

This article assesses the Canadian intergovernmental agreements regarding immigrant selection and settlement services. The Canada-Ontario agreement allows for the province to participate in the planning and ongoing assessment of settlement services in Ontario. However, the author suggests a need for improvement in outcome measurement and public accountability.

- Provincial Nominee Programs allow the provinces and territories to identify a limited number of economic immigrants to meet specific regional needs and/or to receive priority attention for immigration processing
- Provincial governments have considerable flexibility to set criteria for choosing nominees and the programs have become increasingly diverse
- The federal government also shares the responsibilities of settlement programs with a host of non-governmental organizations or service provider organizations
- There is an increased role for employers which may encourage greater responsiveness to labour market needs, though some stakeholders are concerned that this might cause a decline in the numbers coming through the Temporary Foreign Worker Program
- Until recently, CIC's funding was allocated into three settlement programs: Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program (ISAP); Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC); and the Host Program
- In 2008, CIC introduced a "modernized" approach to settlement programming with the intention of allowing greater flexibility and to lighten reporting requirements
- In the "modernized" approach, service provider organizations will have to provide outcome results in one of the following five outcomes: orientation, language/skills, labour market access, welcoming communities, and policy and program development
- In 2005, the Ontario and federal government signed an agreement that provided for \$920 million in investments over five years for settlement services in Ontario
- An annex of the agreement allows for involvement from the City of Toronto, making this the only formal Federal-Provincial-Municipal agreement in this policy field
- Research has underlined that language ability has a major impact on the outcomes of Canadian immigrants, including whether they obtain employment in their field of education or training, and in some cases, whether they find work at all
- CIC introduced the Enhanced Language Training (ELT) initiative, under which higher levels of language training are provided to immigrants who seek to enter the workforce; ELT projects often include employment supports and bridging activities such as internships and mentoring
- The author suggests a need for improvement in two areas of the intergovernmental agreements:
  - 1. Outcome measurement:
    - In the new "modernized approach" service provider organizations will need to show how their projects meet one of the five outcomes
  - 2. Public accountability:
    - The author suggests that a public report should be a requirement each year from each province

- An annual report on developments in settlement programming could bring together much useful information and data from participating governments and enhance learning across jurisdictions and among organizations

**Key Stats:**

“It was projected that 20,000 economic immigrants would arrive in 2009 through PNP's, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) anticipates that this could rise to 40,000 in 2010” (p. 50).

“CIC’s budget for settlement and integration has risen significantly in recent years. Its projected spending for these programs (including the transfers to Quebec, BC and Manitoba governments) for 2010/11 is almost \$1.1 billion (in 2000/01 its spending was just under \$328 million)” (p. 51).

“In 2005, the federal and Ontario governments signed an agreement that provided for significantly enhanced spending on settlement and integration services in Ontario (\$920 million in new investments over five years” (p. 52).