



'your grassroots think-ing tank'

Ottawa, Canada

Website: www.POGGtalk.org

E-Mail: info@POGGtalk.org

**WHAT DO CANADIANS WANT
POGG IMMIGRATION REPORT 2
APRIL 2009**

The following are the perceptions that many Canadians hold concerning immigration. These are common misconceptions that need to be addressed,

1. the perception that immigration is necessary for a healthy economy;
2. the perception that we must increase ethnic or cultural diversity;
3. the perception that immigration policy should support extended-family reunification;
4. the perception of the need to protect all asylum-seekers from torture and death at the hands of foreign tyrants;
5. the perception that our low birth rate demands huge population intakes;
6. the perception that we need more low-cost labour. This presupposes that the needs cannot be met by innovation, automation and/or by paying more attractive wages and benefits;
7. the perception that we can only meet certain national needs for educated and skilled labour by importing people. This presupposes that Canada lacks the people and resources to educate and train and unemployed Canadians are untrainable, or that we lack the political will to do so.

Recommendations:

- a) The Government provide coherent and practical interim policies while the larger questions and perceptions about immigration are publicly explored and debated.
- b) The Government ensure that its publications and utterances better meet the tests of truth and clarity in re immigration to facilitate clear and fact-based decision-making and solutions.
- c) Ensure that immigration and refugee policies, first and foremost, serve the interests of Canada and be managed well.
- d) Establish a reduction of intake numbers and a time-frame for the progressive elimination of all backlogs of immigrant visas and refugee claims;
- e) Review how immigrant and refugee applicants are currently selected
- d) Expand training facilities in our technical colleges and trade schools so that many of the skill shortages in our labor force be met by native workers, including aboriginal Canadians. Such expansions would provide employment for many thousands of educators and support staff, as well as the construction industry.
- e) Ensure that all immigrants are seen by a Canadian visa officer.
- f) Improve counseling services before immigrants arrive.
- g) Screen all immigrants for security.
- h) Implement an entry and exit tracking system.
- i) Develop an analysis of the footprint immigrants and refugees make re natural and urban environments, health and social services, and infrastructure needs.
- j) Ensure that certain public services and amenities (including health care) are in place, or soon will be, before they are overwhelmed by increasing demands and costs, caused in large part by immigration policies.
- k) Better utilize immigration to 'Grow a Sustainable Canada.'
- l) Enact a separate Refugee Protection Act and a separate Immigration Act.

•The above is a reformatted and condensed version of the recommendations in the March, 2008 POGG Canada report 'What Do Canadians Want' as presented on April 2, 2009 to The Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister for Immigration.