

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, September 10, 2026

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Committee Room
Coquitlam City Hall
3000 Guildford Way
Coquitlam, BC

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, July 23, 2026

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Multicultural Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, July 23, 2026 be approved.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- 2. Immigration Canada (Presentation by Miryana Heath, Planner Analyst, Planning and Development)**
7:05 - 7:35 p.m. (30 minutes)
- 3. 2026 Year-End Review / 2027 Work Plan Development (Verbal Update by Jenny Lush, Director Partnerships and Planning, and Victoria Elahi, Planner 1)**
7:35 - 8:05 p.m. (30 minutes)
- 4. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**
8:05 - 8:25 p.m. (20 minutes)

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD

ADJOURNMENT

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 23, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair
Councillor Matt Djonlic, Vice Chair
Parmis Bagher Zadeh, Citizen Representative
Honore Gbedze, Citizen Representative
Ann Johannes, Citizen Representative
Edgar Sanchez, Citizen Representative
Bibi Singh, Citizen Representative
Lucie Wee, Citizen Representative

ABSENT: Tina Balachandran, Citizen Representative (regrets)
Leo Chen, Citizen Representative
Carolina Echeverri, Citizen Representative
Nikki Kasravi, Citizen Representative (regrets)
Bitia Rezaei, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Jennifer Keefe, General Manager Community Services
Manisha Dutta, Senior Manager Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
Victoria Elahi, Social Planner
Kate Brown, Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist
Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, May 14, 2026

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, May 14, 2026 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

2. Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2026-2029

The Senior Manager Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and the Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist gave a presentation entitled “Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2026-2029” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Suggestion to implement signage on micromobility routes, shared multi-use pathways, and sidewalks encouraging safe and prescribed uses of e-scooters to maintain accessibility for other users.
- Suggestion to explore cultural barriers to accessing City services as a future Work Plan item for this committee.
- Suggestion to consider leveraging new technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), to support and enhance accessibility, as well as promoting access to and literacy in such technologies as they become more prevalent.
- Suggestion to hold an Accessibility Month or implement an Accessibility Ambassador program to inform the community further of issues and supports.

In response to committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- Plain language documentation is an evolving leading practice implemented in multiple ways; for example, while the designed version of this Plan includes plain language verbiage, the plain language version is further compatible with screen reader assistive technology.
- Emergency preparedness is considered in the Plan with an action related to inclusive emergency communications.
- The Community Services department undertakes a number of actions to ensure cultural accessibility of services; for example, women-only pool access is provided on statutory holidays and religious attire accommodations are provided for and role-modelled by recreation instructors.
- School playgrounds are the responsibility of the School District, which is also a prescribed organization under the *Accessible British Columbia Act* requiring its own accessibility plan, and with which the City liaises on accessibility matters.
- The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) division works with Information and Communications Technology division when the City on-boards new technologies to ensure barriers are resolved and not newly created; AI may be incorporated in future strategies.
- Reports of barriers can be submitted via online form, email, phone, or in-person and, upon receipt, the EDI Division will investigate and refer to the appropriate department while ensuring ongoing communication with the submitter; these submissions are critical to identifying issues and are strongly encouraged.

- The EDI division and Community Services department collaborate to recognize National Accessibility Week in last week of May with an AccessAbility Resource Fair.

3. Departmental Staff Updates

The General Manager Community Services gave a verbal update regarding the Welcome to Coquitlam event held on June 17, 2026. It was the first year since the pandemic that the event was held. There were approximately 250 attendees with many new to the community or the country. The event was well received, particularly the connection to community organizations, and further feedback from the committee is welcome.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of staff implementing the event in a short time-frame this year and support to continue the event with its reimagined purpose and focus.
- Appreciation of the outdoor activities, particularly for children and youth engagement.
- Appreciation of engagement with Fire Rescue Services, RCMP, and the library.
- Suggestions to increase engagement including reinstating prize draws that connect visitors to Mayor and Council, promoting presentations within the venue and timing them for peak attendance, encouraging a welcoming demeanour from staff and volunteers, focusing periods of the event on specific audiences, and hosting live musical acts.
- Suggestions to increase attendance including selecting a consistent day each year and minimizing conflict with other City events, promoting the event throughout the year, ensuring event information is readily searchable online, and sharing information through community and religious organizations.

Lucie Wee left the meeting at this point and did not return (7:44 p.m.).

- Suggestions to manage attendance and capacity including staggering group attendees facilitated by community organizations and opening the event to additional floors of City Hall.
- Suggestions for topics and organizations to involve within a service-focused approach including networking and job opportunities, waste management and bear awareness, organizations serving women in transition or other populations who have emerging needs, and Indigenous communities.

4. Committee Members' Roundtable / Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging issues and information regarding events occurring in their communities.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Report that Caribbean Days will be held this weekend in Town Centre Park.
- Report that funding for English language courses at Immigrant Services Society of BC has reached critical lows, and that the City has advocated for funding from higher orders of government.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Thursday, September 10, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

City of Coquitlam
Planning and
Development
2026

Immigration British Columbia

Data doc #6322848

    
coquitlam.ca/

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Immigrant Definition

Immigrant refers to a person who is, or who has ever been, a landed immigrant or permanent resident. Such a person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Immigrants who have obtained Canadian citizenship by naturalization are included in this group.

In the 2021 Census of Population, 'Immigrant' includes immigrants who were admitted to Canada on or prior to May 11, 2021.

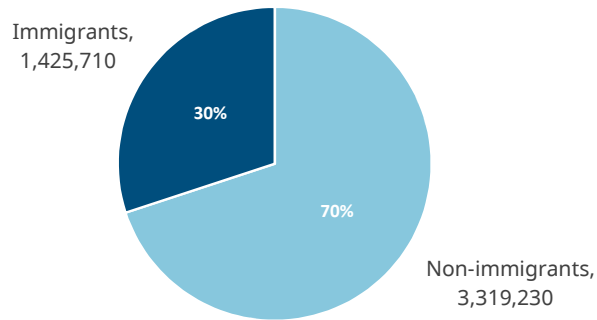
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Data source: 2021 Census Canada
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/ref/dict/az/Definition-eng.cfm?ID=pop221>

1

British Columbia population* 2021: **5,000,879**

2021 Census: BC immigration



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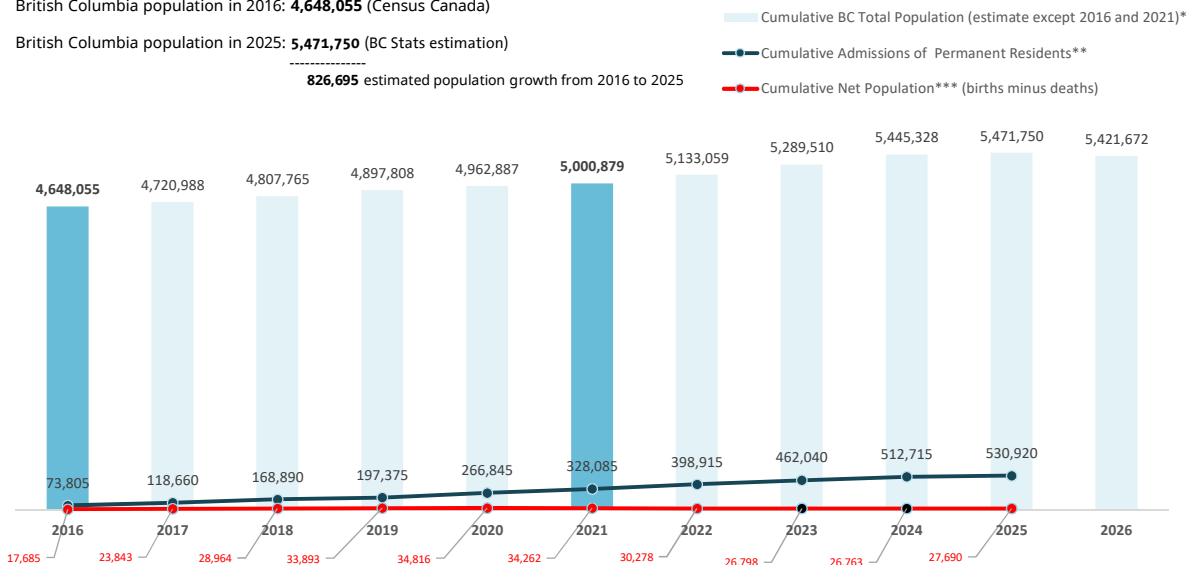
*Data source: 2021 Census Canada
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/search-recherche/productresults-resultatsproduits-eng.cfm?Lang=E&GEOCODE=2021A000259>

2

British Columbia population in 2016: **4,648,055** (Census Canada)

British Columbia population in 2025: **5,471,750** (BC Stats estimation)

826,695 estimated population growth from 2016 to 2025



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Data source:
 *BC Stats Population Estimates BC Population Estimates & Projections
 **IRC, May 31, 2026 Permanent Residents - Monthly IRCC Updates - Open Government Portal
 ***Statistics Canada DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710005901-eng>

3

Admissions of permanent residents in British Columbia

1. Economic Immigration (60%, from 61% in 2025)

Economic immigration involves various programs designed to attract **skilled workers, entrepreneurs, and investors** to contribute to the Canadian economy. These programs are primarily focused on helping individuals meet labor market needs, establish businesses, or invest in Canadian industries, ultimately benefiting the country's economic growth and development.

2. Family Class Programs (28%, same as 2025)

Family immigration, specifically through the Family Sponsorship program, allows Canadian citizens and permanent residents to **sponsor close relatives** for permanent residency. This program aims to reunite families and ensure that sponsored relatives can live, work, and study in Canada.

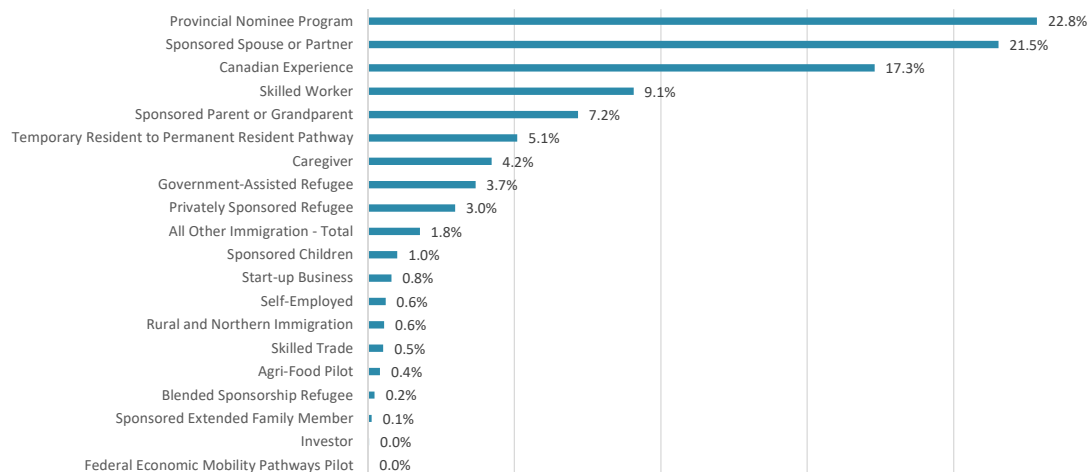
3. Refugees and Protected Persons (10%, from 9% in 2025)

Refugee immigration involves two primary pathways: **resettlement** and **refugee claims**. Refugee resettlement refers to individuals who are outside Canada and are selected for resettlement by the Canadian government through various programs. Refugee claims, on the other hand, are made by individuals inside Canada or at the border who seek protection from persecution.

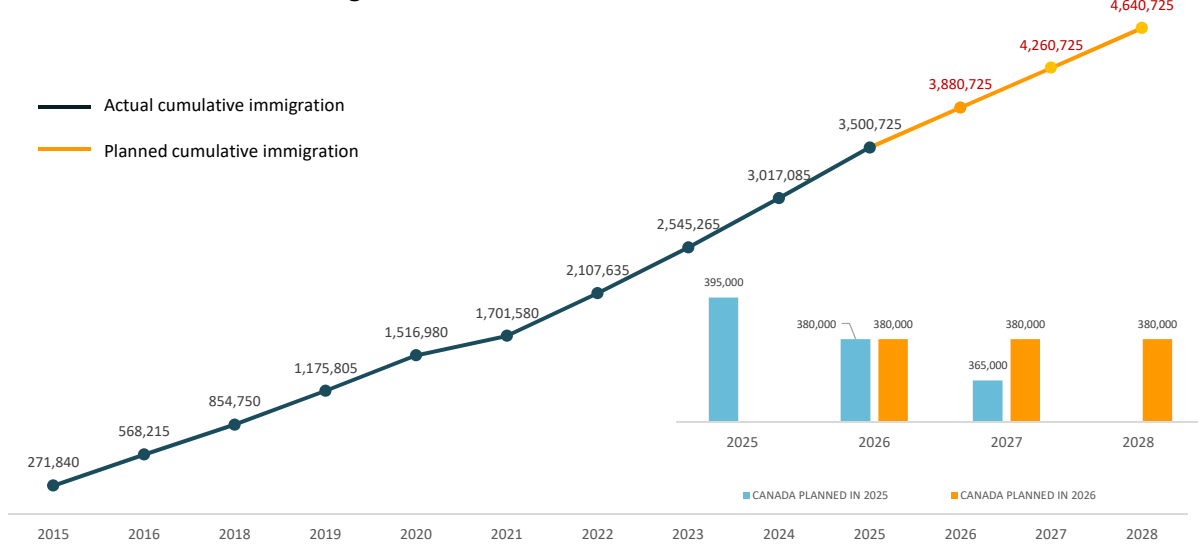
4. Other (2%, same in 2025)



British Columbia Admissions of Permanent Residents by Province/Territory by Subcategory, January 2015-2025



2015-2028 Cumulative Immigration for all of Canada

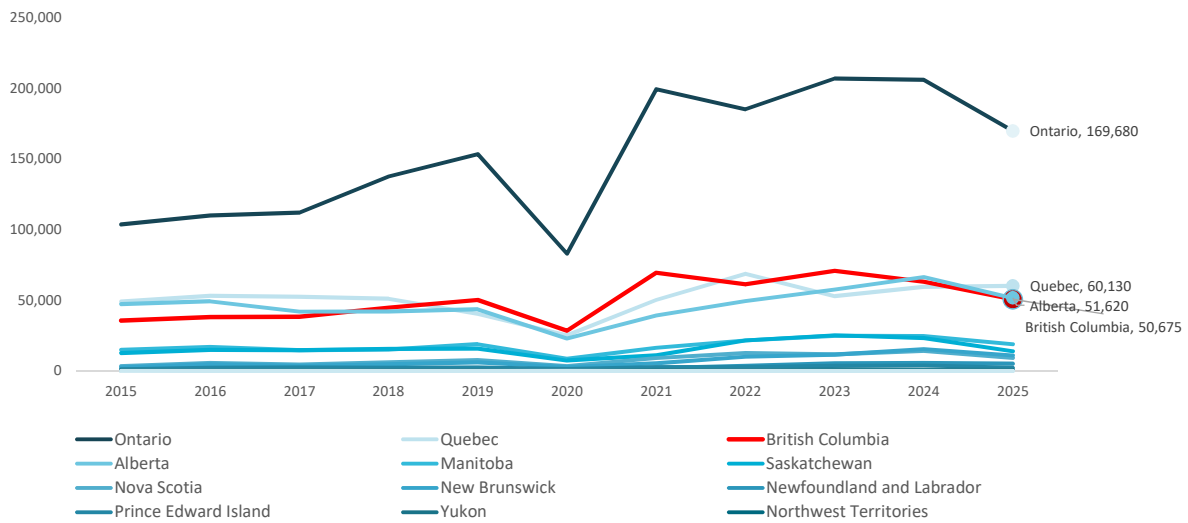


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6

Canada – Yearly Admissions of Permanent Residents by Province/Territory of Intended Destination January 2015 - December 2025

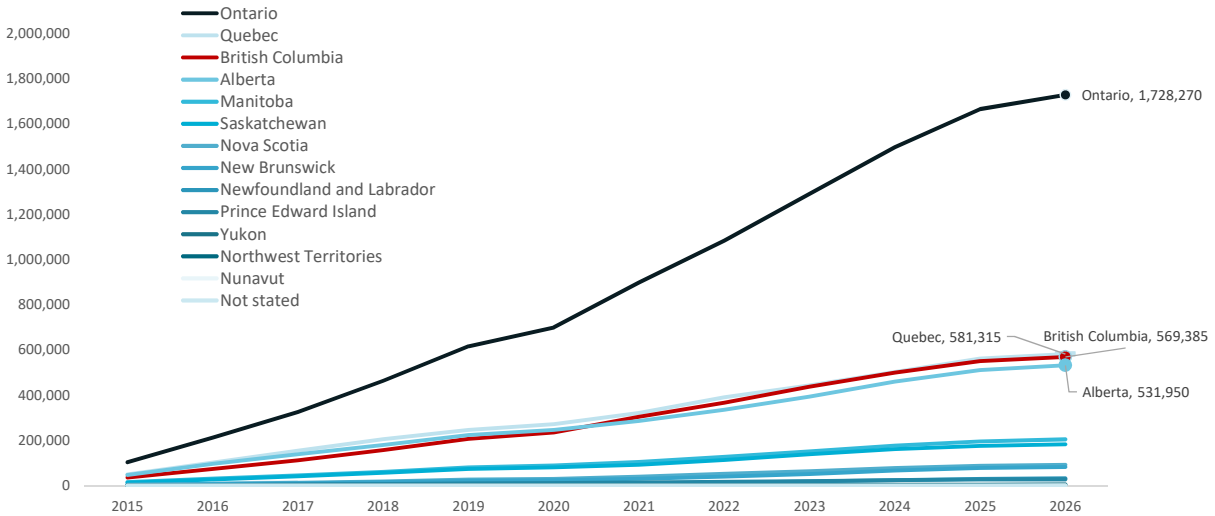


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7

Canada - Admissions of Permanent Residents by Province/Territory of Intended Destination
January 2015 - December 2025

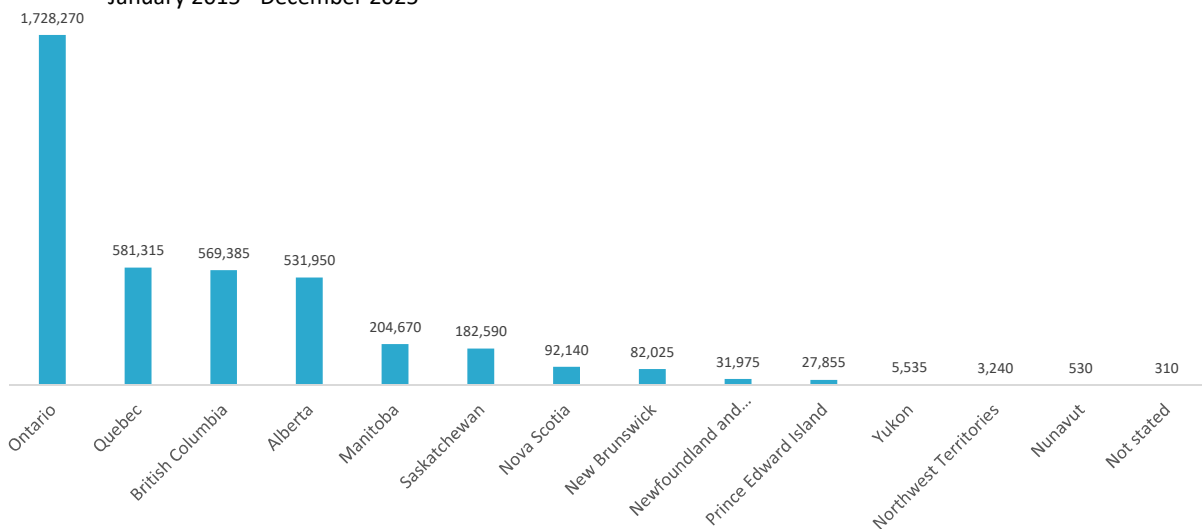


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IRC, May 31, 2026 [Permanent Residents - Monthly IRCC Updates - Open Government Portal](#)

8

Canada – Total Admissions of Permanent Residents by Province/Territory of Intended Destination
January 2015 - December 2025



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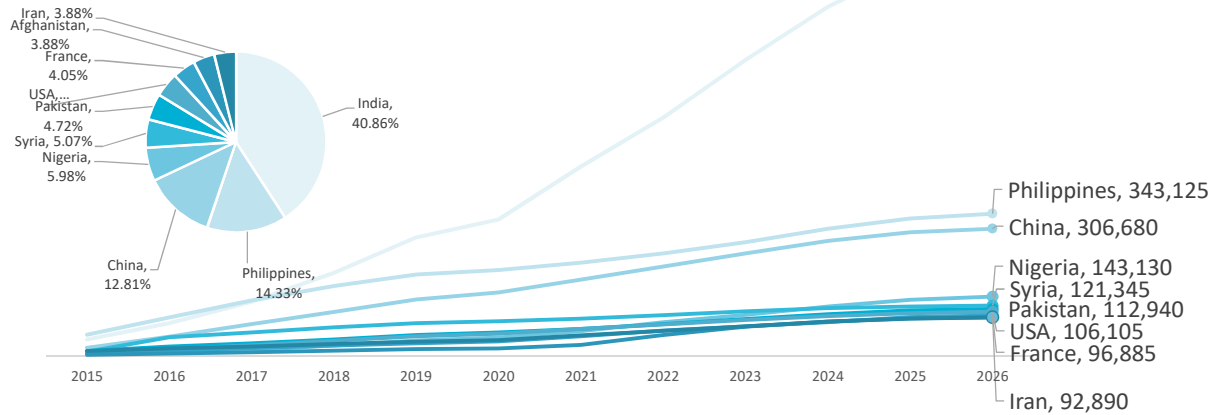
IRC, May 31, 2026 [Permanent Residents - Monthly IRCC Updates - Open Government Portal](#)

9

Canada - Admissions of Permanent Residents by Country of Citizenship

January 2015 - May 2026

Percent of total admissions
for all of Canada 2015-2026

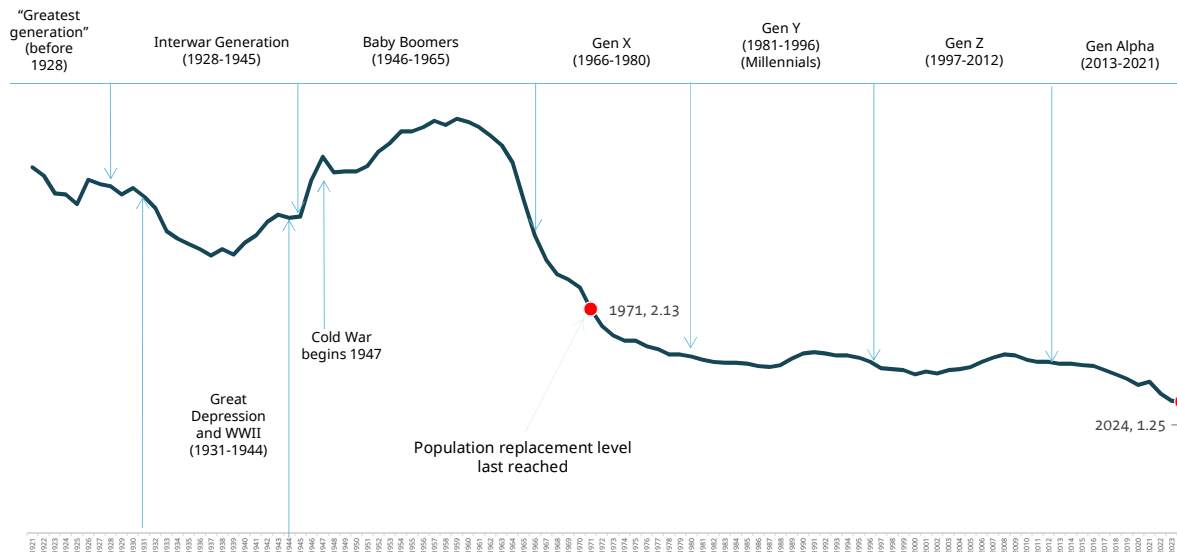


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10

Canada's Total Fertility Rate



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Data source: Statistics Canada

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91f0015m/91f0015m2024001-eng.htm>

11

Questions?

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12

Thank you

    
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