

The Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship
Teachers' Workshop 2017
Contextual Information
**"2017-2018 Departmental Plan for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Canada"**

Minister's message

I am pleased to present the 2017–2018 Departmental Plan for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

Our 2017–2018 Departmental Plan provides parliamentarians and Canadians with information on what we do and the results we are trying to achieve during the upcoming year. To improve reporting to Canadians, we are introducing a new, simplified report to replace the Report on Plans and Priorities.

The title of the report has been changed to reflect its purpose: to communicate our annual performance goals and the financial and human resources forecast to deliver those results. The report has also been restructured to tell a clearer, more straightforward and balanced story of the actual results we are trying to achieve, while continuing to provide transparency on how tax payers' dollars will be spent. We describe our programs and services for Canadians, our priorities for 2017–2018, and how our work will fulfill our departmental mandate commitments and the government's priorities.

As this report indicates, we will continue to facilitate the legitimate entry of visitors, economic immigrants, sponsored family members and those in need of refugee protection, while guarding the health, safety and security of Canadians.

Canada's immigration plan has many facets. It reunites families and offers protection to displaced and persecuted people while working to attract top global talent that will contribute to our economy.

Through increased immigration levels we will bring more people to Canada who can contribute to our economic growth. This will help ease the challenges of a shrinking labour force and an ageing population. It will also help reduce application backlogs.

While Canadian workers are among the most educated and skilled in the world, Canadian businesses need access to talented workers from around the world. Our Global Skills Strategy will facilitate the faster entry of applicants with unique skills who will help innovative Canadian companies create jobs for Canadians. We will work with Employment and Social Development Canada to make improvements to the temporary foreign worker program, including further developing a pathway to permanent residency.

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We will target highly-skilled immigrants through Express Entry, the system we use to manage economic immigration to Canada. Recent changes to Express Entry will help us select those talented immigrants who can help strengthen Canada's competitiveness in the global economy. We will also review our visa policy to better promote economic growth while ensuring program integrity.

IRCC is committed to an immigration system that strengthens the Canadian middle class through economic growth that will help build vibrant, dynamic and inclusive communities. We are also committed to the humanitarian tradition we are known for around the world.

We will monitor our changes to Family Sponsorship to make sure these application are processed as quickly as possible. And as we did with Syrian refugees, welcoming more than 37,000 since November 2015, we will continue to resettle vulnerable people from around the world.

In addition, we will make adjustments to the in-Canada asylum system to ensure that asylum claimants have fair and timely access to hearings, while maintaining the integrity of the system.

We must make sure that newcomers to Canada receive the services and supports they need to fully integrate into Canada's cultural and economic life. We will work closely with our non-governmental stakeholders and partners to enhance settlement services. Increasingly this will be in the form of Pre-Arrival Services, which help newcomers arrive in Canada better prepared to live and work here.

And because the majority of newcomers show their attachment to Canada by applying to become citizens, we will continue to improve the citizenship application process so that newcomers can become citizens more quickly.

We learned many things from our efforts to resettle Syrian refugees, including the value of innovation. One of our goals for the coming year is to find innovative ways to improve the service experience for those who apply. We want to make our application and processing systems faster, more straightforward and to improve the overall applicant experience, while maintaining the integrity of our programs.

Our plans for the coming year are ambitious. They reflect the belief that Canada has been shaped by the generations of newcomers who have helped make this country what it is today. Our strong commitment to diversity and our welcoming attitude have

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set us apart as a people who value the contribution of every individual and community across our country.

Our success in the coming year will depend on the talent, dedication and expertise of all those who work at IRCC. I would like to thank them for their guidance and support, and for all of the hard work that they do for Canadians, and for those who aspire to become Canadians.

As Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, I am confident that the plans described in this report will support the Government of Canada's commitment to building a strong immigration system that is grounded in compassion and economic opportunity for all, while continuing to protect the health and security of all Canadians.

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Plans at a glance

According to the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#) report entitled [Recruiting for Success: Challenges for Canada's Labour Migration System \(PDF, 1.44 MB\)](#), Canada is viewed as a model for successful immigration policies and practices. Immigration has been a source of strength for Canada, and is a key pillar in the Government's focus to enhance diversity in our country and to grow the Canadian economy. In order to ensure a continued contribution to the Government's efforts, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has identified a number of priorities to guide its work over the coming year.

Priority: Economic growth

IRCC operates with the goal of ensuring that Canada's immigration system facilitates economic innovation and growth in the country. Some of the planned work under this priority includes:

- Manage an immigration levels plan that aims to admit 300,000 new permanent residents in 2017—a higher-than-average target—which will be achieved in collaboration with employers, stakeholders and provinces and territories. This target will include a higher-than-average goal of resettling 25,000 refugees, which is double the number resettled in 2014 and preceding years.

Priority: Humanitarianism

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Canada has a long history of offering protection to individuals and families that are displaced and persecuted. The Department will continue with efforts to assist individuals in need of resettlement.

- Implement enhancements to the asylum system to improve how it provides fair and timely protection decisions, while continuing to ensure that the integrity of the system is maintained.