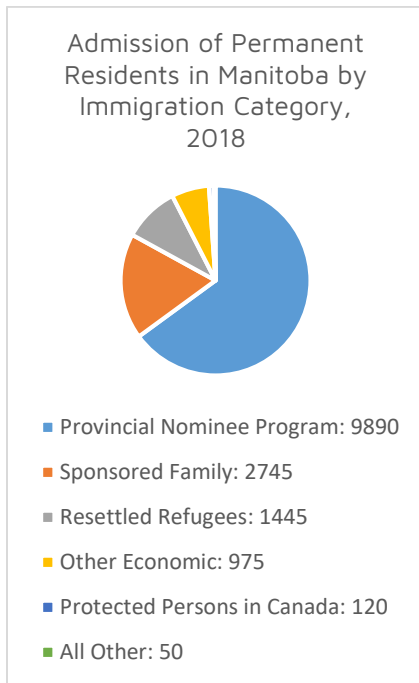


With the provincial election coming up on September 10th, 2019, there are many opportunities to engage with candidates on issues of importance to immigrants and refugees. This backgrounder highlights key facts, issues, and questions for candidates and is intended to support facts-based dialogue on these issues.

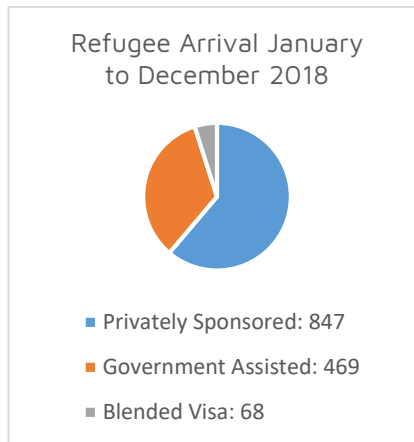
IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION IN MANITOBA



Arrivals

15, 220 new permanent residents arrived in Manitoba in 2018. Winnipeg was the intended destination for 12,115 people while 3105 had regional destinations.

Manitoba issued 5,207 nominations for Canadian permanent residence in 2018. The approval rate for the Provincial Nominee Program overall was 93.8%.



Source: IRCC (Open Government Portal and RAP Dashboard 2018) and Province of Manitoba (ImmigrateManitoba.com)

Population Growth

In 2016, Manitoba was the third fastest growing province with a population growth rate of 5.8%. Two-thirds of this population increase was due to international migration. Winnipeg and Brandon grew at a rate of just over 6%, while many other rural communities had double digit population growth.

Source: Statistics Canada Census 2016

A steady supply of net in-migrants from 2018-2024 is projected to be required to meet job opening requirements.

Labour Market

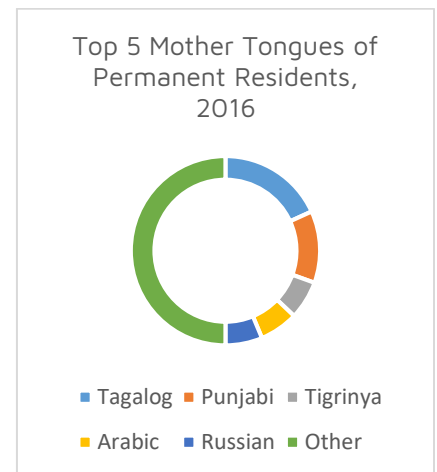
60% of the 168,700 forecasted job openings for 2018-2024 will require some post-secondary education and training (e.g. college, trade certification, university).

Source: Manitoba Labour Market Forecast

Community Trends

Top 5 Permanent Resident Source Countries, 2016

Country	Total	Percent
Philippines	3, 604	21.4%
India	3, 001	17.8%
Eritrea	1, 413	8.4%
Syria	1, 242	7.4%
China	1, 030	6.1%



Source: Manitoba Immigration Facts 2016

SETTLEMENT SERVICES IN MANITOBA

Manitoba has a long tradition of welcoming and supporting newcomers. Newcomers bring a variety of skills and experiences that benefit our economy, enrich our communities, and make Manitoba stronger and more vibrant.

Settlement services, including language training programs, support newcomers to orient themselves, find jobs and housing, register in school, learn English or French, and access services. These supports are essential for many to start building a new life in a new community.

The Federal government provides the majority of funding for such supports. Manitoba’s investment is smaller in comparison, but is very important to cover any gaps in services and to make sure all newcomers get the services they need. The Provincial government has a large role in mainstream supports that impact settlement, including housing, health, education, and employment.

KEY ISSUES IMPACTING NEWCOMERS TO MANITOBA

Language and Employment: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is the main language funder in Manitoba. IRCC does not provide funding to non-permanent residents, including Canadian citizens, temporary foreign workers, and refugee claimants. They provide limited funding for higher level language learners. The Province can play a key role in filling these gaps to support social and economic integration.

	Stage 1 (Literacy to CLB 4) (Lower English Levels)	Stage 2 (CLB 5+) (Higher English Levels)
Permanent Residents	IRCC funding focus on Stage 1 language training	Limited IRCC funding
Non-Permanent Residents	No funding for language training	Possible provincial funding for programs with an employment focus

Housing: Recently arrived immigrants and refugee families are more likely to live in core housing need than non-immigrant families. It is becoming more challenging for low-income families to afford appropriate housing, for example due to changes to Rent Assist rates. Access to safe and appropriate housing is vital for newcomers to focus on steps needed for their social and economic integration.

Health and Mental Health: Access to mental health services can be a key part of creating a sense of well-being for newcomers, especially for those from refugee backgrounds who have experienced trauma.

Education: Students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds make up an increasing portion of the student population. Offering targeted supports to newcomer students can make the difference between very positive outcomes, and very negative outcomes.

ENGAGING WITH CANDIDATES: You and an organization or community you are part of can meet with local candidates to discuss key issues related to immigration and settlement supports. You can also attend local or issue-based forums. Visit [CCEDNET Manitoba](#) for information on forums, platforms, and voting.

KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

Vision for Immigration in Manitoba: How do you see the Provincial Nominee Program working together with Federal economic and humanitarian immigration streams to build our Province's social and economic capital? How would you ensure that processes are equitable for both internal and overseas applicants?

Approach to Integration in Manitoba: What are the key elements of your platform that will support integration of newcomers to Manitoba in areas of provincial jurisdiction?

Language and Employment: Will you provide funding for English language training programs, especially those for newcomers who are not currently funded by either the federal or provincial governments? Will you increase funding for bridging programs which allow internationally-trained newcomers to put their skills to use?

Housing: Will you develop a Provincial Housing Strategy to demonstrate how supports of the National Housing Strategy will be implemented in Manitoba? How will you use the Canada Housing Benefit to enhance the Rent Assist program?

Health and Mental Health: Will you develop and fund a strategy for improving mental health for newcomers? Will you increase funding for accessible, culturally informed, and gender sensitive community-based mental health services?

Education: How will you provide funding to education to meet the unique needs of newcomer students to Manitoba? Will you increase investment in Intensive Newcomer Support Grants and additional funding for schools with higher concentrations of refugee students who face multiple barriers?

ENGAGING NEWCOMER VOTERS: Elections Manitoba, the Ethnocultural Council of Manitoba, and Immigration Partnership Winnipeg have developed voting information brochures in Amharic, Arabic, Hindi, Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Tigrinya, and Urdu that will be distributed to ethnocultural communities and organizations. Contact admin@ethnomanitoba.ca for more information.