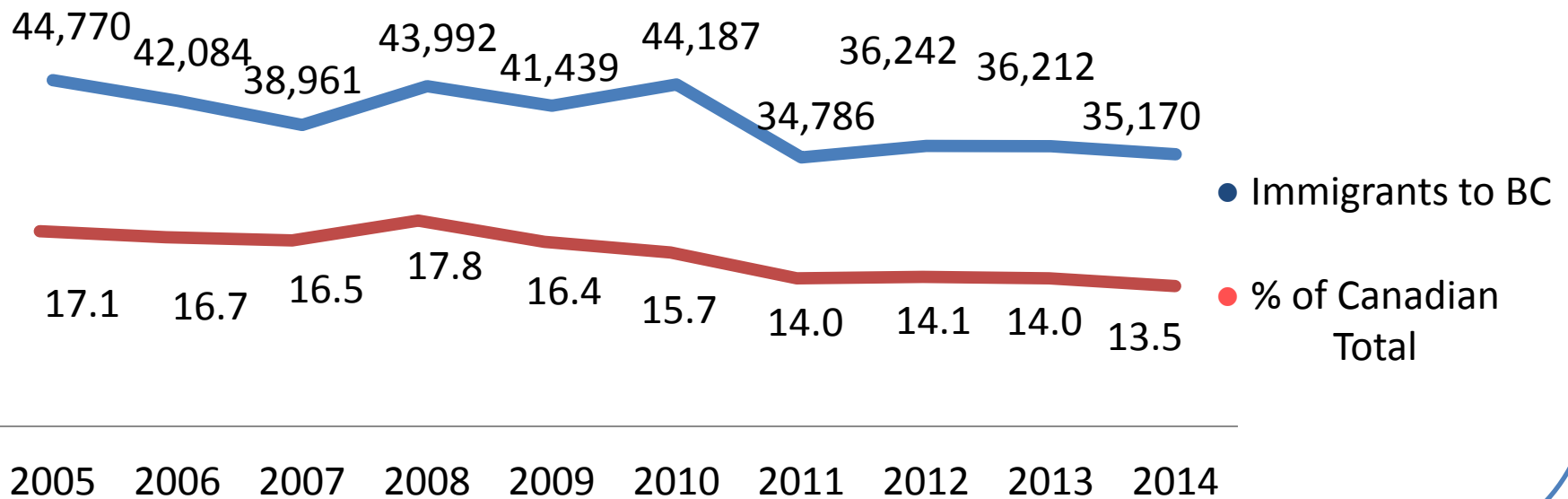
Opportunity 1: Increase Supply

- Maximize BC's domestic workforce
- Attract Canadians from other Provinces and facilitate labour mobility
- More pathways to permanent residence for youth/international graduates
- Increase overall immigration levels
- Increase PNP allocation
- Use LMI to pick people the labour market needs



Challenge 2: Jurisdiction

- BC's share of immigrants relative to other Provinces has declined
- No authority over total levels or PNP allocation



Opportunity 2: Partnerships

Pre-Decision/Recruitment:

- Getting FQR information out pre-arrival
- Joint awareness initiatives

Selection:

- Levels consultation framework
- Leverage provincial LMI and sector input to drive levels and pathways
- Policy modifications and enhancements to federal streams to address sector/regional needs
- PNP that is flexible, fast & fair – augment federal streams and address regional shortages

Integration:

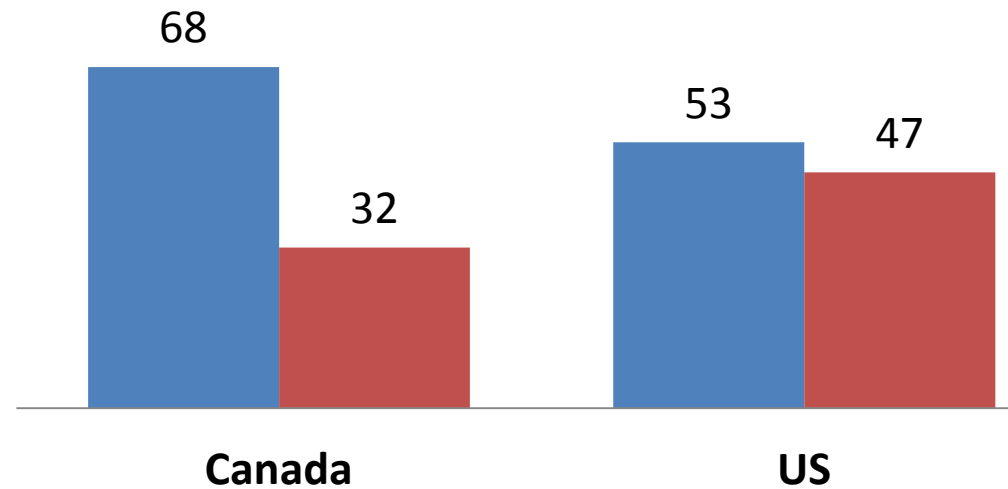
- Labour market programming for skilled newcomers
- Complementary community based settlement initiatives

Challenge 3: Perception

- Heightened anxiety about immigration
- Immigration about identity as much as economics

■ Minorities should do more to fit in better with mainstream Canadian society

■ We should encourage cultural diversity with different ethnic groups keeping their own customs and language



Source: Angus Reid (October 2016)

Opportunity 3: Better Narratives

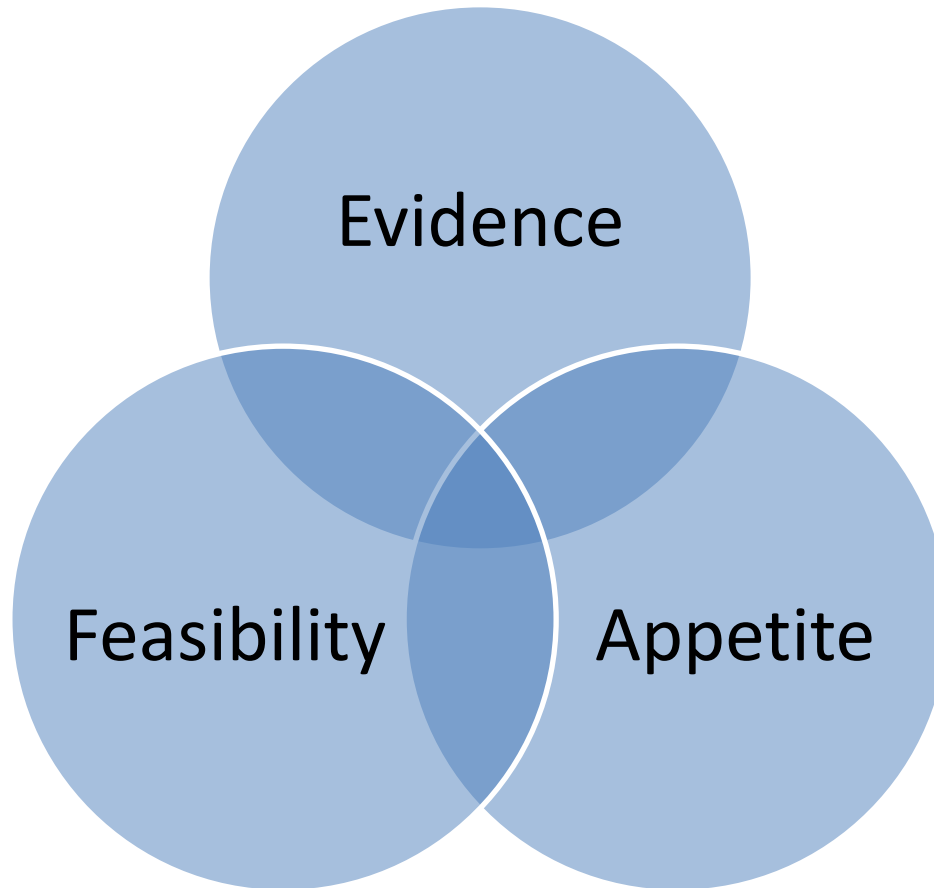
Migration in Historical Contexts

- Tell Canada's story
- Put a human face on immigration
- Support welcoming communities

Better data = better proof = better message

- Demographic shifts and impacts to public finances
- Job creation and economic stimulus
- Wage boosts and occupation specialization
- Brain gain → global development
- Diversity in the workplace
- Cultural competence and export markets

Final thoughts



Contact

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