



# GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE ALBERTA SETTLEMENT SECTOR

## JUNE 2018

Immigration to Alberta and the number of refugees the province welcomes on a yearly basis has increased in recent years. From April 2017 to March 2018, **39,360 Permanent Residents** (PRs) arrived in Alberta, a 16.8% decrease from the previous fiscal year (47,305 PR landings). Of those newcomers, 81% (31,880) settled in the urban centres of Calgary and Edmonton while 19% (7,475) settled in small cities, towns, and rural areas.<sup>1</sup>

Calgary	17,025	Camrose	100
Edmonton	14,855	Okotoks	110
Wood Buffalo	1,095	High River	120
Red Deer	895	Cold Lake	100
Lethbridge	675	Lacombe	95
Grande Prairie	495	Wetaskiwin	70
Brooks	355	Strathmore	55
Medicine Hat	350	Sylvan Lake	50
Lloydminster	160	Other	2,595
Canmore	155	<b>Total</b>	<b>39,360</b>

The majority (54%) of PRs who landed in Alberta were economic immigrants. 33% of newcomers were reunited with their families as family class immigrants. Refugees sponsored by the government, privately, or both accounted for 9% of PR arrivals.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Canada – Admissions of Permanent Resident by Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Intended Destination, 2015-2018," [Government of Canada](#).

<sup>2</sup> "Canada – Admissions of permanent resident by province/territory of intended destination and immigration category," [Government of Canada](#).



<b>Total</b>	<b>39,360</b>
Economic Class	21,115
Family Class	12,900
Government-Assisted Refugee	1,380
Privately Sponsored Refugee	2,075
Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugee	95
Humanitarian Class	1,185
Other	600

Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) supported immigration and refugee settlement services in Alberta during **fiscal year 2017-2018 with \$125.3 million** in funding. In allocating funding, IRCC distinguishes between full-service major urban centres (Edmonton and Calgary) and small centres that serve major communities (Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Lloydminster, Jasper, Banff, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Brooks). Of the funds allocated to Alberta for 2017-2018, **85% reached urban centres** while **15% facilitated settlement in small centres**. Together, these funds underwrote the work of 82 Contribution Agreements (CAs) and 58 Service Provider Organizations (SPOs).

In **urban centres 50% of funding supported Language Training** – delivered primarily in face-to-face classes – and **Language Assessment**. **44%** of IRCC funds in Edmonton and Calgary were devoted to **settlement programs** such as Needs Assessments and Referrals (NARs), Information & Orientation Services (IO), Community Connections (CC), and Settlement Workers in School (SWIS). 3% of funds each were directed at Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) and the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP).

In **small centres, 55% of funding targeted settlement programs** while **36% targeted Language Training**. In small centres, Language Instruction for Newcomers (LINC) is delivered in-person in Fort McMurray, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Brooks, and Grande Prairie, and is available online to students elsewhere. A larger share of funding than in urban centres, 6%, supported LIPs. 4% of funds for small centres supported the RAP.

IRCC's 2017-2018 allocation of \$125.3 million to Alberta (39,360 PR landings) can be compared to that received by other western provinces. In the last fiscal year, IRCC contributed \$101.7



million in funding to British Columbia (39,990 PR landings), \$35.1 million to Saskatchewan (14,840 PRs), and \$44.4 million to Manitoba (14,180 PRs).

In November 2017, the Government of Canada announced its intention to admit one million new Permanent Residents to Canada between 2018 and 2020. The 2018-2020 Immigration Levels Plan sets targets of 310,000 new PRs in 2018, 330,000 in 2019, and 340,000 in 2020. Across these three years, 58% of new PRs are expected to enter in the economic class, 27% in the family class, and 5% will be refugees or protected persons.<sup>3</sup>

Though IRCC has not released projected immigration figures for each province under the Immigration Levels Plan, the Government of Alberta expects the number of immigrants arriving in the province to increase by approximately 3,500 by 2021. These newcomers will help bolster Alberta's population growth at 1.6%, above the national average of 1%.<sup>4</sup>

For the **2018-2019 fiscal year, IRCC has allocated \$132.1 million** in funding toward settlement services in Alberta, a 5.4% increase from 2017-2018. The federal government's commitment to admitting one million new PRs from 2018-2020 will require IRCC to continue expanding its funding commitment to settlement agencies in Alberta to keep pace with the projected increase in PR arrivals.

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<sup>3</sup>“Notice – Supplementary Information for 2018-2020 Immigration Levels Plan,” [IRCC](#), November 1, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> *Fiscal Plan: Budget 2018: A recovery built to last*, [Government of Alberta](#), 109-110.