

Online survey on Express Entry categories and priorities

These questions are for the [2026 consultations on economic priorities for category-based selection in Express Entry](#). They are posted for those who want to review the questions in advance.

Q1. Are you taking part in this survey as an individual or on behalf of an organization?

- a. As an individual – my views are my own
- b. On behalf of an organization – my views represent those of my organization

Q2. (if “On behalf of an organization – my views represent those of my organization” is selected for Q1) Please provide your organization’s name.

- a. Organization’s name: _____
- b. Your name (optional): _____

Q3. (if “On behalf of an organization – my views represent those of my organization” is selected for Q1) Which **best** describe(s) your organization? Please select up to two options.

- a. Diversity, equity, and inclusion organization (including 2SLGBTQI+)
- b. Academia, research foundation or institution, or think tank
- c. Advocacy group
- d. Arts and culture organization (archives, art gallery or museum, cinema, concert venue, library, performing arts venue, theatre or dance company, etc.)
- e. Business
- f. Chamber of commerce, board of trade or economic development organization
- g. Educational organization (primary or secondary school, post-secondary institution, designated learning institution, student association, school board, etc.)
- h. Faith-based organization
- i. Francophone or official language minority community organization
- j. Government (federal, provincial or territorial, municipal or regional administration)
- k. Health care organization or other care service
- l. Immigration consulting or legal service
- m. Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit or Métis) organization
- n. Industry or sector council



- o. Labour groups and unions
- p. Member of a Local Immigration Partnership
- q. Member of Rural and Francophone Community Pilots
- r. Multicultural or ethno-cultural association
- s. Not-for-profit, charitable or non-government organization
- t. Settlement or resettlement organization
- u. Regulatory body
- v. Other, please specify:
- w. Prefer not to say

Q4. (if “On behalf of an organization – my views represent those of my organization” is selected for Q1) In which sector(s) does your organization **primarily operate? Please select sectors that you feel comfortable discussing in terms of labour needs or shortages. Please select up to two options.**

- a. Accommodation, hospitality and food services
- b. Administrative services
- c. Aerospace
- d. Agriculture and agri-food
- e. Arts, entertainment and recreation
- f. Automotive
- g. Banking and insurance
- h. Bio-manufacturing
- i. Construction (residential)
- j. Construction (industrial or commercial)
- k. Consulting and legal services
- l. Defence
- m. Dental care
- n. Education
- o. Energy
- p. Fashion and design
- q. Forestry
- r. Health care
- s. Manufacturing
- t. Mining and oil and gas extraction
- u. Real estate and rental and leasing
- v. Retail and trade
- w. Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)
- x. Social assistance

- y. Tourism
- z. Trades (excluding construction)
- aa. Transportation
- bb. Utilities
- cc. Other, please specify:
- dd. Prefer not to say

Q5. (if “On behalf of an organization – my views represent those of my organization” is selected for Q1) Which province(s) or territory(ies) does your organization **primarily operate in? Please select all that apply.**

- a. Alberta
- b. British Columbia
- c. Manitoba
- d. New Brunswick
- e. Newfoundland and Labrador
- f. Northwest Territories
- g. Nova Scotia
- h. Nunavut
- i. Ontario
- j. Prince Edward Island
- k. Quebec
- l. Saskatchewan
- m. Yukon
- n. Outside of Canada

Q6. (if “As an individual – my views are my own” is selected for Q1) In which province or territory do you live?

- a. Alberta
- b. British Columbia
- c. Manitoba
- d. New Brunswick
- e. Newfoundland and Labrador
- f. Northwest Territories
- g. Nova Scotia
- h. Nunavut
- i. Ontario
- j. Prince Edward island
- k. Quebec

- l. Saskatchewan
- m. Yukon
- n. Outside of Canada

Q7. (if “As an individual – my views are my own” is selected for Q1) Which of the following best describes your current status in Canada?

- a. Temporary resident
- b. Permanent resident
- c. Canadian citizen
- d. None of the above
- e. Prefer not to say

Q8. Express Entry can select immigrants in two main ways:

- Selection based on human capital (e.g., highest education, language ability) – **we implement this through program specific and general invitation rounds**
- Selection based on specific economic priorities (e.g., Francophone immigration, address labour shortages, talent retention) – **we implement this through category based selection rounds**

Which approach should Express Entry focus on more?

- a. Select based on human capital
- b. Select based on economic priorities
- c. Both equally
- d. Don't know

Q8a. Please explain the reason(s) you selected this approach.

Canada aims to maintain a sustainable immigration system while selecting permanent residence candidates who can best meet labour market needs and contribute to the economy.

2026 Express Entry categories focus on selecting workers who:

- Can help address long-term labour shortages in Canada
- Can support economic growth through Francophone immigration outside Quebec
- Can contribute to Canada's long-term economic success by attracting and retaining top talent

Q9. Do we need to continue to focus on these economic priorities in 2027?

	Great need	Average need	Little need	No need at this time	Don't know/ not sure
Address long-term labour market shortages	O	O	O	O	O
Support economic growth through Francophone immigration outside Quebec	O	O	O	O	O
Contribute to long-term economic success by attracting and retaining top talent	O	O	O	O	O

Q10. Which of these 2026 categories should continue in 2027? Select all that apply.

- a. French-proficiency category
- b. Healthcare and social services occupations
- c. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) occupations
- d. Trade occupations
- e. Education occupations
- f. Transport occupations
- g. Physicians with Canadian work experience
- h. Senior managers with Canadian work experience
- i. Researchers with Canadian work experience
- j. None of the above
- k. Don't know

Q10a. You selected the following categories. Please rank them from most important (1) to least important.

[Selected responses]

Addressing long-term labour market shortages

Q11. Are there any significant labour shortages in your industry or sector, that are not currently represented in labour shortage categories (i.e., healthcare and social services, trades, education, transport, STEM)? Please explain.

Q12. As we consider potential refinements to the [categories and occupations](#) to help address labour shortages, should category-based selection focus on a narrower list of occupations than it does currently?

- a. No, select skilled workers across **all occupations** identified to face long-term labour shortages.
- b. Yes, focus on a **smaller, more targeted** set of occupations facing long-term labour shortages.
- c. Don't know

Q12a. (if “No, select skilled workers across all occupations identified to face long-term labour shortages” is selected for Q12) In your view, why should selection focus on all occupations identified to face long-term labour shortages?

Q12b. (if “Yes, focus on a smaller, more targeted set of occupations facing long-term labour shortages” is selected for Q12) What factors should be considered when narrowing the list of shortage occupations? Please select all that apply.

- a. Focus on occupations requiring higher levels of training, education, experience and responsibilities (TEER 0, 1, or 2)
- b. Focus on occupations most aligned with Government of Canada priorities
- c. Focus on occupations facing the most persistent and severe shortages
- d. Focus on occupations that are less prioritized by other permanent economic immigration pathways (e.g., Provincial Nominee Program)
- e. Other, please specify:

Attracting and retaining top talent to contribute to Canada’s long-term economic success

Q13. To address this government priority, Canada has developed several talent-focused strategies and initiatives to attract and retain top talent that can help strengthen Canada’s economy. These initiatives focus on occupations and sectors of national importance (e.g., research, AI, STEM, trades, cybersecurity, healthcare, critical minerals).

New categories could focus on:

- Candidates in occupations listed under the Global Talent Stream (e.g. technology, AI)
- Researchers, to align with the Canada Global Impact+ Research Talent initiative
- Candidates in strategic occupations in shortage or with in-demand skills, to support IRCC’s International Talent Strategy (e.g., emerging technologies, healthcare, skilled trades)
- Candidates who hold a United States H-1B visa (primarily in STEM occupations)

To what extent should Express Entry categories prioritize the selection of these individuals?

	Great need	Average need	Little need	No need at this time	Don’t know/ not sure
Candidate profiles that align with the Global Talent Stream	O	O	O	O	O
Researchers	O	O	O	O	O
Candidates profiles that align with IRCC’s International Talent Strategy	O	O	O	O	O
H-1B visa holders	O	O	O	O	O

Q14. Please explain your response to the previous question. Please identify any occupations, sectors or types of talent that should be prioritized through Express Entry categories.

Q15. For each of these categories, should we focus more heavily on selecting skilled workers in Canada or outside Canada?

	Inside Canada	Outside Canada	Both equally	Don't know/ not sure
Candidate profiles that align with the Global Talent Stream	☐	☐	☐	☐
Researchers	☐	☐	☐	☐
Candidates profiles that align with IRCC's International Talent Strategy	☐	☐	☐	☐
H-1B visa holders	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q16. Focusing on attracting and retaining top talent to benefit Canada's competitiveness and advance economic growth could mean prioritizing skilled workers with work experience in occupations that are not facing long-term and national shortage. What do you think is the right balance between selecting top talent and filling jobs where there are shortages? Please explain.

Q17. Express Entry reforms are being considered to ensure that selection criteria better reflect factors that are most strongly associated with economic success. With these changes, most selected candidates are expected to have better language skills, higher education levels, and at least one year of Canadian work experience in a high wage occupation.

Within Express Entry, category-based selection would continue to offer flexibility to select candidates in response to identified economic goals beyond earnings potential.

Should these future changes impact the extent to which CBS is used to select candidates? Please use the text box that appears to explain your response.

- No, selection through categories should continue as it is now [open-text]
- Yes, selection through categories should be increased [open-text]
- Yes, selection through categories should be decreased [open-text]
- Don't know/ not sure [open-text]

Supporting economic growth through Francophone immigration outside Quebec

Q18. Since 2023, category-based selection in Express Entry has focused on selecting skilled workers with strong French proficiency skills to support economic growth through Francophone immigration outside Quebec. Their French test results must show a minimum score of 7 in all 4 language abilities on the *Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens* (i.e., French version of the *Canadian Language Benchmarks*).

To what extent should Express Entry continue to prioritize these candidates to support economic growth?

- a. To a great extent
- b. To a moderate extent
- c. To a small extent
- d. Not at all
- e. Don't know/not sure

Q19. (if “To a small extent” or “Not at all” is selected for Q18) Please explain your response, including any selection approaches you believe should be considered to support Francophone immigration outside of Quebec.

Q20. Do you have any suggestions on how IRCC can engage with stakeholders and partners on future economic priorities and categories? Please select all that apply.

- a. Providing more data would be useful for context
- b. More engagement with provinces and territories, regions, and municipalities
- c. More industry-specific engagement sessions
- d. More cross-sectoral engagement sessions
- e. More engagement with academics and researchers
- f. Hold in-person engagement sessions (panel discussions, roundtables, one to one meetings)
- g. More frequent engagement sessions or surveys
- h. Other, please specify:
- i. I have no suggestions

Q21. (if “On behalf of an organization – my views represent those of my organization” is selected for Q1) Do you agree to have your written submission published in full or in part in upcoming reports?

- Yes, with full attribution – My full name and/or my organization's name can be published
- Yes, with partial attribution by name – Only my full name can be published

- Yes, with partial attribution by organization – Only my organization's name can be published
- Yes, with anonymized contribution – My comments can be published, but without reference to either my full name or my organization's name
- No, I do not agree to have my written submission published at all