

Give your input on [Canada's immigration levels plan](#)

The federal government is consulting on Canada's immigration levels and long-term planning. The deadline has been extended to June 30, 2026.

How to participate - three simple steps

Step 1: Fill out the consultation

Go to the government form:

<https://forms-formulaires.alpha.canada.ca/en/id/cmp15luge003i01yt8nzf3jdf>

Remember to save your answers as you go - in some cases the government website loses the answers

The form has a number of demographic questions followed by six open-ended questions. Answer the questions with a focus on calling for greater access to permanent residency for migrants. A few sentences on each question is enough - you don't have to be detailed, you just have to participate.

Step 2: Use this guide

The rest of this document gives you template answers for each of the six questions and tips on how to personalize your submission. Read the sections below before you start the form.

Step 3: Tell us you submitted

Once you've completed the consultation, let us know:

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/immigrationlevels2026/>

Background

Working class people across Canada are being squeezed by high rents, low wages, and cuts to services. Instead of addressing these crises, the federal government and the super rich are distracting us by scapegoating migrants. Immigration policies are pushing people out through permit expiries at a rate of more than 3,000 people every day. In 2025 and 2026, 2.3 million people will be unable to renew their work and study permits. People who came to Canada, invested years of their lives, separated from their families, and built futures here are being expelled. Refugees are being excluded. Migrants who are staying are on temporary permits, living precariously, excluded from services, facing abuse.

Migrants care for our families, grow our food, and sustain communities across the country. They are not the cause of the housing crisis, the wage crisis, or the underfunding of public services. Those are the results of decades of privatization, corporate power, and government neglect. Migrants are being scapegoated to protect corporate greed.

The mass expulsion of migrants is unjust and immoral - it's also economically irrational. On June 2, 2026, Prime Minister Carney acknowledged that Canada's technical recession is linked to declining immigration. The Parliamentary Budget Officer projected that immigration cuts will reduce real GDP by 1.7% by 2027 and reduce nominal GDP by an average of \$37 billion over three years. RBC estimates lower immigration targets will worsen federal finances by \$50 billion over five years. Fewer workers means lower output, lower income tax, lower CPP and EI contributions, and lower consumption. We are entering a cycle: Affordability crisis → Migrants scapegoated → Im/migrants expelled → Worsening affordability crisis → Migrants scapegoated more.

Millions of people in Canada have been convinced the problem is too many migrants when the real problem is that migrants have too few rights.

Why you participating in this consultation matters - and what it won't do on its own

Let's be clear: This consultation will not, by itself, change government policy. The Carney government has signalled its direction clearly. But consultations are part of the public record. The findings will be published. A large, organized response makes it harder for the government to claim broad support for continued expulsion. It builds evidence for our collective political challenge. It shows migrants, their families, and their allies that they are not alone and not silent.

Submitting takes 10 minutes. Tens of thousands of submissions changes what this consultation means.

What happens next

- **Now to June 30 2026** - The federal government is accepting responses. Submit yours and share this with everyone you know.
- **Rest of the summer** - The federal government may hold in-person and online consultations with key organizations. We will find out when these happen and make sure migrant voices are present.
- **September 20, 2026** - We are organizing mass protests the day before Parliament returns. We will make immigrant rights impossible to ignore. Find or organize an action near you: www.migrantrights.ca/Sep20
- **Fall 2026** — We keep taking action.
- **November 1, 2026** — New immigration levels will be announced. We will be watching and we will respond publicly.
- **No matter what is announced on November 1** — We keep going.

Navigating the Consultation

The [consultation](#) has two parts. First are demographic questions depending on who is responding. Different questions will appear if you are responding as an organization or an individual. Following the demographic questions are six open-ended questions. We have created template responses that you can personalize your answers to the open ended questions before submitting.

Personalizing Your Submission

IRCC is using AI to synthesize responses. Identical text submitted by multiple organizations or individuals will be weighted as one signal, not many. To have the most impact, personalize what you submit.

If you are a migrant worker, international student, temporary resident, refugee claimant, undocumented worker or a recent migrant.

Your voice matters most in this [consultation](#). You are the person most directly affected by these decisions. Writing in your own words is the most powerful thing you can do. A personal account from someone living this reality carries more weight than any template.

Tell IRCC: How long have you been in Canada? What work do you do? What has it been like to try to get permanent residence? What would change in your life if you had permanent status? What barriers have you faced? Write what is true for you. There is no wrong way to write it. Your language does not have to be perfect.

While we do not encourage AI usage, if you are unable to re-write the proposed answers in your own words - you can put the suggested responses below into an AI like ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini etc with this AI prompt:

Expand these points into a short submission written in my own words, as a migrant worker / international student / temporary resident [choose what applies] living in [your province or city]. Keep all the arguments and facts exactly the same. Do not add new claims or remove existing ones. Keep the total to 2000 words or fewer.

Then read the output and add at least one sentence in your own words about your own situation before submitting.

If you are an ally — a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or someone who cares about this issue

Your submission counts. The government needs to hear that support for migrant rights extends beyond migrants themselves. Writing in your own words about what you witness in your community, your workplace, your neighbourhood, and the kind of country you want Canada to be is stronger than a template.

While we do not encourage AI usage, if you are unable to re-write the proposed answers in your own words - you can put the suggested responses below into an AI like ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini etc with this AI prompt:

Expand these points into a short submission written in my own words, as a Canadian [citizen / permanent resident] who supports migrant rights and lives in [your province or city]. Keep all the arguments and facts exactly the same. Do not add new claims or remove existing ones. Keep the total to 2000 words or fewer.

Then add a sentence or two in your own words about why this matters to you personally before submitting.

If you are an organization

Personalize each answer with your organization's name, the sector and region you work in, and one or two sentences about specific members or clients who would be affected. Organizations should not submit identical text — each submission should reflect your specific constituency.

While we do not encourage AI usage, if you are unable to re-write the proposed answers in your own words - you can put the suggested responses below into an AI like ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini etc with this AI prompt:

Expand these points into a short submission written in the voice of an organization that works with [describe your organization, e.g. migrant farmworkers in Ontario / refugee claimants in BC / care workers across Canada]. Keep all the arguments and facts exactly the same. Do not add new claims or remove existing ones. Keep the total to 2000 words or fewer.

Review the output, add your organization's name and any specific details, and submit.

Consultation Questions and Template Answers

Path 1: Responding on behalf of an organization

Q1 — Select: I am responding on behalf of an organization

Q2 — Your organization's name, your name (optional), your title (optional)

Q3 — Select all that apply: Advocacy group / Labour union or workers' advocacy group / Not-for-profit, charitable or non-government organization / Settlement or resettlement organization / and any others that fit

Q4 — Select all sectors your organization works in: Agriculture and agri-food / Health care / Social services / and others relevant to your work

Q5 — Select your province(s) or: All Canadian provinces and territories

Q6 — English (and French if applicable)

Q7 — Select the community size(s) your organization serves

After Q7, you will automatically be re-directed to Q18.

Path 2: Responding as an individual

Q1 — Select: I am responding as an individual (or: I am affiliated with an organization but responding with my own views)

If you selected the affiliated option, answer Q2-Q7 about your organization first, then continue below from Q10.

Q8 — Type of organization you work for (if applicable)

Q9 — Your field or sector

Q10 — Were you born in Canada?

Q11 — Are you a Canadian citizen?

Q12 — Are you a permanent or temporary resident?

Q13 — Are you an Indigenous person?

Q14 — Your age category

Q15 — Your province or territory

Q16 — Language(s) spoken most often at home

Q17 — Your community size

Q18 — How has the government's approach affected your community or sector?

The Levels Plan claims it is "restoring balance and control" and protecting people "already living, working and contributing." The opposite is happening. Those people are being pushed out, and it is harming the whole economy.

- The government says it is protecting people already here. In reality those people are being expelled.
- The few routes that used to offer some path to staying are now closed.
- Refugees are being targeted at every stage, from visa refusals to Bill C-12 to healthcare cuts.
- Deportations are at record highs and a government tip line is fueling racism and division.
- Cutting immigration is wrecking the economy, and the government now admits it.
- These changes are a disaster and must be reversed.
- *Your part: add one or two sentences on what your community or organization has directly seen — permit non-renewals, program closures, healthcare denials, deportation cases, or the chilling effect of the tip line.*

Facts you can cite (no need to reword):

- At least 2.3 million study and work permits are set to expire in 2025 and 2026 with no pathway to permanence for almost all of them. The government is pushing out more than 3,000 people daily.
- In May 2026, the Immigration Minister announced a one-time initiative granting permanent residence to 33,000 skilled workers. This was not a new program and did not change the exclusionary criteria that keeps most migrants precarious.
- The Home Care Worker Immigration Pilots are paused until 2030. The Agri-Food Immigration Pilot has been closed since May 2025. Provincial programs have been wound down. Express Entry CRS scores have risen to levels that exclude most workers.
- Visa refusal rates are cutting off protection routes before people even reach Canada.
- Bill C-12 became law on March 26, 2026. It blocks anyone in Canada for more than one year from claiming refugee protection, applied retroactively to arrivals from June 2020. It gives the Immigration Minister power to cancel permits for entire groups without individual hearings. Roughly 30,000 asylum seekers have already received letters warning their claims are now barred.
- Federal refugee healthcare co-payments took effect May 1, requiring refugees to pay \$4 per prescription and 30 percent of dental, vision, mental health, and assistive device costs.

- Canada deported 22,500 people in 2025, the highest annual total in history, and is currently deporting more than 400 people per week. Eighty-three percent were refugee claimants.
- The government's snitch line received 47,900 tips in 2025.
- On June 2, 2026, Prime Minister Carney acknowledged publicly that Canada's weakened economy is directly linked to declining immigration. The Parliamentary Budget Officer projects immigration cuts will reduce real GDP by 1.7% by 2027 and nominal GDP by an average of \$37 billion over three years. RBC estimates the changes will worsen federal finances by \$50 billion over five years.

Q19 — What changes would you recommend to future temporary and permanent resident levels?

The points to make (in your own words):

- The targets - reducing the temporary resident population to under 5% by end of 2027 and capping permanent resident admissions at under 1% after 2027 - human rights, economic rationale, or the realities of who is already here.
- Hitting the 5% target through permit non-renewals and deportations means mass displacement from essential sectors. It changes the rules in the middle of the game, creates the conditions for abuse, and is tanking the economy.
- Capping permanent residency at 1% traps millions in temporary, precarious jobs where they face exploitation.
- *Your part: add specific pathways or program changes your organization has been calling for.*

Specific recommendations to include:

1. **Convert temporary and undocumented residents already in Canada to permanent residents.** PR status is necessary for migrants to have rights. With it, migrants lay down deeper roots, invest more in Canada, and that ensures shared prosperity.
2. **Reverse the IFHP co-payment changes.** Co-payments shift costs onto emergency rooms and frontline providers.
3. **Repeal the mass permit cancellation powers and the retroactive refugee deadline in Bill C-12.** These provisions expose people to removal without individual hearings, in violation of Canada's international obligations.
4. **End employer control.** End employer-specific and sector-specific permits. Remove requirements or increased points for job offer letters, evidence of employment in Canada, and hour and industry specific work restrictions. These policies give employers immense power over migrants and are used to exploit them.

Facts you can cite:

- Regularizing undocumented workers already here could generate \$28 billion in annual GDP growth and \$5.6 billion in annual government revenue. Transitioning all temporary residents would do even more.
- The IFHP costs less than one-third of provincial health coverage per person.

Q20 — Are there specific regional pressures, opportunities, or demographic trends IRCC should consider?

The points to make (in your own words):

- Migrants in low-wage work hold up the food and care sectors and need targeted solutions, not expulsion.
- Canada needs care workers. The national childcare program and an aging population are driving that demand, and many of those workers are migrants.
- Communities across the country have grown around low-waged migrant labour over decades, from Leamington to the Fraser Valley to the Annapolis Valley to Moncton. Solutions are needed for both large cities and rural communities.
- The rise in deportations, and their concentration in Quebec, must be addressed.
- Refugees waiting years for their cases to be heard, and international students and post-graduate work permit holders who came under one set of rules and saw them change, all deserve targeted intervention.
- *Your part: add your province, sector, and community context.*

Facts you can cite (no need to reword):

- The agriculture and agri-food system generated \$149.2 billion in GDP in 2024, about 7% of Canada's total, and employs approximately 2.3 million people, 1 in 9 jobs.
- Nearly 100,000 temporary foreign workers work in primary agriculture and more than 42,000 in food and beverage manufacturing. Many tens of thousands of other migrants work across the food chain from production to delivery.
- Temporary foreign workers in health care grew from 3,200 in 2000 to 57,500 in 2022, with nearly 8% of home health care workers now on temporary status.
- Deportations in Quebec rose to 55% of all removals in early 2026, up from 30% in 2022.

Q21 — What long-term considerations and priorities should guide Canada's immigration system?

The points to make (in your own words):

- Permanent residence must be the default. Recruiting workers into permanent jobs on temporary, employer-tied status enables exploitation and exclusion.

- PR status is the mechanism through which all other rights can be accessed.
- Migrants must be seen as a solution to Canada's crises, not the cause.
- Migrants and their organizations must be engaged in creating the long-term priorities that transform the system.
- *Your part: add specific long-term changes your organization has been calling for.*

Q22 — What challenges, barriers, or concerns affect people's ability to come to Canada and achieve positive outcomes?

The points to make (in your own words):

- Employer control is a root cause of the harm migrants face. When current status or future PR depends on employer sponsorship, job offers, or evidence, migrants cannot leave abusive jobs, cannot report wage theft or unsafe conditions, and cannot access the labour mobility that would raise their wages and productivity.
- Canada has been breaking its promises by changing immigration rules after workers already arrived: not renewing millions of permits, shuttering PR programs, ending family work and study permits, and changing refugee claimant rules retroactively.
- Migrants made major life decisions to study, work, and stay based on Canada's policies. Changing those policies retroactively harms the people affected and signals to every migrant here that today's rules carry no guarantee.
- *Your part: add specific barriers your organization has documented or your clients or members face regularly.*

Q23 — Feedback about the survey

The points to make (in your own words):

- Immigration policy directly affects migrants. Migrants must therefore be one of the key groups whose opinions determine changes to the system. A survey is not a way to do that.
- Immigration Canada must meet with and listen to migrant-led organizations and create policy in consultation with migrants and their organizations.

Once you have submitted, please let us know:

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/immigrationlevels2026/>