Canada’s International Leadership in Response to Global Migration Trends

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Since 2000, the total number of international migrants has increased by almost 50 percent, from 173 million people in 2000 to 258 million people in 2017\(^1\).

Migration is also increasing relative to the global population growth; with migrants representing 2.8% of the global population in 2000 compared to 3.4% in 2017\(^2\).

70.8 million people worldwide had been forcibly displaced as of 2018 – the highest number in history\(^3\).

Adapting to a Changing World

Canada’s geographic position has kept it relatively isolated from irregular migration flows. New trends however have prompted Canada to adapt to the changing landscape of migration.

Why are people moving?

Migration drivers include economic opportunities, technology and social media as information source exposing new opportunities and access, political instability, humanitarian crises and conflict, natural disasters and climate change.

Evolving Patterns

While most migration occurs regionally and follows safe, orderly and regular pathways, migration patterns are changing. Regional migration in the Americas has increased, as has migration within the Global South.

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(1) Source: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA); (2) Source: UN DESA; (3) Source: UNHCR
These trends have a domestic impact.

- Canada’s managed migration system is respected around the world, but volumes, those seeking to exploit the system, and irregular migration are impacting effective management and service delivery.

- Canada is increasingly a country of destination - migration to Canada is rising.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Permanent Residents*</th>
<th>Protected Persons and Refugees</th>
<th>Asylum Claimants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>271,816</td>
<td>32,113</td>
<td>16,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>296,346</td>
<td>58,912</td>
<td>23,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>286,479</td>
<td>41,475</td>
<td>50,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>321,055</td>
<td>45,750</td>
<td>55,035</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These trends have led Canada to:

- Work closely with bilateral partners and through multilateral forums to ensure a well-managed international border, and ensure migration occurs safely, and through regular channels.

- Remain globally competitive, attracting international students and skilled labour.

- Push for greater global cooperation on international migration management and refugee protection.

*Below numbers include ‘Protected Persons and Refugees’
What is the role of international engagement?

International engagement helps reap the benefits of migration and address the challenges that come with mixed migration and evolving migratory patterns and to advance Canadian priorities and objectives.

Canada engages with international partners and key countries to promote regular migration pathways, mitigate challenges to our system, strengthen refugee protection, and share best practices.

Why Engage?

Well managed migration contributes economically and socially to Canada.

Well managed migration in the hemisphere contributes to security within the North American perimeter.

Capacity building can help to discourage irregular migration and promote regular pathways by funding: research, training seminars, technical expertise and pilot pathway projects.

Engagement provides opportunities to influence the directions of collaborative responses to global challenges, and of the international discourse on migration.

Key Multilateral Partners
How is Canada engaging internationally?

- Canada engages in dozens of bilateral meetings with other countries at all levels on the full scope of migration related issues.
- With over 60 IRCC Missions around the world, Canada’s presence is felt globally on the ground, providing an opportunity for face-to-face engagement and exchange.

- Canada is the 2019-2020 chair of the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees and the Migration 5.
- Canada plays a strong and constructive role in the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and other multilateral bodies where migration issues arise.

- Canada actively participated in the development of and adopted both the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) in December 2018.

- Launched in 2017, and based off Canada’s Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program, the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative works to open new pathways for refugees. GRSI partners have actively engaged with numerous countries, of which six have launched or are soon launching programs.
- IRCC’s Migration Policy Development Program is funding capacity-building projects around the world to advance international policy development.
Questions?