

REDUCTIONS IN 2020 IMMIGRATION LEVELS IN QUEBEC WERE THE LOWEST IN CANADA IN PERCENTAGE: YET THERE WAS A MORE THAN ONE-THIRD COVID RELATED DROP IN THE NUMBERS OF NEWCOMERS TO THE PROVINCE IN 2020 RELATIVE TO 2019

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INTRODUCTION: COVID IMMIGRATION CUTS SEE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT SEEKING REVERT BACK CLOSE TO LEVELS FOR 2021 AS PROPOSED BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT

Earlier this year the Quebec Ministry of Immigration, Francisation et Intégration (MIFI) noted that : “...the economic slowdown combined with the closing of borders and travel restrictions had an impact on achieving the Québec Immigration Plan for 2020. Indeed, the number of immigration admissions was significantly curbed. In 2020, only 59 to 70% of planned admissions were achieved, that is, between 25 600 and 30 500 people. And the estimated range of unfulfilled admissions is between 13 000 and 18 000-<http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/informations/news/news-2020/immigration-plan-2021.html>

Well the results are in for 2020 and Quebec ended up slightly below the projected range with some 25 195 immigrants. Yet compared with other Canadian provinces that represented the lowest decline in the percentage of immigrant admissions relative to 2019

According to the MIFI, the Québec Immigration Plan for 2021 will aim for a permanent immigration level of 44 500 to 47 500 admissions as set out in the current multi-year plan. A rebalancing is also planned with the admission of an additional 7000 people, representing the deferment of some of the admissions that were not fulfilled in 2020 due to the health crisis. Economic immigration should represent 62% of all immigration in 2021 (the economic category dropped to 50% in 2020 as family reunification rose substantially as a share of Quebec’s total immigrants for the year 2020).

As regards family sponsorships Quebec saw the lowest percentage reduction of any other province in Canada between 2019 and 2020

- Ironically the CAQ government was elected on a platform to reduce immigration levels and the Covid 19 related decrease in numbers for 2020 was far lower than what the government originally envisioned by way of cuts to the numbers of immigrants
- Going forward however the MIFI points out that: “ a deficit in immigration admissions could exacerbate labour scarcity when Québec emerges from this crisis and weaken its economic rebound.This solution also takes into account the demographic challenges facing Québec.”
- In the end, with the proposed rebalancing, the projected number for Quebec for 2021 would exceed 50 000 newcomers which is a good deal closer to some of the annual levels projected by the previous Liberal government in its multi year immigration plan

QUEBEC TAKES SMALLER HIT FROM COVID RELATED IMMIGRATION REDUCTION BETWEEN 2019 AND 2020 THAN ALL OTHER CANADIAN PROVINCES: THE PRAIRIES AND ATLANTIC CANADA TOOK THE BIGGEST DECLINES

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change in red 2019 to 2020
Canada	271,835	296,370	286,510	321,055	341,175	184,370	46%
Newfoundland	1,125	1,190	1,170	1,530	1,850	905	51%
Prince Edward Island	1,190	2,315	2,350	2,135	2,445	1,290	47.3%
Nova Scotia	3,405	5,485	4,515	5,965	7,580	3,505	53.8%
New Brunswick	2,580	4,675	3,650	4,610	6,000	2,890	51.9%
Quebec	48,975	53,240	52,405	51,125	40,565	25,195	37.1%
Ontario	103,620	110,035	111,955	137,440	153,395	82,850	46%
Manitoba	14,900	16,820	14,705	15,225	18,910	8,620	54.5%
Saskatchewan	12,520	14,855	14,685	15,510	15,855	7,390	53.4%
Alberta	47,205	49,200	42,100	42,020	43,690	22,935	47.6%
British Columbia	35,735	38,075	38,445	44,870	50,230	28,470	43.4%

DESPITE DECREASES IN ALL IMMIGRANT CATEGORIES THE SHARE OF SPONSORED FAMILY IMMIGRANTS IN QUEBEC JUMPED FROM 24% IN 2019 TO 31% IN 2020

Quebec Immigration Permanent Residents	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change in red
Quebec Total	48,975	53,240	52,405	51,125	40,565	25,195	37.1%
Economic – Total	29,900	31,605	30,270	29,190	23,130	12,775	-44.8%
Sponsored Family	10,490	11,125	12,135	12,285	9,685	7,765	-20%
Government-Assisted Refugee	1,635	2,960	1,525	1,395	1,205	400	-67%
Privately Sponsored Refugee	2,965	4,170	4,810	4,290	3,610	1,325	-63.3%
Resettled Refugee	4,605	7,145	6,335	5,685	4,815	1,725	-64.2%
Protected Person in Canada	3,005	2,280	2,820	3,150	2,435	2,450	-
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada – Total	7,610	9,425	9,155	8,835	7,250	4,175	-42.5%
All other immigration total	970	1,085	845	810	500	475	-5%

REDUCTIONS TO FAMILY SPONSORED IMMIGRANTS WAS LOWER IN QUEBEC THAN IN ANY OTHER PROVINCE IN CANADA WITH THE BIGGEST CUTS TO FAMILY SPONSORED IMMIGRANTS OCCURRING ON THE PRAIRIES

Sponsored Family – Total Provinces	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change in Red (rounded) 2019-2020
Canada Provinces Total	65350	77860	82310	85030	91090	49070	46%
Newfoundland	140	195	200	195	250	145	42%
Prince Edward Island	75	80	85	110	135	65	52%
Nova Scotia	520	655	710	720	880	490	45%
New Brunswick	240	335	340	415	425	255	40%
Quebec	10,490	11,125	12,135	12,285	9,685	7,765	20%
Ontario	29,640	35,145	36,750	37,865	42,570	22,150	48%
Manitoba	1,850	2,375	2,475	2,745	3,160	1,490	53%
Saskatchewan	1,555	1,960	2,000	1,985	2,430	1,140	54%
Alberta	9,740	13,015	14,255	13,935	15,300	7,540	50%
British Columbia	11,100	12,975	13,360	14,775	16,255	8,030	50%

QUEBEC SEES YET FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBERS OF IMMIGRANTS THAT ARE REGISTERED NURSES BETWEEN 2019 AND 2020

Top Ten Intended Occupations Quebec 2020	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses	615	1,220	2,230	2,120	1,440	460
Banking, credit and other investment managers	875	1,000	1,005	1,085	875	305
Information systems analysts and consultants	345	305	385	425	270	175
Professional occupations in business management consulting	540	620	485	400	305	165
Computer programmers and interactive media developers	310	395	310	310	170	140
Financial auditors and accountants	345	480	480	360	320	125
Graphic designers and illustrators	145	130	160	155	120	120
Administrative officers	275	335	235	240	195	110
Secondary school teachers	190	200	160	155	180	95
Computer network technicians	145	175	220	205	140	90
Other occupations	25,100	26,565	26,785	26,655	20,825	15,045

OF TOP 20 IMMIGRATION SOURCE COUNTRIES IN 2020 IT WAS PHILIPPINES, ERITREA AND IRAQ THAT SAW THE BIGGEST DROPS WHILE FRANCOPHONIE COUNTRIES TOOK THE LOWEST REDUCTIONS

Country of Citizenship	2015 Total	2016 Total	2017 Total	2018 Total	2019 Total	2020 Total	Difference 2019-2020
India	39,340	39,705	51,590	69,985	85,590	42,875	50%
China, People's Republic of	19,460	26,785	30,250	29,710	30,245	16,550	45.3%
Philippines	50,840	41,850	40,880	35,050	27,820	10,970	60.6%
United States of America	7,655	8,485	9,140	10,905	10,780	6,380	40.9%
Nigeria	4,090	4,415	5,445	10,920	12,600	6,345	49.7%
Pakistan	11,295	11,350	7,655	9,490	10,795	6,215	42.5%
Syria	9,850	35,000	12,060	12,045	10,120	4,835	52.3%
France	5,850	6,390	6,625	6,175	4,960	4,600	7.3%
Iran	11,640	6,475	4,730	5,510	6,055	3,805	37.2%
Brazil	1,730	1,730	2,760	3,950	5,290	3,695	30.1%
United Kingdom and Overseas Territories	5,360	5,805	5,310	5,660	5,635	3,410	39.5%
Korea, Republic of	4,105	4,010	3,980	4,800	6,105	3,290	46.2%
Morocco	2,705	2,110	2,265	2,780	3,025	2,980	1.5%
Algeria	2,830	2,820	2,635	3,225	3,705	2,715	26.8%
Eritrea	2,210	4,655	4,690	5,695	7,030	2,620	62.8%
Vietnam	2,595	2,450	2,505	3,050	4,220	2,605	38.3%
Mexico	3,220	3,390	3,135	3,310	3,460	2,430	29.2%
Turkey	870	920	1,110	2,080	2,830	2,110	25.5%
Jamaica	3,415	3,560	3,830	3,875	3,980	2,025	49.1%
Iraq	3,975	2,415	4,740	5,330	4,445	1,935	56.5%

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