

# NEWCOMER MYTHBUSTERS

Confronting some of the misconceptions and myths about immigration in Canada and the challenges that newcomers face



CHATHAM-KENT  
LOCAL IMMIGRATION  
PARTNERSHIP

# MYTHS & FACTS



---

In 2017, Canada welcomed over 286,000 permanent residents<sup>1</sup>, with more than 111,000 choosing to make Ontario their home.<sup>2</sup> From 2011 to 2016, 660 immigrants settled in Chatham-Kent.<sup>3</sup>

---

**Myth: New immigrants don't know how to speak English or French, and do not want to learn**

**Fact:** 97.2% of Chatham-Kent's immigrant population indicated speaking English as their primary language in daily communications.<sup>4</sup>

**Fact:** Accessing language classes can be a challenge. Newcomers can sometimes face difficulties including transportation, conflicting work/class schedules and unfamiliarity with services.

**Myth: Newcomers are a drain on resources**

**Fact:** Canada's immigration policies are designed to attract more skilled workers than any other class of immigrants. In 2017, the Government of Canada adopted a multi-year plan to grow our annual immigration levels to 340,000 by 2020, with 60 percent of the growth in the Economic Class.<sup>5</sup>

**Fact:** Immigrants are educated in diverse fields and bring knowledge of diverse languages. They are a resource to Chatham-Kent that allow local businesses to become more competitive in a global market.

**Fact:** The immigrants that came to Chatham-Kent between 2011 and 2016 were mostly young and working aged individuals, with 55% being between the ages of 25 to 64. These individuals are ready and willing to contribute to the economy right away. Over that same time period, 14.5% of arriving immigrants were between the ages of 15 and 24. This group is also workforce age, or will be able to join soon.<sup>6</sup>

**Myth: Internationally trained professionals are not as qualified as Canadian professionals**

**Fact:** Foreign trained professionals must have credentials reviewed by accredited Canadian assessment bodies to be employed in their field. The skilled immigrants, who are looking for educational credential assessment, are not only highly educated but also possess significant professional work experience in a number of areas, many in regulated professions.<sup>7</sup>

**Myth: Immigrants take jobs away from Canadians**

**Fact:** The percentage of immigrants who were employed in Chatham-Kent on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 was 44.8%; this is lower than the percentage of non-immigrants (56.8%) and non-permanent residents (56.4%).<sup>8</sup>

**Fact:** A list compiled in August 2018 showed that 700 jobs were available in Chatham-Kent. This shows that Chatham-Kent needs individuals to fill available positions.<sup>9</sup>

# MYTHS & FACTS



## **Myth: Newcomers don't need assistance**

**Fact:** Newcomers may face isolation and may feel anxious when they arrive in Canada.

**Fact:** Local Chatham-Kent settlement agency, Adult Language and Learning, supports an average of 350 clients each year looking for settlement supports.

## **Myth: "The worst" people from other countries are coming to Canada and bringing crime and violence**

**Fact:** New immigrants do not have a significant impact on property crime rates, but as they stay longer, more established immigrants actually decrease property crime rates significantly. Immigration has a "spillover effect", such as changing the neighbourhood characteristics and affecting the behaviour of the native population, reducing crime rates in the long run.<sup>10</sup>

**Fact:** The research on the relationship between immigration and crime has shown that they are either negatively associated or not related at all.<sup>11</sup>

## **Myth: Refugees in Canada receive greater assistance from the government than Canadian pensioners**

**Fact:** The amount of monthly financial support that government-assisted refugees receive is based on social assistance rates in each province and territory. It is the minimum amount needed to cover only the most basic food and shelter needs.<sup>12</sup>

**Fact:** Financial support can last up to one year after a refugee arrives in Canada, or until they can support themselves, whichever occurs first.<sup>13</sup>

## **Myth: Newcomers to Canada are uneducated**

**Fact:** Data from the 2016 Census shows that in Chatham-Kent, newcomers and immigrants tend to hold higher levels of education than non-immigrants.<sup>14</sup>

**Fact:** In Canada, the percentage of all immigrants with a master's or doctorate degree is twice that of the Canadian-born population. Among immigrants aged 25 to 64, 11.3% had a master's or doctorate degree compared with 5.0% among the Canadian-born population. Recent immigrants (those who came to Canada between 2011-2016) were even more likely to have a master's or doctorate degree, with 16.7% of them holding these graduate degrees in 2016.<sup>15</sup>

## **Myth: Asylum seekers 'jump the queue'**

**Fact:** Refugee claims do not affect other immigration applications. The application processes are handled within a different stream of Canada's immigration system.<sup>16</sup>

**Fact:** The refugee application process takes longer than the process for economic and family class applications.<sup>17</sup>

## **Myth: The children of immigrants fail to thrive in Canada, and become a drain on the Canadian economy**

**Fact:** The children of immigrants who arrived in Canada over the past several decades outperform their peers with Canadian-born parents in educational attainment overall, and the two groups have similar labour market outcomes.<sup>18</sup>

# MYTHS & FACTS



## References:

- <sup>1</sup>Government of Canada, the Honourable Hussen, Ahmed. "2018 Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration." *Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada*, Reference number: C&I 2516-11-2018, (2018), <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/annual-report-parliament-immigration-2018/report.html>
- <sup>2</sup>Munger, Alex. "Ontario Demographic Quarterly: Highlights of fourth quarter, 2018." *Ontario Ministry of Finance*, (March 21, 2019), <https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/quarterly/dhiq4.html>
- <sup>3</sup>Statistic Canada. "Census Profile, 2016 Census." (2016), <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CMACA&Code1=556&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=Chatham-Kent&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&B1=All&GeoLevel=PR&GeoCode=556&TABID=1>
- <sup>4</sup>Chatham-Kent Local Immigration Partnership. "Chatham-Kent Local Immigration Partnership Recommendations for Future Practice Research Overview and Recommendations." (2018), <https://www.chatham-kent.ca/livingck/communityconnections/cklip/resources/Documents/CKLIP%20Recommendations%20for%20Future%20Practice%20Final%20Research%20Report.pdf>
- <sup>5</sup>Government of Canada, the Honourable Hussen, Ahmed. "2018 Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration." *Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada*, (2018), <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/annual-report-parliament-immigration-2018/report.html>
- <sup>6</sup>Statistic Canada. "Data tables, 2016 Census." (2016), <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/dt-td/index-eng.cfm>
- <sup>7</sup>Lowe, S. and Ortiz, A. "Considering Canada: A Look at the Views of Prospective Skilled Immigrants.", *WES World Education Services*, (May 2015) <sup>8</sup>Chatham-Kent Local Immigration Partnership. "Chatham-Kent Local Immigration Partnership Recommendations for Future Practice Research Overview and Recommendations." (2018), <https://www.chatham-kent.ca/livingck/communityconnections/cklip/resources/Documents/CKLIP%20Recommendations%20for%20Future%20Practice%20Final%20Research%20Report.pdf>
- <sup>9</sup>Wright, Geoff. "10 Year Record Low Unemployment Rate Shows that Chatham-Kent Employers are Hiring." *Municipality of Chatham-Kent Economic Development Services, Community Development*, (2018), <https://www.chatham-kent.ca/EconomicDevelopment/media/Pages/Releases/10-Year-Record-Low-Unemployment-Rate-Shows-that-Chatham-Kent-Employers-are-Hiring.aspx>
- <sup>10</sup>Zhang, Haimin. "Immigration and Crime: Evidence from Canada." *Canadian Labour Market and Skills Researcher Network*, Working Paper No. 135, (April 2014), <http://www.clsrn.econ.ubc.ca/workingpapers/CLSRN%20Working%20Paper%20No.%20135%20-%20Zhang.pdf>
- <sup>11</sup>Jung, Seyun Maria, "The Relationship between Immigration and Crime in Canada: 1976-2011." Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, University of Toronto, (2017), [https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/79009/3/Jung\\_Seyun\\_Maria\\_201706\\_PhD\\_thesis.pdf](https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/79009/3/Jung_Seyun_Maria_201706_PhD_thesis.pdf)
- <sup>12</sup>Government of Canada, "Do government-assisted refugees get more income support and benefits than Canadian pensioners do?" *Immigration and Citizenship, Help Centre*, (2019), <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=105&top=11>
- <sup>13</sup>Government of Canada, "How long does the support for government-assisted refugees last?" *Immigration and Citizenship, Help Centre*, (2019), <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=102&top=11>
- <sup>14</sup>Chatham-Kent Local Immigration Partnership. "Chatham-Kent Local Immigration Partnership Recommendations for Future Practice Research Overview and Recommendations." (2018), <https://www.chatham-kent.ca/livingck/communityconnections/cklip/resources/Documents/CKLIP%20Recommendations%20for%20Future%20Practice%20Final%20Research%20Report.pdf>
- <sup>15</sup>Statistics Canada, "Education in Canada: Key results from the 2016 Census." *The Daily*, (November 29, 2017), <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/171129/dq171129a-eng.htm>
- <sup>16</sup>Gerami, Arghavan. "Facts and Myths about Refugees in Canada." (May 21, 2018), <https://www.geramilaw.com/blog/dispelling-myths-refugees-canada.html>
- <sup>17</sup>Government of Canada, "Check processing times." *Immigration and Citizenship, My immigration or citizenship application*, (2019), <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/check-processing-times.html>



# MYTHS & FACTS



<sup>18</sup> Hou, Feng, and Bonikowska, Aneta. "Educational and Labour Market Outcomes of Childhood Immigrants by Admission Class." *Social Analysis and Modelling Division, Statistics Canada*, (April 25, 2016), <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2016377-eng.htm>

