

# Immigration 101: Everyone Contributes

Everyone contributes regardless of the immigration stream by which they enter Canada. Immigration contributes to stemming our employment gap as more people retire than enter the workforce. Immigrants contribute to Canadian businesses and help them expand or pursue new and untapped markets. Immigrants of all streams volunteer, support community activities, and 85% take up citizenship.



**Family sponsored, refugee or economic immigrant, everyone contributes.**

## Key Messages



Immigrants frequently contribute their prime working years to employers in Canada.

We know that over the next 20 years, Canada is expected to have 1.6 million more people leave than enter the workforce. Immigrants to Canada will contribute to lessening this gap.



Immigrants contribute to the workforce. They help employers meet the increasing needs of diverse clientele. Immigrants have global experience and language skills to help businesses pursue new and untapped markets. They are motivated to face new challenges and be innovative.



Immigrants contribute to Canada's import market, expanding the ever-increasing choice of products available on our shelves.

Immigrants have a positive attitude towards Canada. They are motivated to contribute to society. Immigrants participate in social and civic activities. Immigrants volunteer. Immigrants take up citizenship at a high rate and this rate is increasing.

## Statistics

Between 2018 and 2040

- Approximately **1.6 million** less people will enter than exit the labour force leaving Canada with a shortage of workers
- Immigration will account for **all** of Canada's **net labour force growth**
- Immigration will account for **1/3** of Canada's **economic growth rate**

(Statistics Canada, 2016 Census)

## Stories

### Meet Jimmy



Jimmy Christeas is so busy he won't sit still for an interview, running back and forth from the cash to the backroom at Quinpool Shoe Repair, a business he has managed for 10 years and worked in since he was a kid. It has the ambiance of an old-fashioned business where family members drop by to help, friends hang out just to chat, and customers are greeted by name. Business is booming, as it's one of the few remaining shoe repairs.

**“Business is booming, as it’s one of the few remaining shoe repairs.”**

Jimmy — his actual name is Dimitri — is the son of Greek immigrants who came to Nova Scotia in the '60s. They met here as Jimmy's father came first along with his five sisters, some of whom returned to Greece. His mother came from the island of Lesbos. His dad was a cobbler in Greece but found restaurant work when he arrived. He later opened a shoe repair on Dutch Village Road and then Bayers Road, where Jimmy would hang out after school while his mom worked as a hairdresser. “I started shining shoes, trimming high-heel lifts at 14. I was just fiddling pretty much, not really working. I was there to come home with him.”

About 30 years ago, his father bought the shoe repair on Quinpool Road, which Jimmy eventually took over and last year moved across the street. Jimmy left high school to work, and for a while went to night school to finish up his courses. “My parents wanted me to go further with school, but it wasn't going to happen,” he explains. “One thing my parents never did is pressure me. They saw me as more of a working type than going to school!”

Jimmy lives with his elderly parents and returns every summer to Sparta, often with his son Kosta, an engineering student. He has two sisters — his older one works in a market and the other is a pharmacist. He enjoys the business and the camaraderie it provides. He says repairs change over the years as there are now a lot of plastic shoes and soles. He treats his customers well and takes good care of their shoes, as did his father before him.

### Sources

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