
FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE IS REGARDED AS THE MAIN CHALLENGE THAT REFUGEES ENCOUNTER WHEN SETTLING IN CANADA

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INTRODUCTION

Today (June 20, 2022) marks World Refugee Day designated by the United Nations to honor refugees around the globe. It celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. It is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives. To mark this day, the Association for Canadian Studies and Metropolis CARES (Coalition to Assist Refugee Entry and Settlement) are releasing a national survey on how Canadians perceive the main challenges encountered by refugees upon arrival in Canada, how long Canadians feel it should take for immigrants to learn an official language and the extent to which Canadians are willing to admit 100 000 Ukrainian and Afghan Refugees respectively. Metropolis Cares will also be holding a webinar on Afghan refugees with senior government officials and refugee settlement leaders in Canada and the United States.

<https://metropolisconference.ca/en/event/responding-to-the-afghan-refugee-crisis-in-the-united-states-and-canada/?view=Summary>

Survey highlights:

42% of Canadians say finding a place to live is the main challenge that refugees will encounter upon arrival in the country

28% feel it is learning an official language (39% in Quebec)

16% say it is finding employment

14% say learning the country's laws and customs

When asked about the admission of 100 000 Ukrainian and Afghan refugees most felt that it was about the right number but in the case of Afghan refugees 30% of Canadians felt the number was too many compared with 19% in the case of Ukrainians

To become a Canadian citizen you must show that you have an adequate knowledge of **English or French** by providing, with your citizenship application, proof that you can speak and listen in English or French. Your test results must be **less than two years old** when you submit your application for permanent residence. A plurality of Canadians think that it should take immigrants up to two years to learn an official language (the Quebec authorities recently adopted legislation to ensure that government communications with immigrants be exclusively in French)

METHODOLOGY

The findings arise from a Leger survey for the ACS that was conducted between June 10 to June 12, 2022 via web panel with 2118 Canadians (oversample in this case resulted in approximately 1000 respondents). No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 2118 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 1.9\%$, 19 times out of 20

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MOST CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE IS THE MAIN CHALLENGE THAT REFUGEES ENCOUNTER WHEN ARRIVING IN CANADA WITH BRITISH COLUMBIANS MOST LIKELY TO FEEL THAT WAY; QUEBECERS, PRAIRIE AND ALBERTAN RESPONDENTS PUT LEARNING AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE FIRST

Of the following, rank in order what you think are the main challenges that refugees will encounter when settling in Canada

Column %	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Unweighted Total	2118	102	1001	604	125	130	156
Finding a place to live	42%	48%	37%	44%	30%	28%	59%
Finding employment	16%	13%	11%	19%	23%	25%	10%
Learning an official language	28%	29%	39%	24%	36%	29%	15%
Learning the laws and customs of the country	14%	10%	13%	14%	12%	18%	15%

FRANCOPHONES MORE LIKELY THAN OTHERS TO FEEL THAT LEARNING AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IS A PRIORITY FOR REFUGEES

Of the following, rank in order what you think are the main challenges that refugees will encounter when settling in Canada

Column %	Total	French	English	Other
Unweighted Total	2118	849	1022	243
Finding a place to live	42%	38%	43%	43%
Finding employment	16%	10%	18%	21%
Learning an official language	28%	41%	25%	24%
Learning the laws and customs of the country	14%	12%	15%	13%

MOST CANADIANS THINK THAT ALLOWING 100 000 UKRAINIAN AND AFGHAN REFUGEES IS ABOUT THE RIGHT NUMBER BUT IN THE CASE OF AFGHAN REFUGEES SOME 30% FEEL THAT NUMBER IS TOO MANY COMPARED WITH SOME 20% OF UKRAINIANS THAT HOLD THIS VIEW

As you may know, several million refugees have left Ukraine/Afghanistan to escape the situation there. In your view is allowing 100,000 people from Ukraine/Afghanistan to come to Canada...

	Ukraine	Afghanistan
Too many	19%	30%
About right	48%	38%
Not enough	18%	14%
I don't know	15%	17%

TO OBTAIN CITIZENSHIP, MOST CANADIANS THINK THAT AN IMMIGRANT SHOULD BE GIVEN UP TO TWO YEARS TO LEARN AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

To obtain Canadian citizenship, how much time do you think an immigrant should be given to learn one of the country's two official languages?						
	Total	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Up to 6 months	8%	7%	7%	8%	9%	10%
Up to one year	28%	33%	27%	31%	27%	21%
Up to two years	30%	34%	30%	27%	30%	28%
Up to five years	15%	11%	16%	17%	18%	13%
Learning an official language should not be a requirement to secure citizenship	12%	9%	11%	10%	9%	18%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	8%	4%	9%	7%	7%	9%

As you may know, several million refugees have left Ukraine to escape the situation there. In your view is allowing 100,000 people from Ukraine to come to Canada...	Finding a place to live -	Finding Employment	Learning an Official Language	Learning the laws and customs of the country
Too many	15.4%	14.2%	20.0%	30.1%
About right	48.3%	54.3%	48.7%	41.9%
Not enough	20.3%	17.9%	15.8%	12.2%
I don't know	16.0%	13.6%	15.4%	15.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

THOSE MOST LIKELY TO THINK THAT THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FOR REFUGEES ARE LEARNING AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGES AND COUNTRY'S LAWS AND CUSTOMS ARE MORE LIKELY TO FEEL THAT 100 000 IS TOO MANY AFGHAN REFUGEES

As you may know, several million refugees have left Afghanistan to escape the situation there. In your view is allowing 100,000 people from Afghanistan to come to Canada...	Finding a place to live -	Finding Employment	Learning an Official Language	Learning the laws and customs of the country
Too many	23.0%	25.9%	34.2%	49.7%
About right	41.0%	45.8%	36.9%	24.7%
Not enough	17.2%	14.1%	12.1%	8.4%
I don't know	18.7%	14.1%	16.8%	17.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative view of the following:

	Afghan Refugees	Afghans
Very positive	22%	11%
Somewhat positive	51%	46%
Somewhat negative	20%	24%
Very negative	7%	19%
	100%	100%

Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative view of the following:

	Ukrainian Refugees	Ukrainians
Very positive	37%	40%
Somewhat positive	52%	50%
Somewhat negative	7%	7%
Very negative	3%	3%
Total	100%	100%

As you may know, several million refugees have left Ukraine to escape the situation there. In your view is allowing 100,000 people from Ukraine to come to Canada...	To obtain Canadian citizenship, how much time do you think an immigrant should be given to learn one of the country's two official languages?					Learning an official language should not be a requirement to secure citizenship
	Up to 6 months	Up to one year	Up to two years	Up to five years		
Too many	38.8%	20.7%	14.9%	19.4%	15.4%	
About right	38.8%	55.5%	55.0%	50.0%	32.4%	
Not enough	11.9%	13.2%	17.5%	14.6%	37.9%	
I don't know	10.6%	10.6%	12.6%	15.9%	14.2%	
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

As you may know, several million refugees have left Afghanistan to escape the situation there. In your view is allowing 100,000 people from Afghanistan to come to Canada...	To obtain Canadian citizenship, how much time do you think an immigrant should be given to learn one of the country's two official languages?				
	Up to 6 months	Up to one year	Up to two years	Up to five years	Learning an official language should not be a requirement to secure citizenship
Too many	51.9%	36.0%	27.6%	31.3%	19.8%
About right	31.9%	41.0%	44.4%	38.6%	29.8%
Not enough	6.9%	10.0%	12.4%	13.6%	36.5%
I don't know	9.4%	13.0%	15.6%	16.5%	13.9%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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