

London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee – Media Relations Protocol

LDRRAC is a Council advisory committee, and as such members are not designated City spokespersons. LDRRAC members therefore should not make official public statements on behalf of the committee nor the Corporation of the City of London. The committee can however play an important role in alerting, advising and recommending communications action. As diversity-related issues arise, which LDRRAC feels may warrant an official public statement by the City of London, the following protocol will be observed by LDRRAC members to promote the delivery of timely, insightful and responsive communication:

- Committee member contacts LDRRAC Chair and Vice-Chair to advise of the situation and recommendation for an official public statement by the City of London
- LDRRAC Chair and Vice-Chair review recommendation and consult with LDRRAC members as required for subject matter expert information or perspective
- LDRRAC Chair or Vice-Chair contacts the Director of Corporate Communications to provide the recommendation and offer of support in the development of the official public statement
- As applicable, LDRRAC Chair or Vice-Chair participates in the development of the official public statement, involving LDRRAC members as required for subject matter expert information or perspective
- LDRRAC Chair or Vice-Chair keeps LDRRAC members abreast of above steps

The above does not preclude LDRRAC members making public statements on issues in the context of their own personal opinion or affiliation with another group. The LDRRAC member must take great care however to ensure such statements are clearly presented as not affiliated with LDRRAC or the City of London.



**PATHWAYS TO
PROSPERITY**
Promoting Welcoming Communities in Canada



**LONDON & MIDDLESEX
LOCAL IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP**



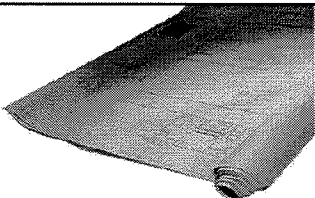
Western
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Recent Changes to Immigration Policy in Canada

Victoria Esses

University of Western Ontario

London and Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership
Pathways to Prosperity Pan-Canadian Partnership



Outline

- Why the changes?
- Economic class immigrants
- Family class immigrants
- Refugee claimants
- Temporary foreign workers and international students
- Citizenship
- Conclusions

Why the Changes?

- Huge backlog in some immigration categories
- Economic immigrants were having increasing difficulty obtaining jobs commensurate with their qualifications
- Perceived fraud and abuse of the system: e.g., refugee claimants, marriage fraud

Federal Skilled Workers

- Cancelled list of approximately 280,000 workers waiting for approval - return of backlogged applications and fees: July 2012
- New criteria: as of May 2013
 - List of eligible occupations (e.g., engineers, physiotherapists) or valid offer of employment
 - Increased language requirements as demonstrated by a language test from an approved agency
 - Focus on youth
 - Foreign education credential assessment from an approved agency **

Federal Skilled Workers

- On the Horizon: to be in place by 2014
 - Expression of interest model in which employers will be able to recruit from a pool of pre-screened applicants

Federal Skilled Trades

- New stream: launched in January 2013
- Criteria:
 - List of eligible occupations: skilled trades (e.g., carpenters, plumbers, crane operators)
 - Must have an offer of employment or a certificate of qualification from a province or territory
 - Must meet a basic language requirement
 - Must have two years of relevant work experience

Family Class Immigrants

- Spousal sponsorship: as of October 2012
 - Old system: citizen or permanent resident could sponsor a spouse who then entered Canada as a permanent resident
 - New system: entering spouse has conditional status for 2 years - if the relationship ends within that time, the sponsorship is withdrawn and the entering spouse loses his/her conditional permanent resident status and must leave Canada

Family Class Immigrants

- Parents and grandparents: as of December 2011
 - Temporary moratorium on new applications
 - Introduction of Super Visa which allows parents and grandparents to enter as visitors for up to 2 years at a time over a 10 year period – must have private health insurance
- On the Horizon: January 2014
 - New, more stringent criteria for sponsoring parents and grandparents - 30% increase in minimum necessary income, sponsorship undertaking period extended from 10 years to 20 years

Family Class Immigrants

- On the Horizon: January 2014
 - Change in the maximum age for dependents - will be set at 18 years of age and under

Refugee Claimants

- Major changes to Canada's asylum system (Bill C-31): as of December 2012
 - Designated countries of origin: list of countries considered to be safe (e.g., Australia, Belgium, but also Mexico, Hungary) – expedited hearings, no access to appeal
 - Minister of Public Safety can designate the arrival of a group as an “irregular arrival” – mandatory detention, can't apply for permanent resident status for 5 years even if found to be legitimate refugees
 - Faster removal of failed refugee claimants: within a year of the decision

Refugee Claimants

- Changes to Interim Federal Health Program: June 2012
 - The IFHP provides temporary health-care coverage to individuals who do not yet qualify for provincial or territorial health insurance plans
 - Reduced health care coverage for certain categories of refugees (e.g., refugee claimants who are from designated countries of origin)

Temporary Foreign Workers

- Numbers have increased rapidly since 2006: Now more temporary foreign workers than economic immigrants each year (currently approximately 330,000 TFWs in Canada)
- Changed from primarily targeting high-skilled workers to include many low-skilled workers as well
- Requirement that employers demonstrate that they have tried and failed to find qualified Canadians and permanent residents to do the work – controversial!

Temporary Foreign Workers

- For a while employers could pay TFWs 15% less than the prevailing wage for the same work – rescinded April 2013
- Can work in Canada for a maximum of four years – will Canada end up with more “illegals”?
- Some highly skilled TFWs are able to transition to permanent resident status through the Canadian Experience Class

International Students

- Numbers have increased rapidly: Over 100,000 entered Canada in 2012
- Loosening of rules for working off-campus and post-graduation: initiated in 2008
- Canadian Experience Class: introduced in 2008
 - International students with Canadian educational credentials from a recognized post-secondary institution, English or French skills, and skilled work experience can apply for permanent residency

Citizenship

- Changes to citizenship criteria: 2011- 2012
 - Language requirement - proof of knowledge of English or French
 - Tougher test questions and higher pass mark – failure rate increased from about 5% to 20%
 - Differences in success rates seem to depend on education levels and potentially native language
 - Requirement to take the citizenship oath with an uncovered face

Conclusions

- Rapid changes in the last 5 years
 - Increasing focus on economics
 - Attempts to reduce “abuse of the system”
 - More changes are on the horizon
- We do not yet know all of the consequences of these changes, both positive and negative



For Further Information:

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IMMIGRANT CATEGORIES AND CHANGES TO REFUGEE CLAIMS



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Citizenship and
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada

Canada

AGENDA

I. Overview

- Immigrant categories
- Eligibility Criteria
- CIC Settlement Program - Logic Model

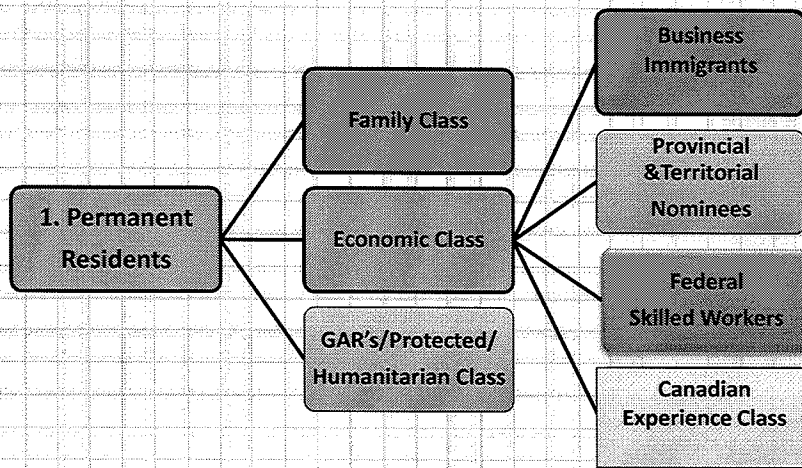
II. Settlement Services

- CIC Settlement Programs
- SLNRC Programs and Services

II. New Refugee Determination System

Permanent Residents

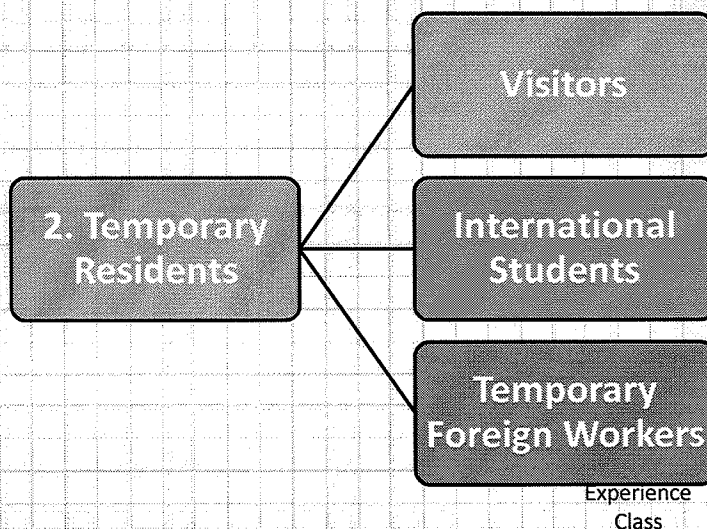
The immigration system is divided into two parts:
Permanent Immigration and Temporary Residents



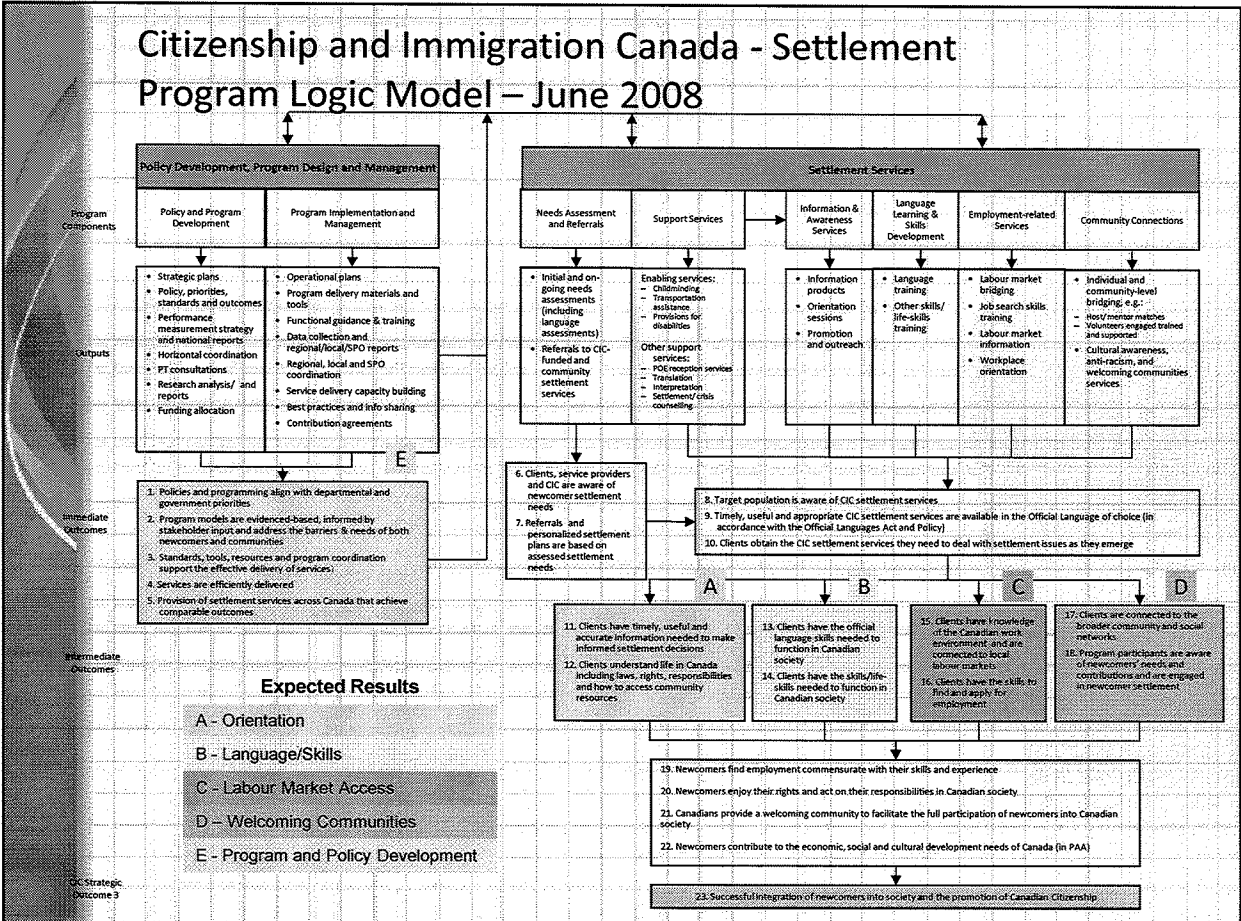
Total number of permanent residents in 2010 : 281,000

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2011/2011-02-13.asp>

Temporary Residents



Total number of TFW in 2010 : 182,000



Description of Streams

- Needs Assessment & Referrals:**
Determines eligibility for services, and assesses newcomers' needs, resources, strengths and barriers.
- Information & Awareness Services :**
Provides newcomers and prospective immigrants with access to accurate, timely information about life in Canada.
- Employment-Related Services:**
Supports employment related programming for newcomers
- Community Connections:**
Supports newcomers in their social engagement efforts, and engages communities in supporting the full participation of newcomers.
- Support Services:**
Increases newcomers' access to settlement services by providing child minding, and/ or transportation assistance.

SETTLEMENT SERVICES

- Orientation
- Welcoming Communities
 - Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)
 - Library Settlement Partnership (LSP)
 - Community Connections
- Labour Market Access (JSW)



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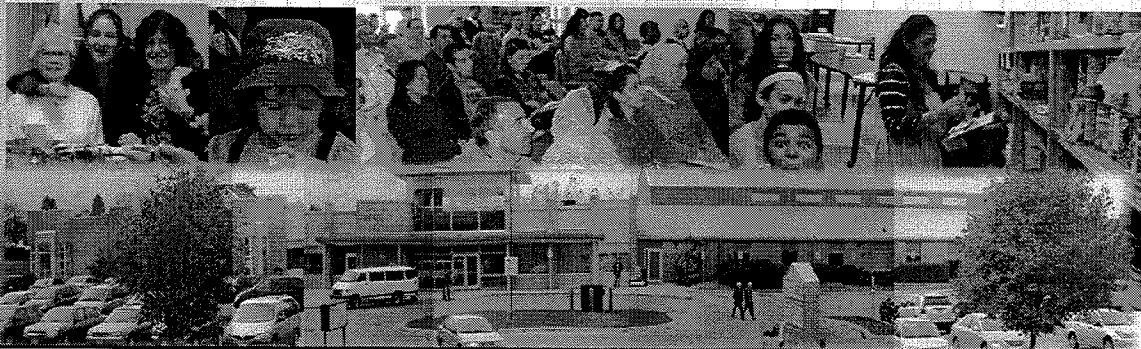
Eligibility Criteria

Immigration Status	Coordinated Language Assessment and Referral System (CLARS)	ESL (Board of Education)	Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)	Childcare	Labour Market Access (JSW)	Orientation	Welcoming Communities (LSP/WIS, Community Connections)
Refugee Claimant	Yes	Yes (18 yrs+)	No	No	No	No	Yes
Convention Refugee	Yes	Yes (18 yrs+)	Yes (18 yrs+)	Yes (Age 1.5 yrs-5 yrs)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Government Sponsored Refugee and Private Sponsored Refugee	Yes	Yes (18 yrs+)	Yes (18 yrs+)	Yes (Age 1.5 yrs-5 yrs)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Permanent Residents	Yes	Yes (18 yrs+)	Yes (18 yrs+)	Yes (Age 1.5 yrs-5 yrs)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Citizenship Holders	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes

South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre (SLNRC)



- Families First
- Youth Services
- Volunteer Services
- Basic Needs
- Settlement Services



SLNRC (Contd...)

Other Programs/Services at South London Community Centre:

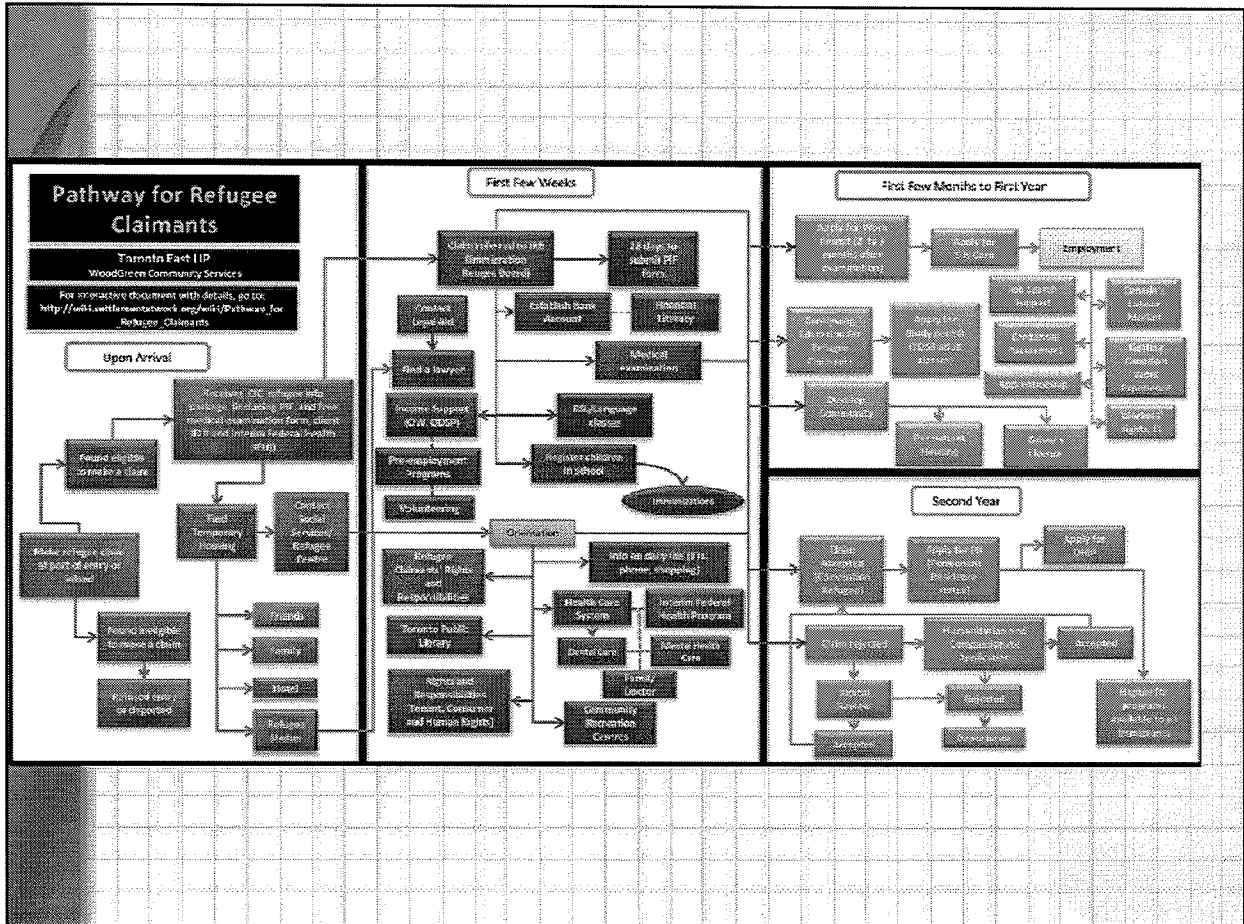
- Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- London and Middlesex Health Unit
- City of London Spectrum Recreation Programs
- Jalna Branch Library

New Refugee Determination Systems:

- New In Land Refugee Claim System
- DCO/Non-DCO
- Information on IFH changes
- Resource links for more information

Background

- December 15, 2012: The Balanced Refugee Reform Act & Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act amended the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act & Balanced Refugee Reform Act



In-Land Refugee Claims

- At port of entry:
- No more PIF → BOC (Basis of Claim)
 - Claimant will not get BOC back until after claim has been deemed eligible

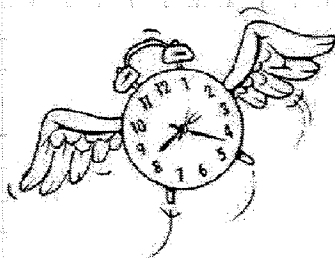
In Land Refugee Claims Time Frame Changes

- 15 days to file BOC
- If not filed: Abandonment Hearing



In Land Refugee Claims Time Frame Changes

- DCO = 30-45 days after referral of the claim to the IRB
- Non-DCO= within 60
- Hearings to be held sooner



In Land Refugee Claims Designations

- Introduction of DCO/Non-DCO designations
- DCO: Designated Country of Origin
 - Assigned by Minister of CIC
 - Based on rate of refugee production

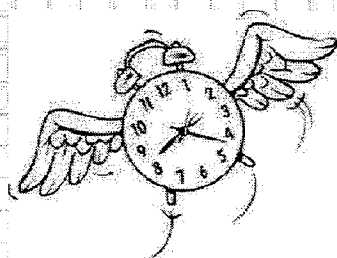


Designated Countries of Origin

- | | | |
|------------------|--|----------------------------|
| • Australia | • Iceland | • Poland |
| • Austria | • Ireland | • Portugal |
| • Belgium | • Israel (excludes Gaza and the West Bank) | • Slovak Republic |
| • Croatia | • Italy | • Slovenia |
| • Cyprus | • Japan | • Spain |
| • Czech Republic | • Latvia | • Sweden |
| • Denmark | • Lithuania | • Switzerland |
| • Estonia | • Luxembourg | • United Kingdom |
| • Finland | • Malta | • United States of America |
| • France | • Mexico | |
| • Germany | • Netherlands | |
| • Greece | • New Zealand | |
| • Hungary | • Norway | |

Implications of DCO status

- Shorter time-frame for preparing before hearing
- Stricter limits to IFH service-use
- No access to work-permits



IFH Changes

- Some classes of refugees, such as government-sponsored refugees, continue to receive extended health benefits such as drug coverage, limited dental and vision care, home care and some counseling services.
- Other refugees or failed refugee claimants get virtually no benefits, not even vaccinations, unless they pose a danger to public health or are homicidal

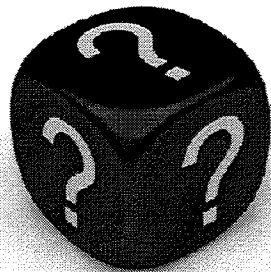
SOURCE:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/ifhp-info-sheet.asp>

Resources

- http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/?page_id=78
- <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2012/2012-08-15/html/sor-dors154-eng.html>
- <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/summary-ifhp.asp>

THANK YOU



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