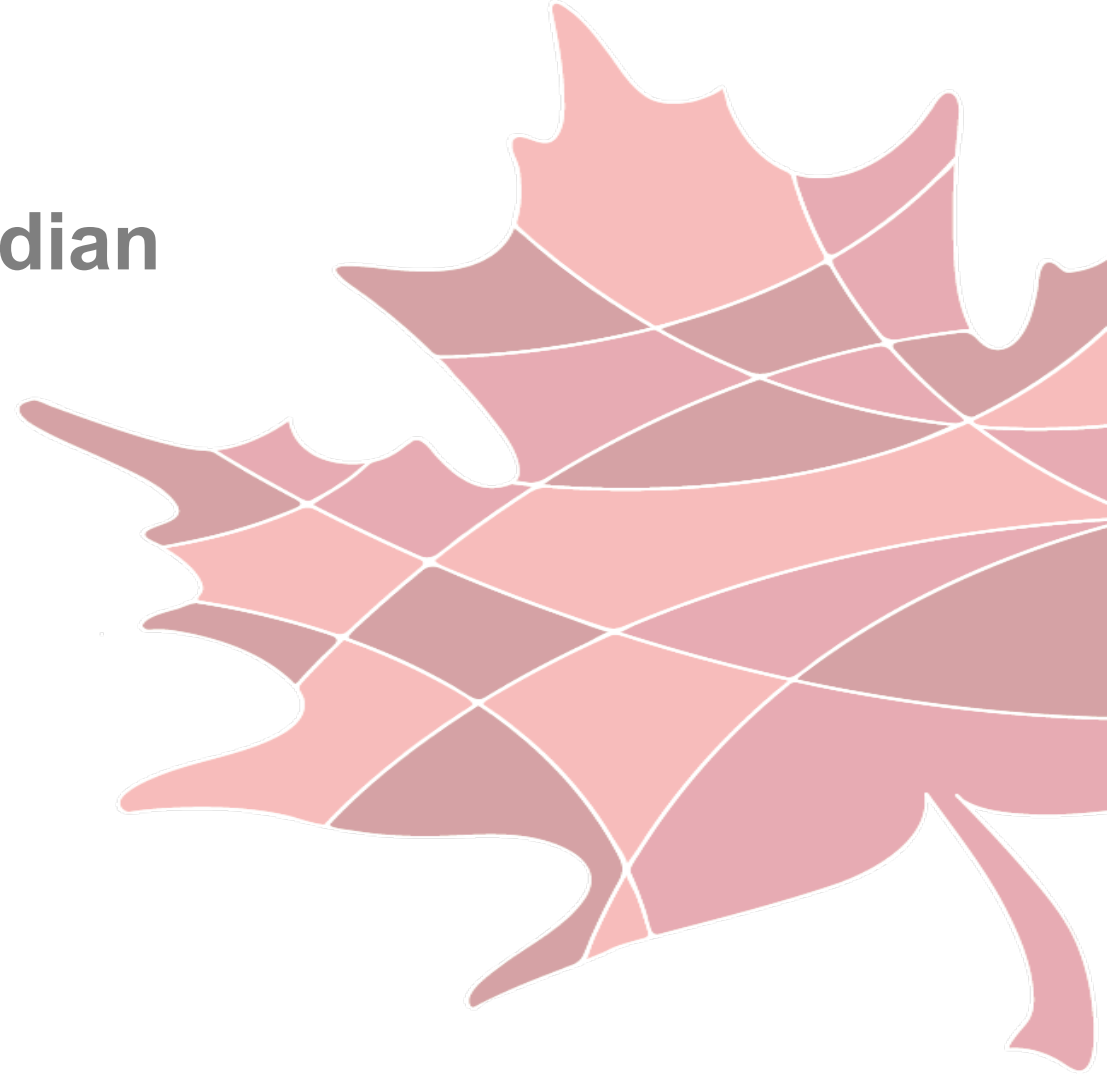


Managing Modern Migration: Canadian Challenges and Opportunities

Pathways to Prosperity Conference
November 23, 2018



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

*Note: Data included in this document is preliminary
and is subject to change.*

Canada



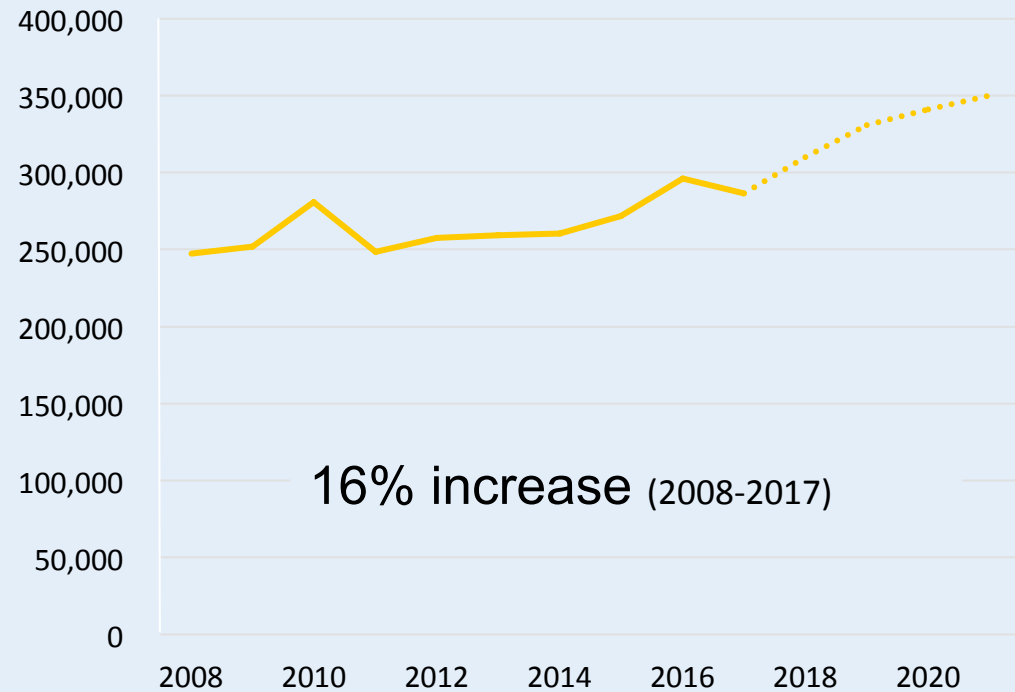
Managed migration is a hallmark of Canada's approach to immigration

- A key instrument for managing immigration is the annual immigration levels plan – the number of permanent residents to be admitted each year.
- The overall total and allocation of limited spaces among **refugee, family, and economic** streams is a public expression of the Government's immigration objectives.
- In the 2019 immigration levels plan, Canada will welcome between 310,000 and 350,000 permanent residents. Of these, between 25,500 and 33,500 will be resettled refugees.



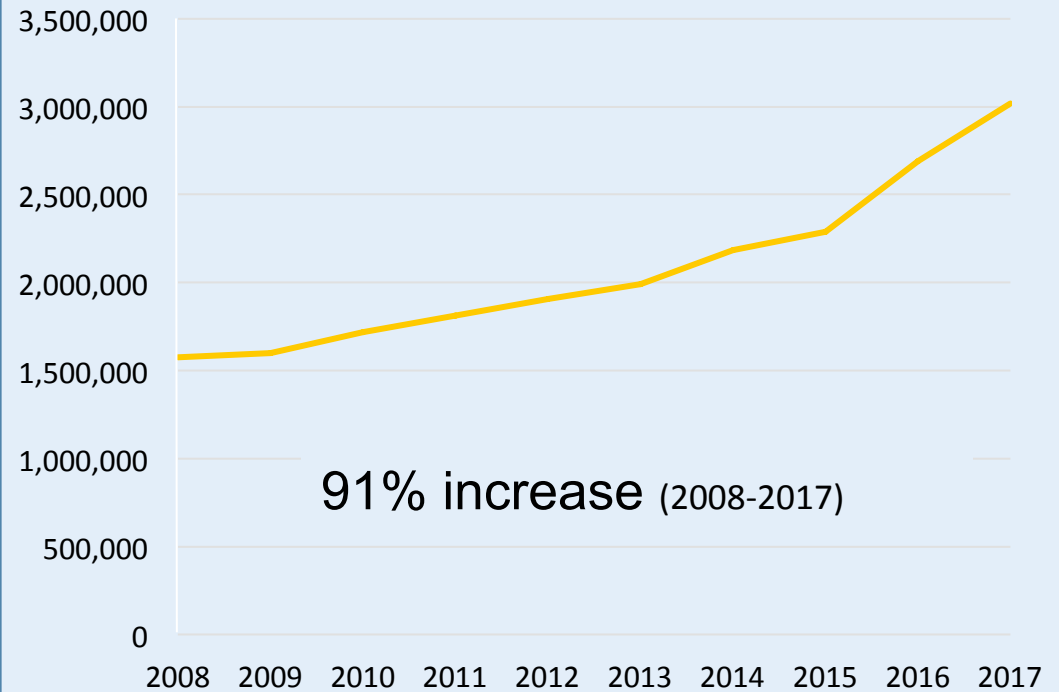
Growth Across Canada's Immigration Programs

Permanent Residents



Source: IRCC, Data on Permanent Residents, September 30, 2018

Temporary Residents



Source: IRCC, MBR Data on Temporary Residents, December 3, 2018

Asylum intake falls outside of these Programs



Canada's Refugee Programs

- Canada accepts Convention refugees and those in refugee-like situations for humanitarian reasons, according to the following principles:
 - Fulfilling Canada's international obligations and humanitarian commitment;
 - Supporting successful settlement and integration in Canada; and
 - Reuniting refugee families.
- Two refugee program streams are the expression of this commitment:

1) In-Canada Asylum (International Obligation)

2) Resettlement from overseas (Humanitarian Commitment)

Foundation of Refugee Status Determination: Refugee Convention & Convention Against Torture

- Persecution based on: **1)** race, **2)** religion, **3)** nationality, **4)** being part of a social group, or **5)** for political beliefs.
- Risk to life or risk of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment

Unlike the resettlement program where IRCC selects refugees from overseas and controls intake, asylum intake is unplanned and IRCC has an obligation to process every claim it receives



The in-Canada Asylum System – Who is coming?

Global instability and poverty contribute to “**mixed flows**” of migrants.

Canada is geographically isolated – limiting major flows of migrants

Foreign nationals can come to Canada temporarily in many ways:

- **Visitors** (with visa or electronic travel authorization)
- **Temporary Foreign Workers**
- **International Students**
- **At the Canada-U.S. Border**

ASYLUM: Top 10 Countries of Alleged Persecution (Claims referred to the IRB in 2017)

Country of Alleged Persecution	Total Referred to IRB	IRB Acceptance Rate
Haiti	8,286	22%
Nigeria	5,575	44%
Turkey	2,199	85%
Pakistan	1,665	76%
India	1,460	27%
Mexico	1,459	25%
Syria	1,414	91%
Colombia	1,321	70%
Venezuela	1,240	76%
China	1,179	47%

*Acceptance rates count abandoned and withdrawn claims

Source: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Refugee Protection Claims by Country of Alleged Persecution - 2017 <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/statistics/protection/Pages/RPDStat2017.aspx>



Irregular Migration – A New Phenomenon at the Border

- In the spring of 2017 Canada began seeing a significant increase in the number of individuals crossing the Canada-US border between designated Ports of Entry (POEs), in order to claim asylum in Canada.
- Migrants are crossing the border between POEs to avoid application of the Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA).

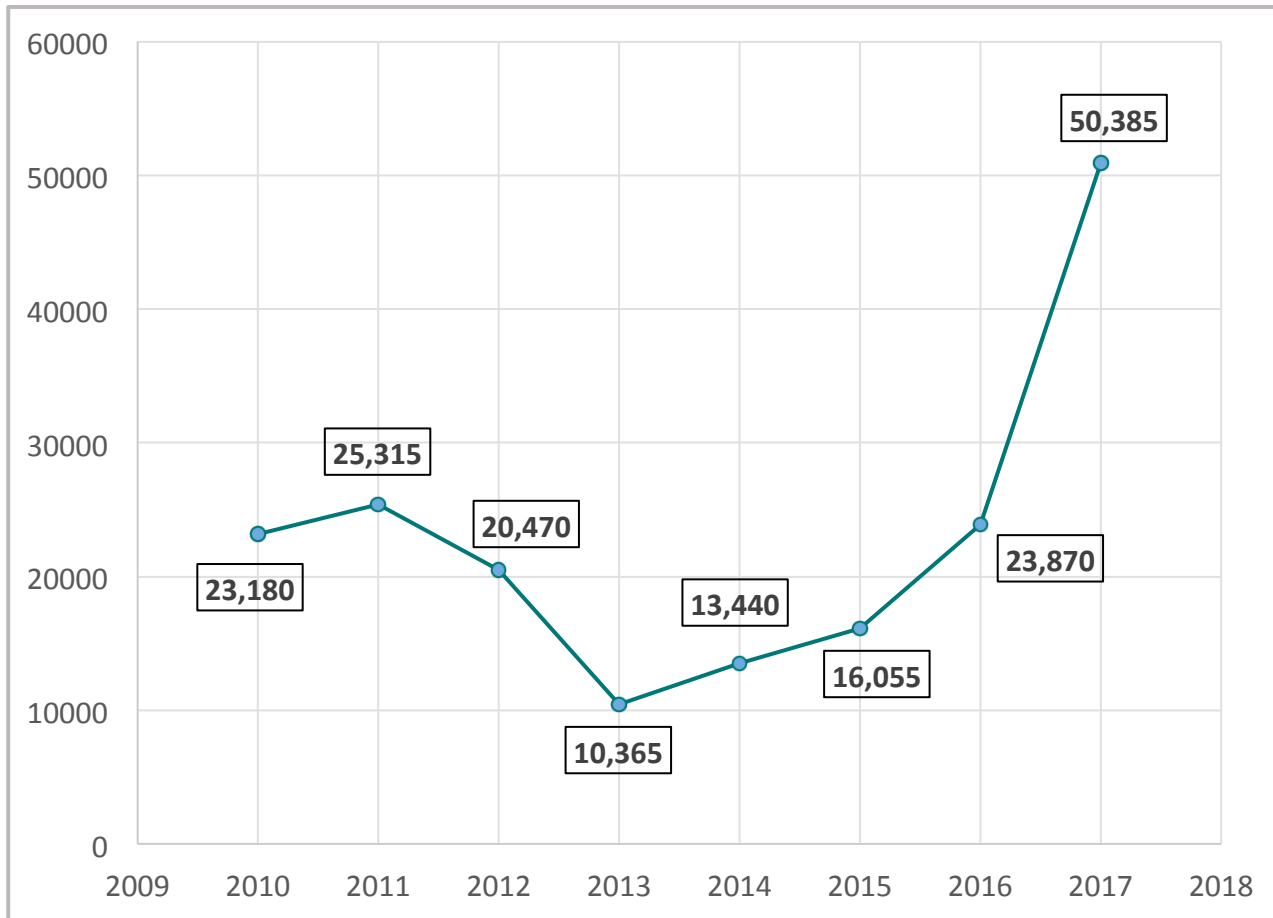
The Safe Third Country Agreement

- The STCA came into force on December 29, 2004.
- Under the Agreement, Canada and the United States cooperate to ensure the integrity of the joint border, and the orderly handling of asylum claims based on the principle, supported by UNHCR, that people must claim asylum in the first safe country in which they arrive after fleeing persecution.
- At the time of negotiations, due to limited technologies, the agreement was designed such that it only applied at land border ports of entry – where border officers could visually confirm entry from the other country.



Recent Irregular Migration and Asylum Trends

Yearly Asylum Intake (2010-2017)



Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Key figures on asylum claims made in Canada – <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum-claims/processed-claims.html>

2016

- **23,870** total asylum claims
- Low number of claims from intercepted irregular migrants

2017

- **50,385** total asylum claims
- Approximately **20,500** irregular migrants intercepted (41% of claims)

2018

(Jan. 1 – Sept. 30)

- **40,645** total asylum claims
- Over **15,700** irregular migrants intercepted (39% of claims)



Impacts of Increased Irregular Migration on Government Operations

In summer 2017, the biggest initial challenge was timely processing and eligibility decisions

- Of the over 50,000 asylum claims made in 2017, approximately 20,500 were made by irregular migrants. Of these claims, 91% were made by asylum claimants who entered near Lacolle, Quebec.
- An inventory of cases began to swell, making it challenging for CBSA and IRCC to keep up with processing in a timely manner. Consequently, it was difficult for claimants to access services.
- To address these issues IRCC:
 - Streamlined processing and opened Innovation Hubs in Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver
 - Implemented a 30-day service standard for work permit processing
 - Provided discretionary Interim Federal Health Program group coverage to asylum claimants entering between ports of entry near Lacolle, QC
- IRCC also explored ways to assist CBSA and the province of Quebec by providing temporary accommodations for the asylum claimants.



Ongoing Challenges related to Increased Irregular Migration

The sustained flows of irregular migrants in 2018 and increased asylum claim intake have resulted in new challenges at the Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels

- Responsibility for asylum claimants is divided between all levels of government.
- At the federal level, a significant backlog of claims is pending at the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. This, in turn, means longer processing time leading to:
 - Those needing protection having to wait longer to start their new life; and
 - Those who do not need protection can delay departure and start establishing
- IRCC maintains its 30-day work permit issuance to reduce pressures on provincial social assistance.
- The federal government's costs for health services continues to grow.
- Provinces and municipalities have also highlighted extraordinary pressures that they are facing as a result of increased intake of irregular migrants:
 - Emergency shelter and affordable housing
 - Legal aid
 - Social assistance
 - Education

**Collaboration
between federal
and provincial
levels of
government is
required to
successfully
manage these
issues**



The Government's Six-Point Plan

The government has developed a 6-point plan to manage irregular migration going forward:

1 Proactive Outreach

4 Border Integrity

2 International Engagement

5 Provincial and Municipal Engagement

3 Operational Readiness

6 International Obligations



Summary

- Asylum claim **volumes have reached historic highs**
- Under the law, anyone claiming asylum in Canada – including those entering between ports of entry – has the **right to due process**
- The Government has taken **targeted measures to address challenges** that have arisen as a result of increased irregular migration and asylum intake
 - Budget 2018 invested \$173.2M to support operations at the Canada-U.S. border and timely processing of claims
 - \$50M in funding made available to support Toronto, Quebec and Manitoba for immediate housing pressures
- Proactive efforts are underway to **plan for future**:
 - National and regional level contingency plans in place – ability to respond to influxes of irregular migrants