

Case Study

Canadian Immigration and Social Integration Policies

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Canada 

Presentation Outline



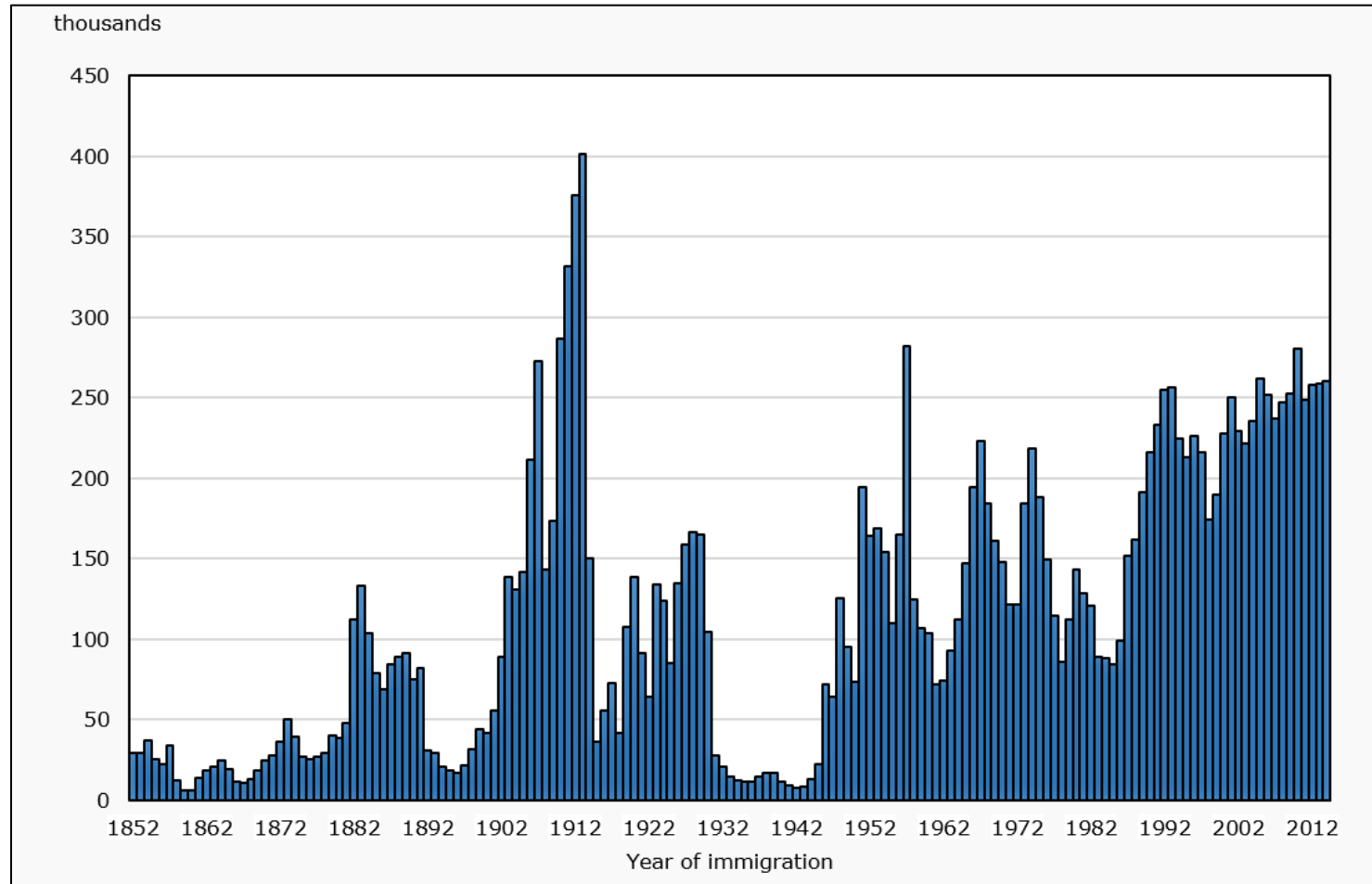
- Brief overview of Canada's immigration history
- Current immigration numbers and future projections
- Legislative framework and social integration policies
- Examples of best practices for integrating newcomers

Canada is a Pluralistic Society



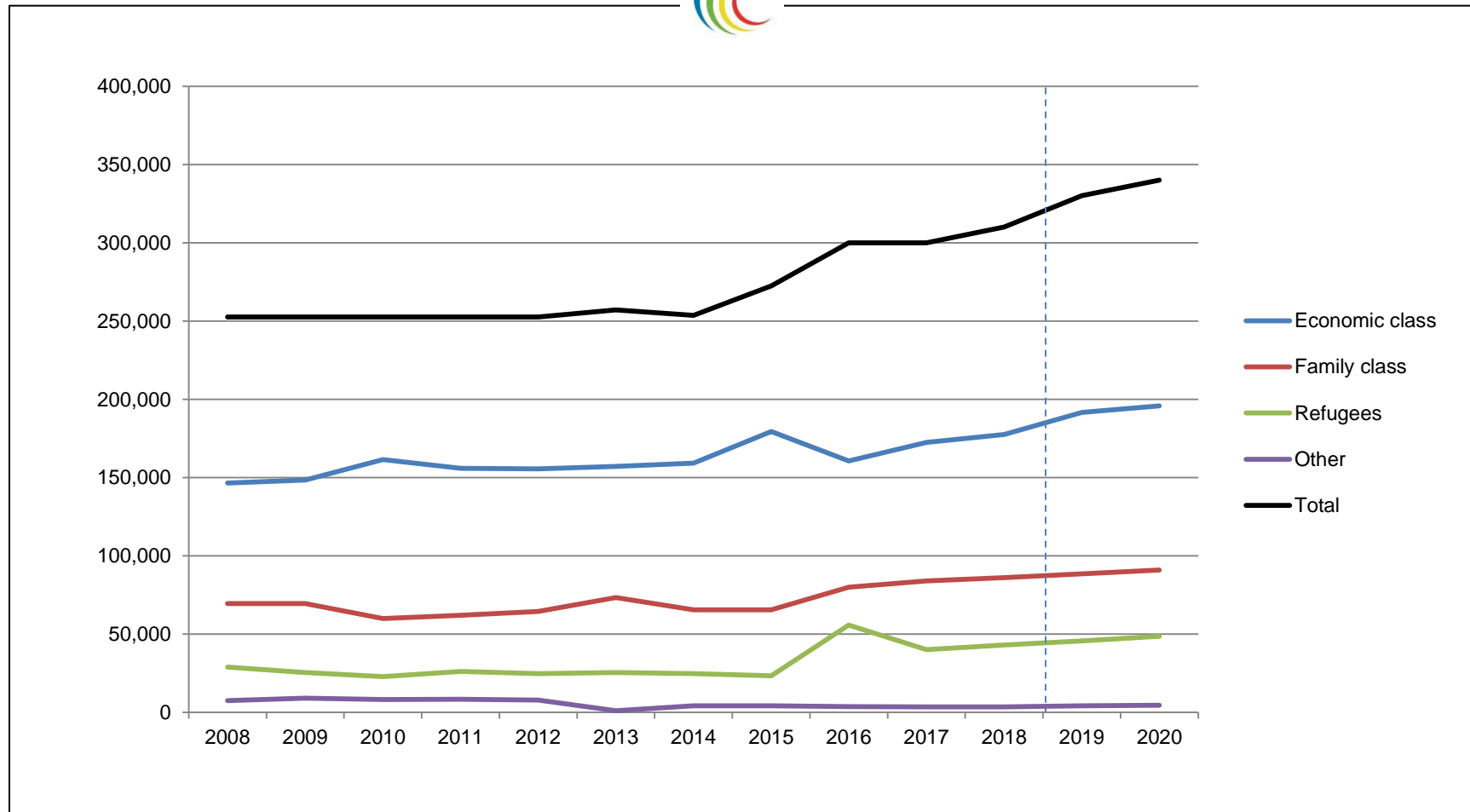
- Canada has three founding peoples:
 - Indigenous, comprising the First Nations, the Inuit and the Métis
 - French
 - British
- Today, Canada is a pluralistic society, with more than 250 different ethnic origins

Number of Immigrants Who Arrived in Canada per Year, 1852–2014



Source: Statistics Canada, "Population fluctuations," [150 years of immigration in Canada](#).

Average Immigration Levels per Year by Category, 2008–2020



Source: Figure prepared by the Library of Parliament using data obtained from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Immigration Levels Plan, 2008–2020*.

Immigration Levels Plan for 2018-2020



Immigration Category	Planned immigration level for 2018	Planned immigration level for 2019	Planned immigration level for 2020
Economic	177,500	191,600	195,800
Family	86,000	88,500	91,000
Refugees and Protected Persons	43,000	45,650	48,700
Humanitarian and Others	3,500	4,250	4,500
TOTAL	310,000	330,000	340,000

Source: Government of Canada, [Notice – Supplementary Information 2018–2020 Immigration Levels Plan](#), Ottawa, 1 November 2017

Future Immigration Projections



- If Canada were to increase its immigration levels to 450,000 newcomers per year, “real GDP would grow by an average of 2.05 per cent annually, with immigration contributing nearly one-third of economic growth.”
- This would be 0.20 percentage points higher than the estimated 1.85% growth currently forecast.

Source: The Conference Board of Canada, “[450,000 Immigrants Per Year Could Boost Canada’s Economy If Newcomers Have Better Job Outcomes](#),” News release, Ottawa, 2 October 2018.

Canada's Immigration Objectives



- Canada's immigration objectives are centred around three goals:
 - to support the development of a strong and prosperous Canadian economy in which the benefits of immigration are shared across all regions in Canada
 - to support family reunification
 - to fulfill Canada's international legal obligations with respect to refugees and affirm Canada's commitment to global efforts to provide assistance to those in need of resettlement

Immigration is a Shared Jurisdiction



- Under the Constitution of 1867, immigration is an area of shared jurisdiction between the federal government and the provincial and territorial governments.
- The *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* is the main framework legislation.
- The *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* provide the details of immigration procedures and programs.

Immigration Addresses Provinces' Needs



- Provinces and territories have several bilateral immigration agreements with the federal government, which address specific issues in response to a province's needs.
- For example, the Provincial Nominee agreements allow provincial and territorial governments to nominate immigrants to meet specific labour market needs.

Multiculturalism is a key element to Canada's social inclusion



- The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* recognizes the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians.
- The *Canadian Multiculturalism Act* seeks to preserve, enhance and incorporate cultural differences into the functioning of Canadian society, while ensuring equal access and full participation for all Canadians in the country's social, political and economic spheres.

Settlement services are key to the long-term integration of newcomers to Canada



- Integration of immigrants is promoted by a variety of services to help them settle and adapt in Canada, including:
 - language training
 - settlement assistance, such as reception and orientation services, liaison with the employer community, and support, such as childcare and transportation
 - assistance for the resettlement of refugees, such as airport or port of entry reception, temporary accommodation and assistance to find permanent housing, purchase of basic household items, assistance in enrolling in mandatory federal and provincial programs, training to develop life skills in Canada, and guidance on financial and non-financial information
 - support to integrate the labor market

Examples of Best Practices for Integrating Newcomers



- Some municipalities provide culturally appropriate recreation services or translate garbage pickup schedules and emergency service information.
- Canadians who contribute, like Jim Estill, who – in 2015 – established the Ease into Canada program, through which Syrian refugees work in his factory while studying English over a three-month period.