

# Integrating the Skills and Credentials of Refugee Professionals in Canada: Strategies for Inclusion

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# Overview

- Canadian immigration context: system and statistics
- Challenges specific to refugee professionals
- Strategies for integration

# Canadian Permanent Residency

## ■ Immigrants

- Family Sponsorship
- Economic Class
- Temporary Residence

## ■ Refugees

- Convention Refugees Abroad and Humanitarian Protected Persons Abroad
  - Government sponsored refugees (overseas)
  - Privately sponsored refugees (overseas)
- Protected Persons and Convention Refugees
  - Inland Claims: “Refugee Claimants”
- Humanitarian and Compassionate Cases
  - Inland or abroad in very special cases

# New Canadian Permanent Residents (2008)

## ■ By Class:

- Family Class: 65,500 = 27%
- Economic Class: 149,000 = 60%
- Refugees: 21,800 = 9%
- Other: 10,700 = 4%
- **Total: 247,000**

## ■ Refugees By Location (estimated):

- Toronto: 7630 = 35%
- Montreal: 3488 = 16%
- Vancouver: 3270 = 15%
- Calgary: 1090 = 5%
- Edmonton: 620 = 3%
- **Total: 21,800**

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

# Education and Income (2007)

	<b>Immigrants and Refugees (&lt; 5 years)</b>	<b>Canadian-born</b>
<b>Percentage with Bachelor Degree or higher</b>	36%	22%
<b>Percentage with Graduate Degree</b>	12.4%	2.4%
<b>Percentage below Low Income Cut Off</b>	18.5%	8.0%
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	11.5%	4.9%

Source: Statistics Canada

# Occupational Shift: Men

	Before Immigrating	After Immigrating
<b>Management</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
Business, finance and administration	8.1%	9.8%
<b>Natural and applied sciences</b>	<b>38.6%</b>	<b>18.8%</b>
Healthcare	3.5%	1.8%
Social science, education, gov't service and religion	7.3%	4.8%
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	1.8%	1.0%
<b>Sales and service occupations</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>24.9%</b>
Trades, transport and equipment operators	9.9%	10.4%
Occupations unique to primary industry	3.6%	1.8%
<b>Processing, manufacturing and utilities</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>22.3%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada

# Challenges Specific to Refugee Professionals

- Negative perceptions of qualifications from regions of conflict and poverty
- Immigrant employment programs do not accommodate unique situations of refugees
- Economic imperative to migration absent
- Transportation loans
- Safe Third Country Agreement

# Certification and Foreign Credential Recognition Efforts

- Federal government programs
- Credential evaluation services
- Provincial legislation
- Regulator efforts
- Bridging partnerships (PSIs, regulators, community organizations)
- Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition programs
- Regional Employment Partnerships



**Thank you!**

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