*An Economics Perspective on Canadian Immigration*
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This article assesses the successes and failures of immigration from an economic perspective. It is argued that the legitimate test of Canada's immigration system is not whether it maximizes the size of Canada's population or its output, but whether it raises the standard of living.

However, there is an increasing disparity between the incomes of recent immigrants and those of Canadian-born citizens.

The author discusses three main reasons for the poor economic integration of immigrants and makes policy recommendations around language barriers, foreign credential recognition, and having contacts in Canada.

1. The percentage of immigrants whose mother tongue is neither French nor English has increased from 53 percent in 1981 to 80 percent in 2006.

- To remove language barriers, programs should be created to train existing immigrants and raise the bar for English and French for new applicants

2. Although the immigration system recognizes the credentials of certain foreign institutions, employers seem to be pickier about accreditation, the institution attended, and the type of work experience they have.

- Post-secondary degrees seem to hold little value if the employer is unfamiliar with the institution and references may be difficult to reach or evaluate
- HRSDC has identified 38 occupational fields facing labour shortages yet some of these fields, such as physicians, face foreign accreditation problems; this seems contradictory and further slows the process
- The Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Credentials is a new program which will advise applicants within one year if their credentials would be recognized and this is a significant step in the right direction but the program must be tested in order to evaluate its success

3. Immigrants entering Canada under the skilled worker program have an increased probability of falling into low income than those who come under family reunification class indicating that having family already in the country has a significant positive impact on economic integration.

- Mentorship or internship programs may alleviate some of the obstacles for immigrants who do not have family already in the country when they arrive
- More points should be given if immigrants have current contacts in Canada