

How do provinces influence immigration laws and policies?

WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION

In this section you will read about:

- A map describing where immigrants settle in Canada.
- Point-form notes about ways provinces influence immigration.

What are you looking for?

As you read this section, look for:

- Facts about the regional distribution of immigrants.
- How the distribution of immigrants affects the quality of life of Canadians.
- How federal immigration laws attempt to respond.

Yolande James is *Ministre de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles* (Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities) in Québec. Immigration is a responsibility of Canada's federal government. **Think critically:** Why do you think Québec might have its own immigration minister? What other provinces have their own immigration ministers?



How does immigration affect Canada's cities and regions?

Use the information on pages 188 to 191 to consider some of the impacts immigration has on Canada.

HOW TO ASK GEOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Geographic questions explore how people and their physical surroundings affect one another. They help you learn more about issues because they make you inquire in new ways. They help you connect issues to the physical world, and draw conclusions about your surroundings.

When you examine the map and chart on the next page, start digging into geographic connections with these questions:

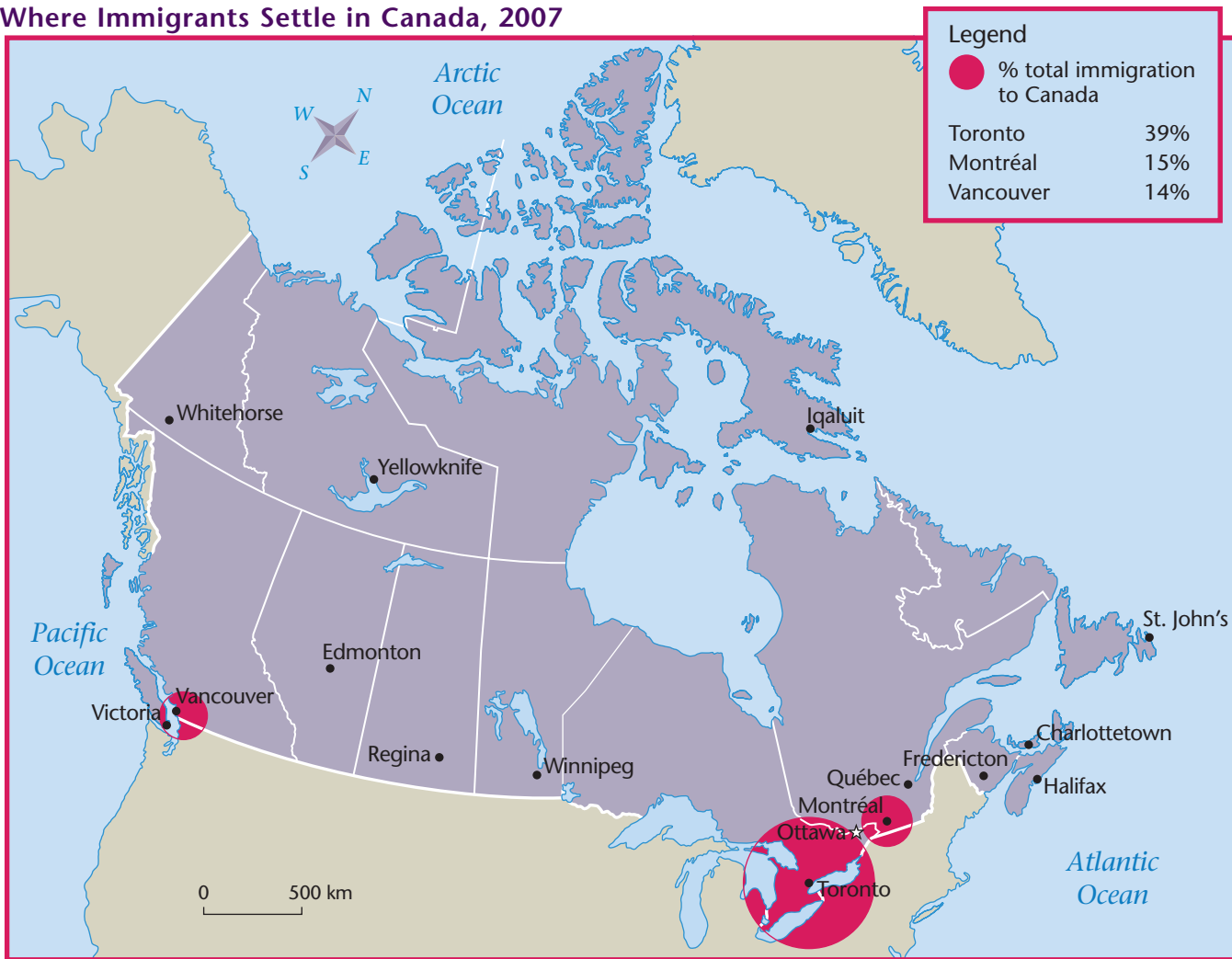
- How do the map and charts relate to each other?
- How do they relate to immigration?
- What immigration patterns or trends do you see that affect cities and regions?
- How does where immigrants settle create opportunities and challenges for cities and regions?
- How does this affect the quality of life of Canadians?
- What conclusions can you draw about the physical effects of immigration on cities? Think about environmental impacts. Think about the cost of roads and sewers.
- What other geographic problems does the information suggest?



Alone or with a partner, focus on one geographic question that you identify on pages 188 to 191. Include geographic data presented in maps and charts to clarify the question. **Check pages 345 to 348 of the Skills Centre for tips on creating and interpreting maps and charts.** Create a short multimedia presentation that explores the issue from three different perspectives.



Where Immigrants Settle in Canada, 2007



This map shows the top three locations where immigrants settled in Canada in 2007. The rest of Canada, taken together, received 32% of total immigration. To find out more about immigration to Alberta, see page 190.

Toronto: Population and Area

Census Year	Population	Area (km ²)
1981	2 998 947	3742.94
1986	3 427 165	5613.71
1991	3 893 046	5583.51
1996	4 263 757	5867.73
2001	4 682 897	5902.74
2006	5 113 149	5903.63



One objective of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act 2002 is to share the economic benefits of immigration across all regions of Canada. Based on the map and chart, how well has Canada achieved that goal?



CRITICAL THINKING CHALLENGE Why might immigrants to Canada not choose to settle in Toronto, Montréal or Vancouver? Why might they choose other cities in Canada? Why might they choose to settle in rural areas?

In what ways can provinces influence and implement immigration policies?

Provinces control some aspects of immigration, in an attempt to make sure immigration fits and meets their needs.

Provincial Nomination Program

- Under the Provincial Nomination Program, provinces can “nominate” a percentage of the immigrants Canada selects each year. This means, for example, that Alberta can specify that it needs immigrants with particular skills.
- The program also allows some provinces to set up their own immigration offices in foreign countries.
- Governments in Canada can't require immigrants to settle in particular places or work in particular jobs. The Provincial Nomination Program increases the likelihood that immigrants will settle in the provinces whose labour needs match their skills.

Iris Evans was Alberta's Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry in 2007. Employment and immigration are linked to industry because industry creates jobs that need workers.



Alberta currently receives about 20 000 immigrants annually and I expect the expanded Provincial Nomination Program will help increase and speed up the flow of immigrants and help address our labour shortage. Alberta needs the right workers, at the right time, with the right skills.

— Alberta Government press release, “Expanded program will help increase immigration flow,” May 22, 2007.

connect to the big ideas

1. Alberta wanted to “speed up the flow” of immigrants in 2007 for economic reasons, because of a boom in oil sands development. To what extent has the situation changed or remained the same to the present?
2. What issues related to immigration might economic changes create?
3. Including employment, immigration and industry in one ministry portfolio — the portfolio of Iris Evans in 2007 — is an example of a government policy. What does this policy reflect about the objectives of government concerning immigration?

What workers does Alberta need?

Alberta’s Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry said in 2007 that Alberta was facing labour shortages. **Examine the chart on this page. What parts of Alberta’s economy faced labour shortages?**



If you were responsible for setting immigration priorities for Alberta, how would the information in the chart on the right influence you? What skills would you ask the federal government to target in immigration?

Businesses and services reporting worker shortages in Alberta, 2006

Economic sector	Percent reporting worker shortages
Construction (e.g., carpenters, roofers)	98
Transportation (e.g., truckers, bus drivers)	91
Manufacturing (e.g., chemical engineers)	89
Resource development (e.g., heavy equipment operators)	86
Retail (e.g., sales staff)	85
Hospitality (e.g., hotel staff)	78
Agriculture (e.g., farm labourers)	68
Education, Health, Social Services (e.g., teachers, nurses, doctors, mental health workers, social workers)	58
Overall in Alberta	84

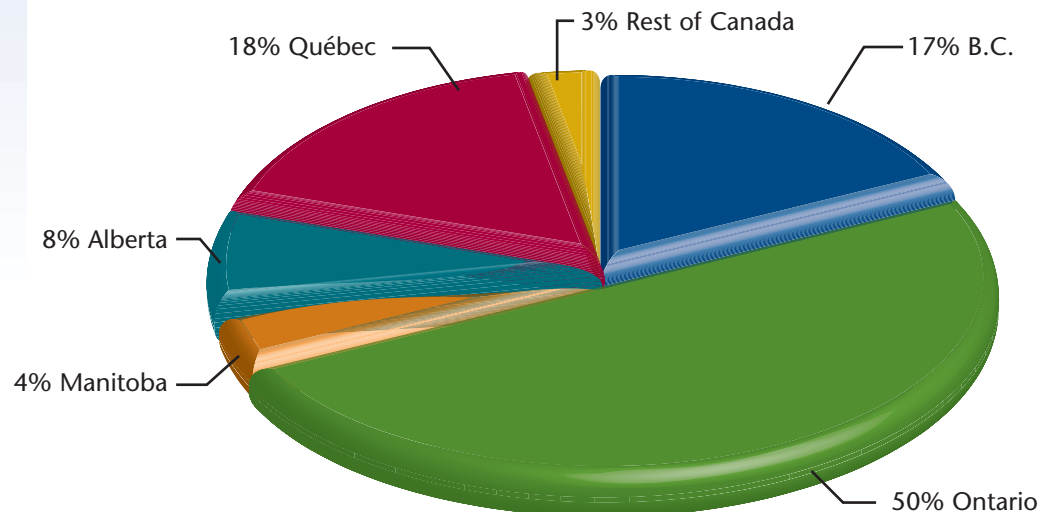
— From a survey by the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, 2006.



What challenges face Alberta without enough immigrants? How can Aboriginal peoples be part of a solution to meet labour shortages? How do these questions connect to your quality of life as someone living in Alberta?

What percentage of immigration to Canada does Alberta receive?

Immigration by province and territory, 2006



Canada-Québec Accord

- The Canada-Québec **Accord** is a specific agreement with Québec.
- Under the accord, Québec can nominate the percentage of immigrants to Canada that corresponds to its population within Canada.
- The accord also allows Québec to require immigrants who settle in Québec to send their children to French-language schools.
- Under the Canada-Québec Accord, Québec seeks immigrants whose first language is French. Every year, about 75 percent of French-speaking immigrants to Canada settle in Québec. Overall, more non-Francophone immigrants settle in Québec than Francophone immigrants.

accord: a formal agreement



Based on the information on this page, how does the Canada-Québec Accord attempt to strengthen the French language in North America? Consider what you learned about the rights of official language groups under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in Chapter 4. How does the accord reflect those rights?

Under the Canada-Québec Accord, Québec has an immigration office in this city: Damascus, Syria. Many people in the Middle East, where Syria is located, have some knowledge of French, because France controlled parts of the Middle East during the twentieth century. Canada's government endorses recruiting French-speaking immigrants from Syria and other countries of the world. **Think critically:** How might immigrants from the Middle East help affirm Francophone identity in Canada?

connect to the big ideas

1. How does the Canada-Québec Accord offer ways for Québec to affirm the use of the French language? Identify two specific ways.
2. Based on the information you have learned, to what extent is the Canada-Québec Accord beneficial to Québec and beneficial to Canada?