

SUMMARY REPORT

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN CANADA: TRENDS IN FEDERAL FUNDING

This document summarizes the information provided in the report *Immigrant and Refugee Settlement in Canada: Trends in Federal Funding*, authored by Dr. Jennifer Braun and Dr. Dominique Clément, in partnership with Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN) and the Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (AAISA).

Landing rates in Canada reached a historic high in 2016 (296,370) with the influx of Syrian refugees (Figure 1). Historically, the highest numbers of newcomers have often settled in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. However, this is changing. In 2017, 34% of *Economic Class* immigrants settled outside of these three provinces and outside of its biggest cities (Toronto, Quebec, and Vancouver), compared to just 10% in 1997.

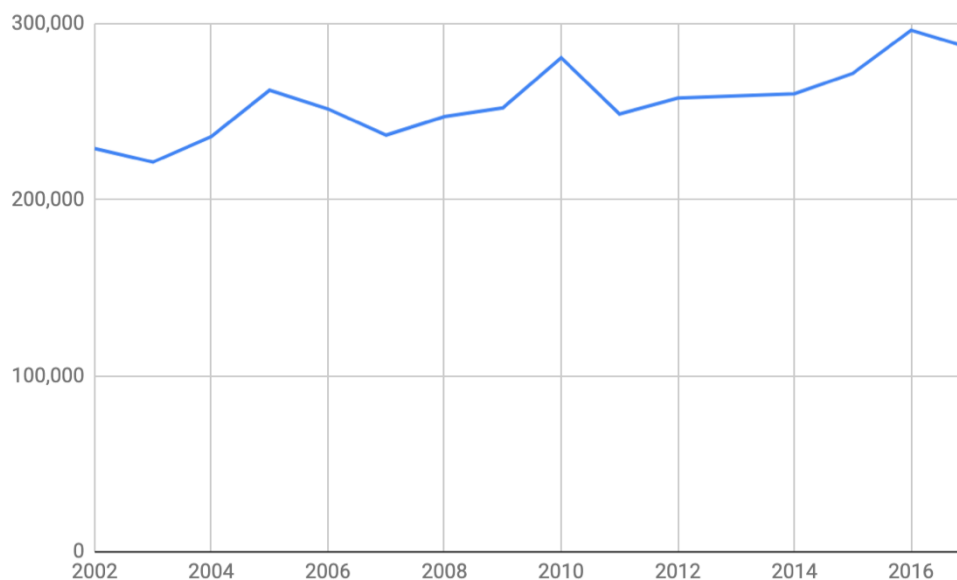


Figure 1.

Landing rates in Atlantic Canada have grown the fastest, followed by the Prairies, especially in Alberta. Numbers in Alberta have grown so much that between 2013 and 2017 they surpassed the landing rates in British Columbia (Figure 2). This trend has not continued for 2018-2019. However, though the number of landed immigrants is levelling out and slightly declining,

Alberta’s settlement sector has grown significantly in the last fifteen years on (relatively) limited resources. For instance, on average Alberta continues to accept almost double the number of *refugees* and *humanitarian class* immigrants compared to British Columbia (Figure 3 & 4). Compared to *economic* and *family class* immigrants, *refugees* generally need more services and assistance in their settlement and integration process due to the complexity of their needs.

Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta

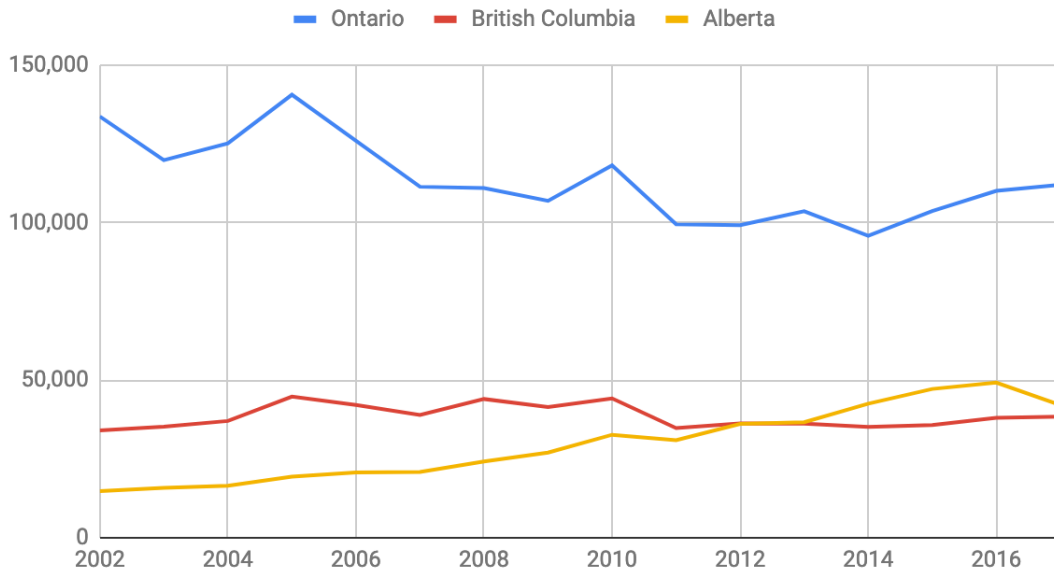


Figure 2.

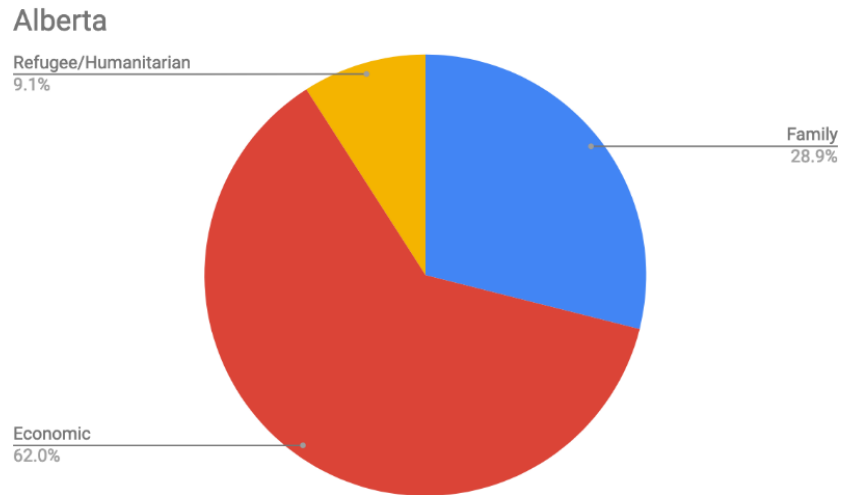


Figure 3.

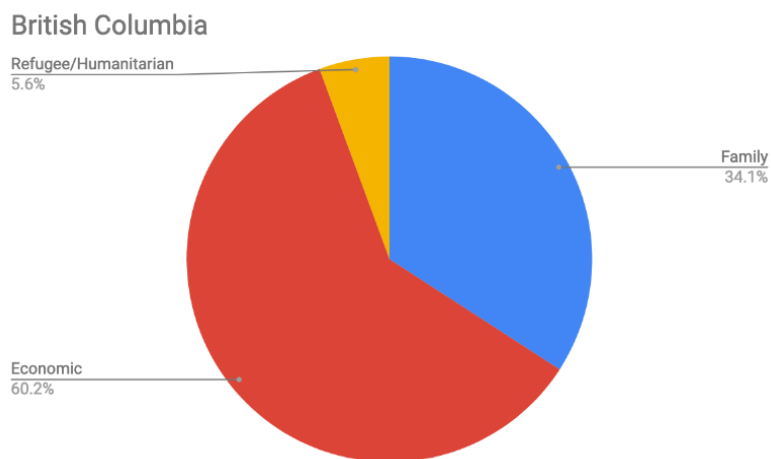
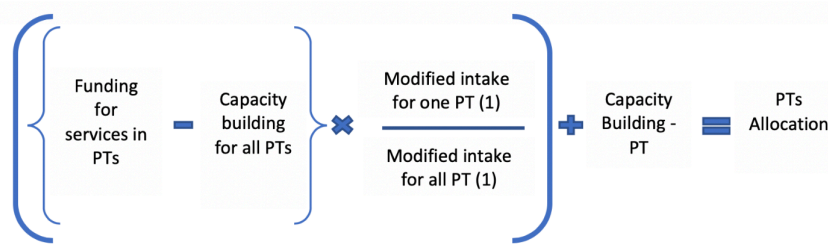


Figure 4.

Funding for provinces and territories is allocated based on the National Settlement Funding formula. The formula determines the level of funding for each province based on the share of newcomers that land in every province and territory, with additional weight for refugees (Figure 5). In 2018, close to 62% of IRCC’s budget (\$3.95 billion) was allocated through grant and contribution funding or agreements with service providers across Canada. However, determining how this is distributed between the different provinces and territories is challenging, due to the complexity of funding arrangements and agreements.

Figure 9: National Settlement Funding Formula¹⁴



- (1) Modified intake = average of (Global intake * 1.5 x Refugee Intake) for 3 calendar years
- (2) PT = Provinces and Territories

Figure 5.

Between 2000 and 2005 funding for Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta remained relatively stable. However, between 2005 and 2010 funding for Ontario increased approximately by 400%, while landing rates decreased by 16%. This increase is related to the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) that was reached between the federal and provincial government in 2005.

In Western Canada, funding rates have been consistently higher in BC, up until 2015 where funding rates were almost the same for the two provinces, even though landing rates in Alberta were still higher (Figure 6). In addition, funding rates per capita increased between 2000 and 2016 but federal funding per capita for Alberta was one of the lowest in the country until 2017¹ (Figure 7).

¹ It is unclear whether the funding per capita considers the differences in cost of living per province, and it is also unclear whether the funding formula takes this into account.

Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta

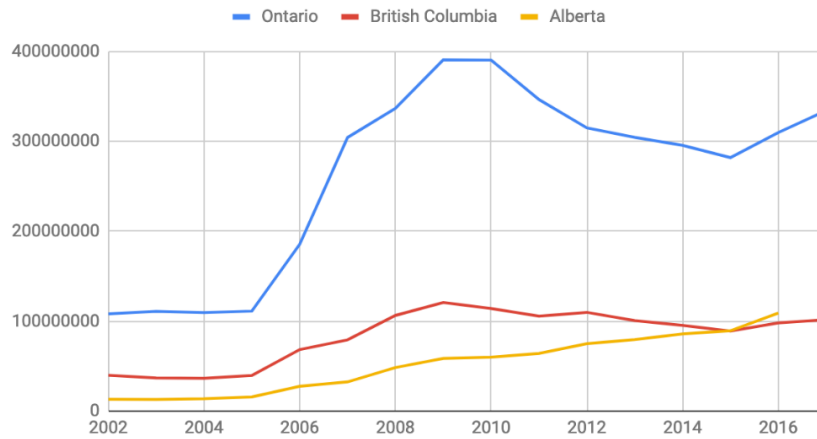


Figure 6.

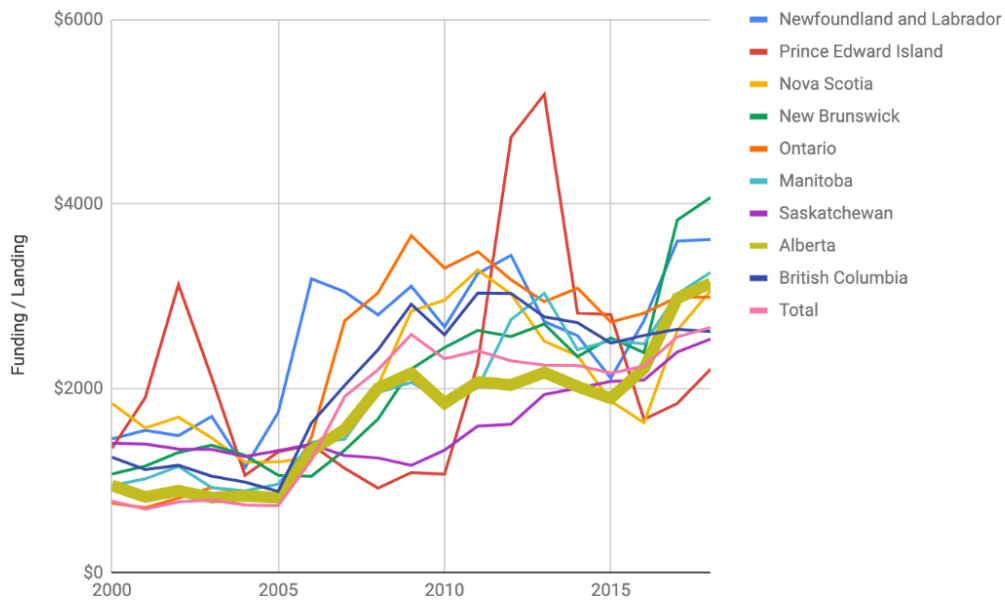


Figure 7.

Over the past two decades, total transfer payments from IRCC have increase from \$6 million (1997), to \$1.6 billion (2017)². Overall, the partnerships between the federal government and newcomer serving agencies have continued to grow, and as a result, there has been tremendous

² With the exclusion of Quebec



stimulation and growth in the sector. Agencies in Ontario receive the largest portion of federal funding, followed by British Columbia and Alberta. In 2010, it was almost entirely Ontario service providers that were among the top funded agencies. However, this seems to be changing as now service providers in Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan are receiving larger portions of funding.