

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION IN *Canada* AND *Manitoba*

There are two main forms of immigration to Canada: temporary and permanent.

Temporary immigration includes visitors, students and temporary workers.

Permanent immigration is divided into three main categories: economic immigration, family reunification, and humanitarian and compassionate immigration. Economic immigration accounts for the largest number of immigrants to Canada. In 2017, **56%** of the country's permanent

immigration was in this category, **29%** was family class and **15%** was humanitarian.

While economic immigration is the highest, it still meets very strict selection criteria.

Individuals cannot immigrate to Canada if they do not demonstrate that they have the education, work experience, language skills, and funds to settle and support themselves without outside help upon arrival.

BY THE

numbers

BY ROMAIN TELLIEZ

In 1870, the population of Canada consisted primarily of three groups: approximately **102,000** First Nations people, **1** million French and **2.1** million British, for a total population of **3.6** million people. Today, **150** years later, more than **200** ethnic communities and immigrants represent **20%** of a population of nearly **37.6** million people.

Like many countries, Canada needs to maintain its demographic, economic and, sometimes, linguistic balance. Federal, provincial and territorial ministers meet once a year to discuss the management of the Immigration Program.

While programs vary from province to province, they have two main objectives: to stimulate population growth and to attract a workforce with specific job skills.

In Manitoba in 2018, first-generation immigrants represented almost **227,500** people, or **18.3%** of the province's population.

Prior to this, a wave of immigration between 2011 and 2016 had increased the average annual rate of population growth from **0.8%** to **1.7%**.

Overall, immigration also contributes to growth and tax revenues. One thousand households of newcomers to Canada spend an average of **\$16** million on shelter, **\$13** million on transportation, **\$8** million on food, and bring in **\$21** million in tax revenues annually.

In addition, Francophone immigration outside Quebec represented approximately **4,700** people in 2017, or **2%** of permanent residences. This is a slight increase from 2016 when there were only nearly **4,400** new Francophone permanent residents in Canada outside Quebec. ▶