



Fulfilling the Promise

Liveable Peel Conference

Driving Prosperity: The Role of Immigration

February 10, 2006

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- Immigration as means to an end: two perspectives
- Economic objectives paramount: short term/long term
- Population realities: net growth vs dependency ratio
- Labour market realities: labour force and skill shortages
- International competition for skilled workers
- Immigration as nation *and* community building



Social, cultural, economic and humanitarian objectives

- **Economic (60%)**
 - IRPA focus on skilled workers' human capital
 - **eligibility determined by point system that measures on 6 factors: education, work experience, knowledge of official languages, age, arranged employment and adaptability**
- **Family (25%)**
 - Spouses, children, parents, and grandparents
- **Protected Persons (15%)**
 - government and privately sponsored, in-land refugee claimants, and dependents of refugees overseas



Immigration by Top 10 Source Countries (2004)

	Actual Number
China, People's Republic of	36,411
India	25,569
Philippines	13,301
Pakistan	12,796
United States	7,494
Iran	6,063
United Kingdom	6,058
Romania	5,655
Korea, Republic of	5,337
France	5,026
Total top Ten	123,710
Other Countries	112,114
Total	235,824

Why are immigrants coming to GTA?



- Trend to urbanization: size, diversity, opportunity
- Go where friends and family have settled: self-perpetuating cycle
- Likely to have heard about largest urban centre
- Employment opportunities
- Ethnic networks
- Affordable, appropriate housing
- Higher education opportunities
- Health facilities
- Services: language training, settlement info, bridging
- Cultural and recreational opportunities
- Public Receptivity



- Increased interest in regionalization:
- Immigrants not faring well in labour market despite higher educational qualifications and extensive work experience (under vs unemployment)
- Lack of alignment between selection and settlement policy and services (eg.skills, age, gender, location)
- Absence of labour market orientation of immigrant services
- immigrants older and less willing to defer gratification to next generation
- increased cost of housing
- cost of higher education
- discrimination (racialization of poverty/ threat to social cohesion)



- Absence of local governments in policy making
 - Lack of vertical and horizontal coordination
 - Lack of flexibility to respond to local needs
- YET
- Widespread support for immigration
 - Recognition of long term benefits of immigration
 - Identification of immigration as a community building strategy



1. Create an Internet Portal to information for skilled immigrants overseas and in Canada
2. Improve assessment of academic credentials, language and work qualifications for regulated and non-regulated occupations
3. Provide higher level language training
4. Provide bridge programming to employment opportunities
5. Enhance access to loans for training, licensing, equipment to re-enter employment
6. Get employers involved in internships, mentoring, work experience programs
7. Support collaborative local mechanisms
8. Formalize intergovernmental cooperation



- Immigrants and their associations
- Governments: federal, provincial, municipal
- Regulatory bodies
- Employers, Associations, Unions, Sectors
- Educational institutions
- Academic credential assessment services
- Community-based service providers



We need to collectively address the challenges and maximize the opportunities to fulfill our promise to immigrants coming to the GTA and to allow those immigrants to fulfill their promise.

We will all benefit.