



IRCC Evaluation of the Family Reunification Program

An Overview

P2P Presentation

Evaluation and Performance Measurement Division
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
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Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Canada

Presentation Outline

Purpose: To provide an overview of IRCC's evaluation of the Family Reunification Program, including highlights of the methodology, some initial insights, and next steps.

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11 Preliminary Highlights

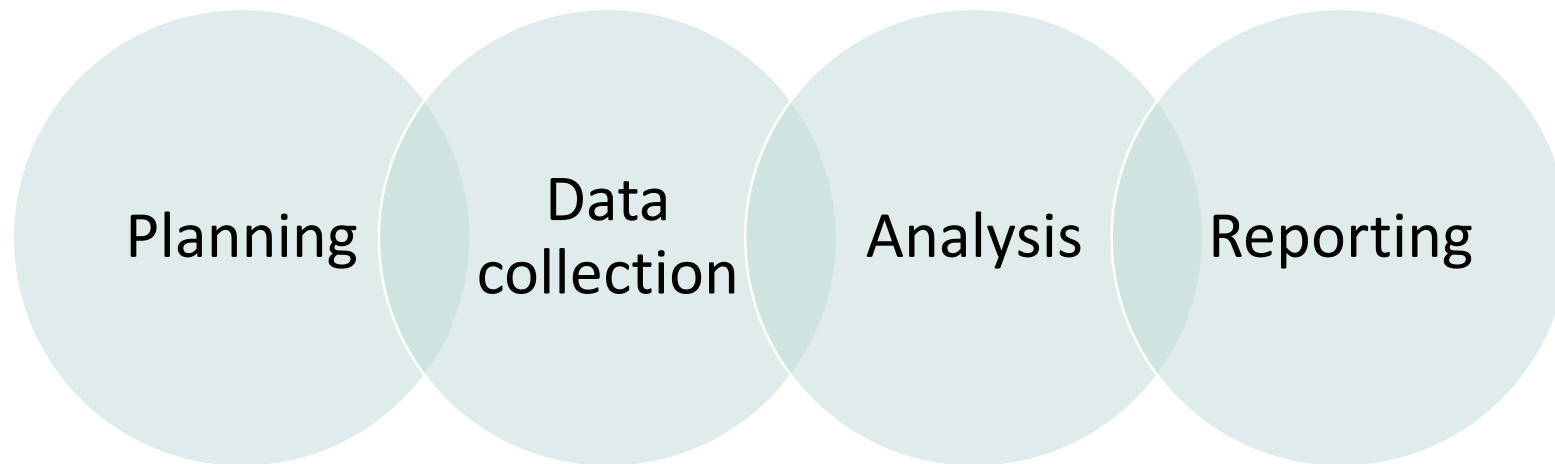
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IRCC Evaluation Function

- The Evaluation function is a specialized departmental unit that plays the key strategic role of providing senior management, program managers, stakeholders, and the public with **objective, timely** and **credible evidence-based findings** on the performance and outcomes of IRCC programs.



- The function is guided by the TBS *Policy on Results* and associated *Directive*.
- All programs within IRCC are required to be evaluated on a cyclical basis.

Family Reunification Program

- **Family reunification** is a longstanding component of Canada's immigration system and permits both recent immigrants and established Canadians to sponsor and be reunited with members of their family.
 - Unlike other immigration programs, eligibility is centered on the relationship to the sponsor, and not on human capital or humanitarian considerations.

Spousal Stream

- Applicants must be the spouse, common-law or conjugal partner of a sponsor

Parents and Grandparents (PGP) Stream

- Applicants must be the parent or grandparent of a sponsor.

Dependent Children Stream

- Applicants must have a biological link to their parent, or are legally adopted by their sponsor.

Other Relatives Stream

- Applicants may only be sponsored under very specific circumstances.

Program Logic Model – looking at expected results

Immediate outcomes

Prospective newcomers and sponsors are equipped with the information that they need to effectively navigate the application process

Timely permanent reunification of bona fide Family Class applicants with family members in Canada

Decisions on family reunification cases are consistent and defensible while maintaining program integrity

Intermediate outcomes

Family Class newcomers are equipped with knowledge, skills and means to successfully integrate in Canadian society

Ultimate outcome

Canada and reunited family members benefit socially, culturally, and economically for Family Class immigration

Evaluation Objectives, Scope, and Focus

The evaluation is being conducted to provide timely evidence and results information in support of Family Reunification policy development and program delivery.

Purpose

The evaluation is assessing the relevance, outcomes and resource utilization of the Family Reunification Program.

Focus

Achievement of social, cultural and economic outcomes of the program; and newcomer and sponsor access to the program, potential barriers, including GBA+ lens, and implications for program delivery.

Scope

The evaluation covered the period since the last evaluation (completed in March 2014) to 2019-20, with an emphasis on most recent years and available data.

Some Program Considerations and Context

- Several years since last **evaluation was completed (2013)** – program evolution...
- While a well-established, well-subscribed, high-profile immigration program, it is not an easy **outcomes story** to always articulate.
 - Family clients run the gamut; **varying profiles** – Spousal vs. Parents and Grandparents.
 - Sponsors are fairly **unique as a program stakeholder** in the immigration spectrum
- **Updating** program results and context
 - Looking more into the **intention and reason** for sponsoring/applying/reuniting.
 - Testing several lines of inquiry, **providing more current evidence**, what are the drivers
 - Eg: PGPs come to support childcare
- Increased departmental emphasis on **“non traditional” contributions** and other aspects of program outcomes
 - Eg: Indirect economic contributions, which are hard to quantify, yet very topical

Evaluation Questions We Pursued

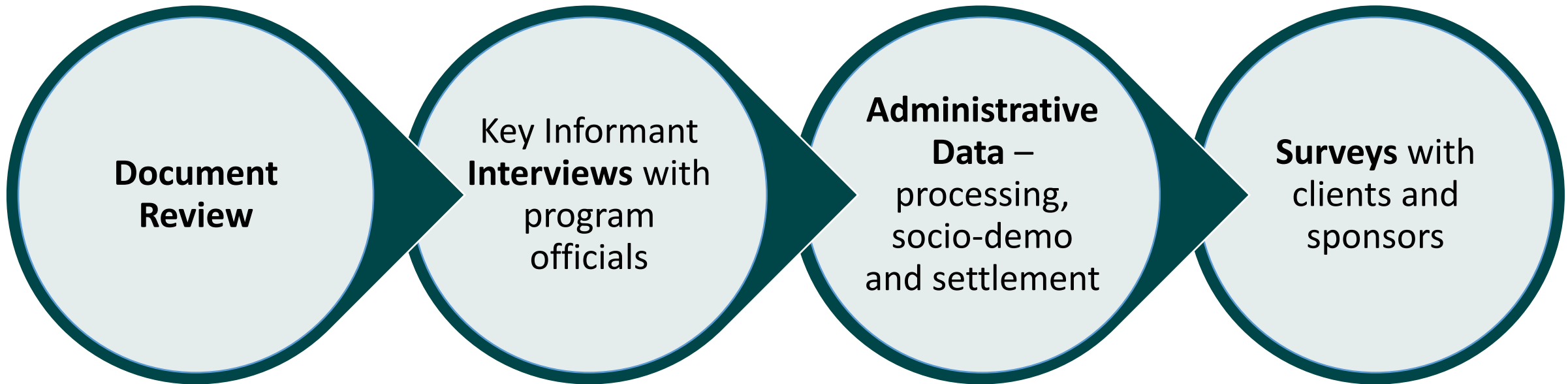
Through the evaluation data collection and analysis, we are hoping to answer the following questions and provide an overall results story for the Family Reunification Program

The evaluation questions are focusing primarily on:

- **Continued need** of the program and the value-added for Canada and reunited families
- Clients' ability to effectively **navigate** the application process
- **Barriers** faced in relation to gender and other GBA+ considerations with regards to program eligibility and application processing
- **Social, cultural and economic benefits** for Canada and reunited families
- Support of **Super Visa** to the outcomes of the PGP program.

Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation team applied a mixed-method approach, using several data collection and analysis tools to assess the evaluation questions:



Evaluation Surveys – A Closer Look

Survey of PGP Sponsors

- Sent to 47,382 individuals, with **8,441 responses** (response rate of 18%).

Survey of PGP Clients

- Sent to 57,500 individuals, with **5,613 responses** (response rate of 9.7%)

Survey of Spousal Sponsors

- Sent to 200,031 individuals, with **30,484 responses** (response rate of 15.2%)

Survey of Spousal Clients

- Sent to 212,972 individuals, with **33,277 responses** (response rate of 15.6%).

- Surveys were undertaken to get the **perspectives of sponsors and clients** on a wide variety of topics
 - Including socio-demographic information, employment, indirect economic outcomes, settlement services awareness and uptake, ease of application, reasons for applying.
- Surveys were **translated** and **administered online** in multiple languages.
 - **High response rates** allow for the results to be analyzed in numerous ways, including GBA+.
- Some **challenges** with administering the survey, including immigration consultant emails, and skip patterns to increase uptake

Some Takeaways

Overall:

- **Varying** results and expected outcomes exist among the two groups – results for the Family Reunification Program are nuanced.
 - Spousal and PGP need **their own results stories**
- Despite not being an ‘economic stream’, there is still an **economic value** (both direct and indirect) that clients in the Spousal and PGP programs provide.

Methodological:

- Reaching the population is difficult, particularly due to the use of **immigration consultants and lawyers** reducing the number of available emails.
 - Multiple language emails are key to reduce barriers to responding to the survey
- Everyone who received the survey arrived in Canada before **COVID-19** restrictions. This provides a particular perspective - may not be reflective of recent program realities.
 - Caution when interpreting, analyzing and presenting results.

Next Steps



Questions?

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Where to find completed IRCC evaluations

English: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/reports-statistics/evaluations.html>

Français: <https://www.canada.ca/fr/immigration-refugies-citoyennete/organisation/rapports-statistiques/evaluations.html>