

Immigration

INNER CITY VOTES

2019 FEDERAL ELECTION



What's Happening?

Canada has been accepting about 300,000 newcomers a year since 2015. This may seem like a lot but it represents less than 1% of Canada's population. Newcomers contribute to the social and economic growth of Canada. In recent years, immigrants have made up as much as 90% of labour force growth. This is important as Canada has a largely aging population that needs a strong base of new workers to pay the taxes that support our social safety nets.

Why is This Happening?

Many Canadians do not support increased immigration because they fear what they do not know. Some use immigration to stoke fears with claims of increased crime rates. However, numerous research studies have shown that immigrants including refugee claimants have lower rates of criminal activity and incarceration than more established Canadians.

Others will claim that newcomers are too costly and only want to take advantage of our social programs. Through immigration, Canada's economy has grown by 2.2% annually over the past 5 years. Without immigration, 26.9% of the Canadian population will be 65 years and over by 2040. In the decades to come, economic growth is expected to average 1.9% assuming Canada continues to gradually increase its inflow of newcomers. However, if Canada does not welcome any immigrants over the next 20 years, Canada's economic growth will slow to an average 1.3% annually.

Immigrants do not drain of social programs but rather are net contributors. Immigrants boost trade ties between Canada and the world. They strengthen culture and diversity. They are motivated, innovative and entrepreneurial. Canada needs a useful and well-organized immigration system that is both fair and straightforward.

Questions to Ask

- What is your understanding of why people come to Canada?
- What is your party's position on newcomers, both refugees and immigrants? Are you for or against increased immigration and why?
- What is your understanding of the role of immigration in supporting the future tax base?
- How will your party create opportunities for newcomer and immigrants to better settle and contribute to the Canadian economy?
- Will your party accept more refugees to increase immigration levels in Canada?

