



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Federal Changes in Immigration Legislation and Policy

<b>Date:</b>	January 17, 2013
<b>To:</b>	Community Development and Recreation Committee
<b>From:</b>	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
<b>Wards:</b>	All Wards
<b>Reference Number:</b>	AFS # 16959

#### **SUMMARY**

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The immigration system in Canada has undergone a series of transforming policy and legislation changes in the last few years, impacting every immigration class and aspect of the system. These changes have shifted Canada's historical position related to receiving immigrant workers and their families as permanent residents to respond to labour market needs and supporting the humanitarian needs of populations fleeing their home countries, to meeting the more immediate labour market shortages through temporary foreign worker visas.

This report responds to the Community Development and Recreation Committee request for information on recent immigration legislation and policy changes. It focuses on changes made to the largest immigration classes as well as those that are likely to have a significant impact on Toronto's residents and communities. While some of the changes are viewed as positive, recent research reports, media and community agencies raise concerns with others. The report outlines some of these concerns, and highlights emerging trends and issues.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration recommends that:

1. The Community Development and Recreation Committee receive this report for information.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact associated with this report. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting of November 14, 2012, the Community Development and Recreation Committee deferred the report titled Undocumented Workers in Toronto (Item CD17.8) until its January 31, 2013 meeting and requested the City Manager report on recent changes in immigration legislation and policy and its impact on Toronto, including the temporary foreign worker program, refugee determination policies, immigration selection policy and levels. The full direction is available at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.CD17.8>

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Canada is a land of immigrants. The demographic profile of immigration has changed over time, reflecting different periods and government policies. Since Canada's inception in 1867, the federal government has used immigration policies to address demographic challenges, respond to labour market needs and achieve humanitarian, social and foreign policy goals. Over the years, while focusing on specific goals, the immigration policy had broader impacts. For example, until the 1960s, immigrants were predominantly from European countries, as race and ethnic origin were important factors in determining who could immigrate to Canada. With multiculturalism embraced in the early 1970s and numerous policy changes in the 1980s, the number of immigrants from visible minority groups significantly increased.

These and other immigration policy shifts made Toronto one of the most diverse places in the world and shaped our multicultural society. Today, over half of Toronto's residents were born outside of Canada, coming from 188 countries from around the world.

A number of recent federal immigration policy and legislative changes have the potential to significantly impact Toronto's communities. They may also shape future immigration into the city, transforming our society.

## **COMMENTS**

There are a number of immigration classes in Canada and a number of ways to enter and live here on a permanent or temporary basis. There are many different streams and programs under each of the immigration classes, some recently introduced, others significantly changed. Key changes are outlined below. A more detailed elaboration is provided as Appendix B.

### **Permanent Residents**

The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) identifies three main classes of permanent residents: economic, family and protected persons.

#### **Economic Class**

This is the largest class of new permanent residents in Canada. There are several streams under this class, including the Federal Skilled Worker (FSW), Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) and the Canadian Experience Class (CEC).

The FSW program has been substantially reformed. For example:

- a new points distribution system was introduced, with an emphasis on younger age and higher language proficiency
- new applications are restricted to 29 priority occupations, identified as in demand
- an annual cap of 10,000 new applications was introduced, including caps of 500 for each of the 29 occupations
- all unprocessed applications submitted prior to February 28, 2008 were returned, and a moratorium put on the program until May 4, 2013 to clear the remaining backlog and prepare for the new points system

Changes to the Provincial Nominee Program include capping the number of PNPs at existing levels and introduction of language requirements for those in low- and semi-skilled occupations (Alboim & Cohl, 2012).

The Canadian Experience Class (CEC) was created in 2008 to allow certain temporary residents to transition to permanent resident status. In 2012, the federal government proposed the reduction to the Canadian work experience requirement to one year from two years, within the last three years.

## **Family Class**

In late 2011, a two-year moratorium was placed on new applications for parent and grandparent sponsorship, while the government redesigns the program and deals with the considerable backlog. At the same time, a Parent and Grandparent Super Visa was introduced, allowing multiple visits to Canada, each up to two years over a ten-year period.

Since 2012, individuals who entered Canada as sponsored spouses and subsequently separate from the spouse who sponsored them, cannot sponsor a future spouse within five years of their own sponsorship and "effective October 25, 2012, sponsored spouses or partners must now live together in a legitimate relationship with their sponsor for two years from the day they receive permanent residence status in Canada." (CIC, 2012)

## **Protected Persons**

In 2012, the federal government made significant changes to the asylum system, with a goal to streamline it and make more efficient. The reformed system in effect created two new categories of refugee claimants: those from designated countries of origin (DCO), and those that arrived as irregular arrivals (Rico-Martinez, 2012).

Designated countries of origin are those that "do not normally produce refugees, but do respect human rights and offer state protection." (CIC, 2012) The initial list was announced on December 14, 2012 and all countries but two are in the European Union (EU). Under the new system and according to CIC, the estimated total processing time for claimants from DCOs is 30 to 45 days, while for non-DCO asylum claimants it is 240 days. Claimants from DCO countries no longer have access to the Refugee Appeal Division, but can appeal to the Federal Court for review of a negative decision.

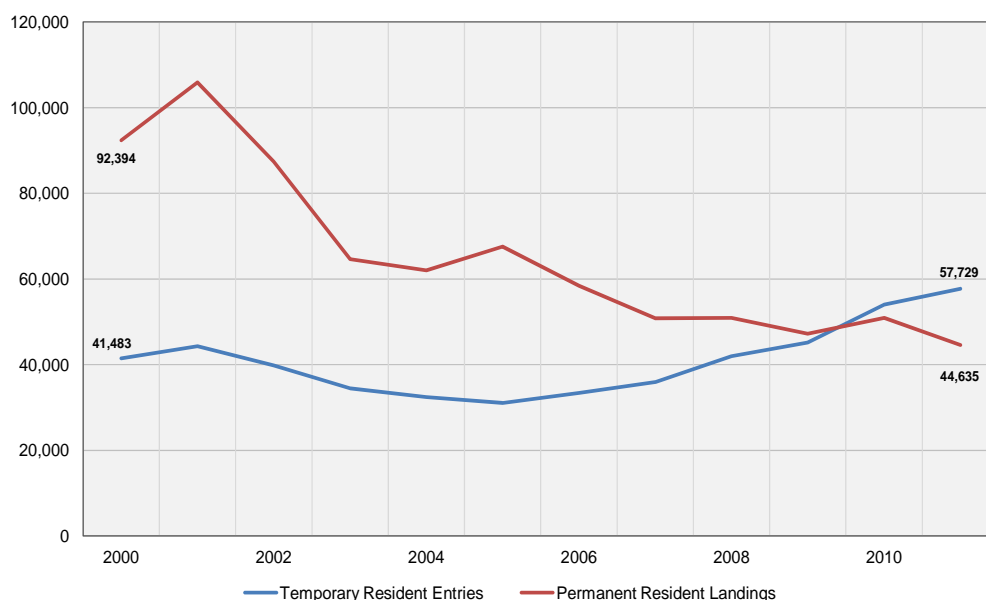
Irregular arrivals are refugee claimants designated as irregular by the Minister of Public Safety if they "arrive in groups of two or more in a way that prevents the timely examination of their identity and admissibility, or allows a minister to reasonably suspect the involvement of human smuggling." (Alboim & Cohl, 2012) Irregular arrivals older than 16 years of age are immediately detained. The Immigration and Refugee Board reviews the grounds for their detention within 14 days, while for other detained refugee claimants this is within 48 hours. Irregular arrivals have no access to the Refugee Appeal Division. Further, they cannot apply for permanent residency, travel documents or family sponsorship for five years after their refugee claim is accepted, unlike other refugees who can make such applications as soon as they become a refugee in Canada (Rico-Martinez, 2012).

Effective June 30, 2012, federal health coverage was reduced. Other than government-assisted and certain privately sponsored refugees, most refugees and claimants now receive less coverage than welfare recipients. For example, they are no longer eligible for supplemental benefits such as dental and vision care (Alboim & Cohl, 2012).

## Temporary Residents

In recent years Canada has been experiencing a significant increase in temporary immigration and a decline in permanent residency. While CIC plans admission ranges for permanent residents, temporary applications are processed according to demand and application in-flows are not capped (CIC, 2012). The graph below shows the statistics related to temporary and permanent landings in Toronto.

### Permanent and Temporary (Non-Visitor) Landings into Toronto (2000-2011)



Note that these data are for landings/entries only and do not take into account where individuals move after entering the country.

Permanent resident data includes family class, economic immigrants, and refugees granted permanent resident status. Temporary entries include students, workers, and refugee claimants who have not yet been granted PR status, but does not include visitors or other temporary resident permit holders.  
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada 2012 RDM Extracts

Temporary resident class includes temporary foreign workers (TFWs), international students and visitors.

Recent changes related to TFWs include a more rigorous assessment of the genuineness of the job offer; a two-year period of ineligibility for hiring temporary foreign workers for employers who fail to meet their commitments with respect to wages, working conditions and occupation; and a maximum four-year limit on the length of time some temporary workers may work in Canada before returning home (CIC, 2012).

A sub-category of TFWs, live-in caregivers, can now apply for permanent residence and an open work permit after completing two cumulative years as a live-in caregiver (CIC, 2012). The open work permits allow them to work in any sector and any job.

Initiatives introduced to attract and retain international students include off-campus work permit and post-graduation work permit, valid for up to three years. International students have access to many other opportunities in Canada during and after they complete their studies, including eligibility to apply for permanent residency through the CEC and other programs such as PNP and FSW.

## **Changes to Other Aspects of Immigration Policy**

In 2008, IRPA was amended through the 2008 Budget Implementation Act, increasing the decision making authority of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The Minister became authorized to issue Ministerial Instructions to immigration officers. Other bills introduced since then have further broadened Ministerial powers, introducing a possibility of retroactive application of regulations. In its letter to the Senate Committee on National Finance and the Standing Committee on Finance dated May 29, 2012, the National Immigration Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association cautions that this represents a significant change from previous immigration legislation, giving the Minister the power to create immigration classes and to set or change the rules governing them, including retroactively and without "sufficient controls to ensure Parliamentary scrutiny and public input." (Sohn, 2012)

In 2010, the federal government introduced a new citizenship exam and increased the passing mark to 75 from 60 per cent. As of November 2012, adults between 18 and 54 applying for citizenship must also provide proof that they meet a language requirement for citizenship.

In June 2011, the federal government introduced measures to strengthen the rules governing immigration consultants. This bill makes it an offence for anyone other than an accredited immigration representative to provide immigration advice, and increases related fines and penalties (CIC, 2012).

Other aspects of immigration policy change include efforts to combat residence fraud in citizenship and permanent residence programs, introduction of a new security deal between U.S. and Canada, and stricter regulations for deportation of foreign criminals (including permanent residents).

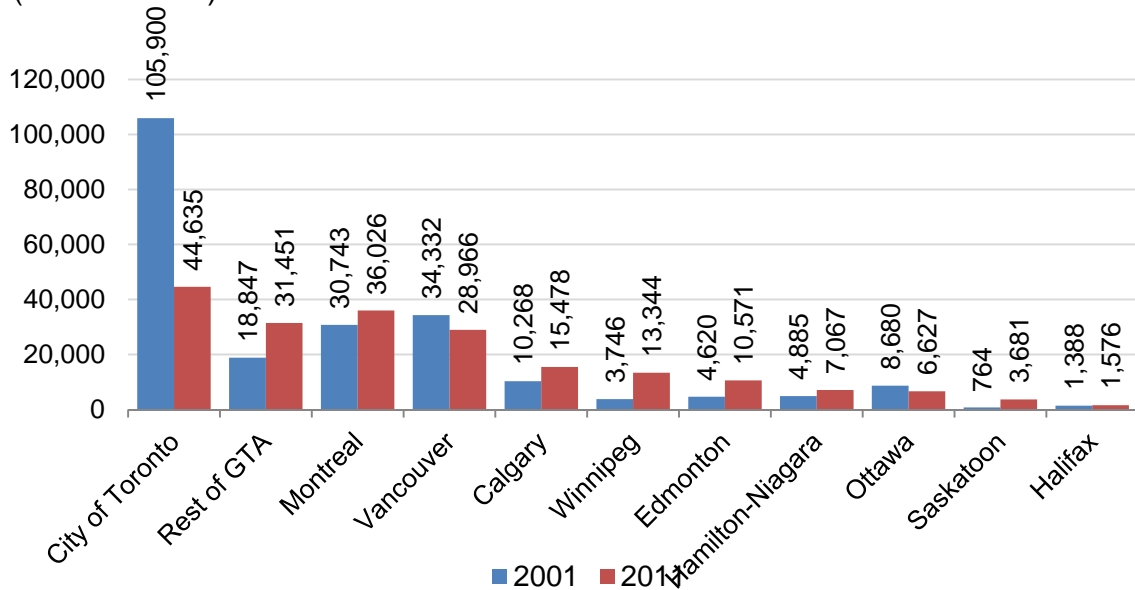
## **Implications for Toronto**

While it is too early to identify the specific impacts on Toronto, there are new and emerging trends related to immigration that may be of concern.

For many years, Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal have been the top three places where immigrants settle. While this is still the case, the immigrant population is settling more and more in suburbs and mid-sized urban centres. The charts below compare the permanent resident and temporary landings in locations across Canada over a ten-year period, showing that the relative decrease in permanent immigration is the highest in Toronto. At the same

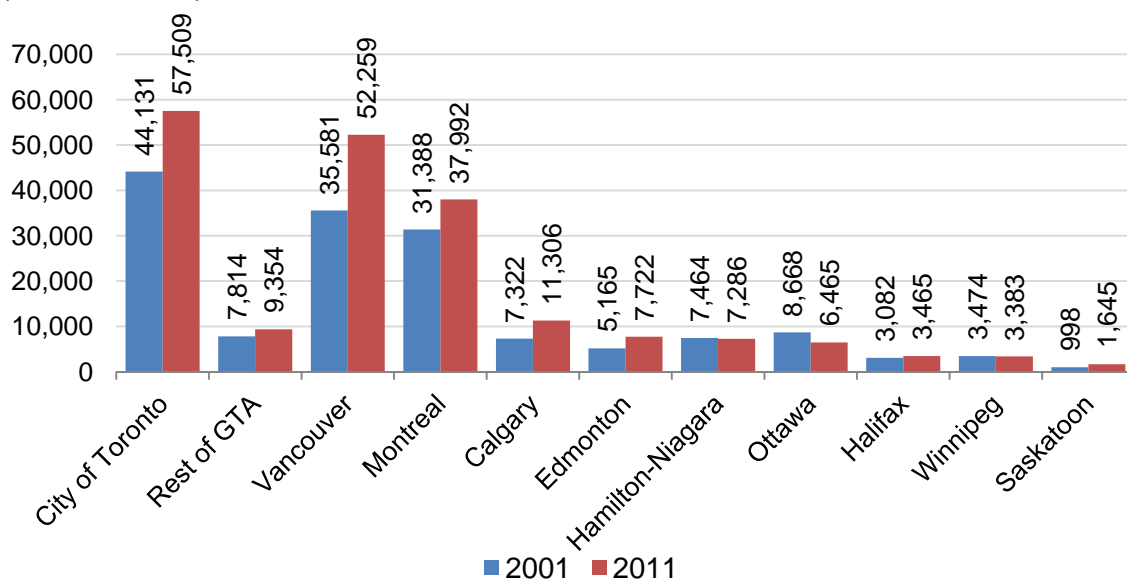
time, Toronto still receives the largest number of immigrants in classes that have more complex needs, such as refugees and some temporary residents. In addition, those that are admitted as permanent residents integrate faster and more successfully.

### Permanent Resident Entries (2001 to 2011)



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada RDM, Permanent Residents Q2 2012 Extracts

### Temporary Resident Entries (2001 to 2011)



Note: Figure reports data on temporary foreign workers, foreign students, and refugee claimants.  
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada RDM, Temporary Residents Q2 2012 Extracts

Ontario's share of federal funding for settlement services was recently reduced by \$32 million, because of the decrease in the number of new immigrants. At the same time, the overall federal funding increased by approximately \$400 million (Alboim & Cohl, 2012). Other provinces have seen an increase in both their funding and the number of economic immigrants. However, the mix of immigrants in Ontario is different than in most other provinces.

The composition of the immigrant population has changed, with more temporary residents coming to Canada rather than permanent. While this may solve the current labour shortages in some places, it is not a viable long-term solution in the situation when the population growth will soon be solely based on immigration.

With stricter policies, the number of undocumented persons may rise. As Temporary Foreign Workers reach the four-year limit on their visas, some may decide to stay regardless. As new refugee policies are implemented, the number of failed refugee claimants is expected to increase and some may decide to go underground. According to CIC statistics, in 2011 there were approximately 36,000 refugee claimants in Toronto, representing 38 per cent of the total number in Canada.

The competition for highly skilled immigrants has grown internationally. The increased complexity and unpredictability of our immigration system may create an impression that Canada is no longer as welcoming as it once was (Alboim & Cohl, 2012). This competition is increasing within Canada as well, and the new policies do not take into account regional differences and needs. All this is happening at a time when we are already seeing a significant decrease in the number of permanent residents settling in Toronto.

## **Conclusion**

Through immigration policy and legislation, the federal government regulates who can and who cannot come and settle here. Elimination of racial discrimination and the introduction of the points system in the 1960s, the Multiculturalism Act of 1988 and the IRPA from 2001 are some of the notable turning points in Canada's immigration history that shaped our society as one of the most welcoming and diverse in the world. The recently introduced changes have the potential to once again transform Canada. With an aging society, volatile economy and labour market shortages, immigration policy is more important than ever.

It is critical that the City of Toronto continues to monitor the impacts of immigration policy changes on Toronto, while continuing to be engaged in meaningful dialogue with the other orders of government, community and other partners, in order to ensure the optimum outcomes for Toronto.



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## **SIGNATURE**

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## Appendix A

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## Appendix B

### Outline of Key Federal Immigration Policy and Legislation Changes

#### Permanent Residents

The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) identifies three main classes of permanent residents: economic, family and protected persons.

#### Economic Class

The economic class remains the largest class of new permanent residents to Canada. In 2011, 62.8 per cent of all admissions were in this category (Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2012). There are several streams under this class, including the Federal Skilled Worker (FSW), Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) and the Canadian Experience Class (CEC).

**Federal Skilled Worker:** With a goal of "building a fast and flexible immigration system whose primary focus is meeting Canada's economic and labour market needs" (CIC, 2012), the FSW program has been substantially reformed. For example:

- a new points distribution system was introduced, with an emphasis on younger age and higher language proficiency
- new applications are restricted to 29 priority occupations, identified as in demand
- an annual cap of 10,000 new applications was introduced, including caps of 500 for each of the 29 occupations
- all unprocessed applications submitted prior to February 28, 2008 were returned, and a moratorium put on the program until May 4, 2013 to clear the remaining backlog and prepare for the new points system

According to the 2012 Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration recently released by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), these and other changes to the FSW stream are already making a positive impact. In 2011 the backlog has been reduced by more than 52 per cent, and the FSW admissions to Canada were 21 per cent above the planned range (total of 57,296 admissions).

While these are remarkable achievements, concerns are raised by researchers, media and others. Caps, moratoria and returning applications may deter potential applicants. Because of the new points system applicants from English or French speaking countries may predominate; people at the height of their careers may not qualify based on their age; the restricted occupation lists may not respond to different regional needs (Alboim & Cohl, 2012).

**Provincial Nominee Program:** In 2011, a total of 38,420 immigrants settled through this program across Canada (CIC, 2012). Nationally, this is the second-largest immigration program and it has grown considerably since its inception in 1996. Ontario is the last

province to launch the program in 2005 and is also limited to 1,000 principal applicants a year, a small number relative to the volume of annual immigration to the province (Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services, 2012).

Recent changes include capping the number of PNPs at existing levels and the introduction of language requirements for those in low- and semi-skilled occupations (Alboim & Cohl, 2012). These and other decisions that the Federal government made with limited consultation, have strained federal-provincial relations (Alboim & Cohl, 2012). The language of the recently released Ontario's Immigration Strategy reflects this and emphasises that federal policies are hurting Ontario.

**Canadian Experience Class (CEC):** Created in 2008, it allows highly skilled temporary foreign workers and international foreign students who have Canadian work experience and official language skills to transition to permanent resident status. While a relatively small number of people were granted permanent residence through this program, it is growing in popularity and significance. It rose from 2,545 in 2009 to 6,022 in 2011 (Alboim & Cohl, 2012). In 2012, the federal government proposed the reduction to the Canadian work experience requirement to one year from two years, cumulative within the last three years.

The CEC program and a few other programs such as the Live-in Caregiver, represent a two-step pathway to permanent residency. These programs became an important element of permanent immigration to Canada, but they "sidestep the continuing increase in temporary entrants." (Goldring & Landolt, 2012) Researchers also caution that it is important that two-step immigration does not become the norm. Temporary residents go through a longer integration, as they are not eligible for federally-funded settlement services and are often not able to bring their families to Canada (Alboim & Cohl, 2012).

## **Family Class**

Family reunification is one of the goals of Canada's immigration policy. In 2011, 56,446 permanent residents in this class were admitted to Canada, slightly below the planned admission range of 58,500 to 65,500 (CIC, 2012).

In late 2011, a two-year moratorium was placed on new applications for parent and grandparent sponsorship, while the government redesigns the program and deals with the considerable backlog. At the same time, a Parent and Grandparent Super Visa was introduced, allowing multiple visits to Canada, each up to two years over a ten-year period. These two measures may cause hardship for Canadian residents, including citizens with parents or grandparents living abroad. The government's objective "appears to be excluding those who are perceived as potential drain on the economy." (Alboim & Cohl, 2012)

Two other significant changes relate to sponsorship of spouses, both with major implications. Since 2012, individuals who entered Canada as sponsored spouses and subsequently separate from the spouse who sponsored them, cannot sponsor a future spouse within five years of their own sponsorship and "effective October 25, 2012, sponsored spouses or partners must now live together in a legitimate relationship with their sponsor for two years from the day they receive permanent residence status in Canada." (CIC,

2012) These changes could cause hardship in situations of a legitimate marriage breakdown, in case of death of the sponsoring spouse, or can result in serious harm for individuals in an abusive relationship (Alboim & Cohl, 2012).

### **Protected Persons**

This class includes government-assisted refugees selected abroad, privately sponsored refugees and persons who receive protected person status in Canada as a result of a positive asylum claim (CIC, 2012). Refugee claimants are people that seek protected person status at entry or when they are already in Canada, for fear that they will be persecuted or at risk if they return to their home country. In 2012, the federal government made significant changes to the asylum system, with a goal to streamline it and make more efficient.

The reformed system in effect created two new categories of refugee claimants: those from designated countries of origin (DCO) and those that arrived as "irregular arrivals." (Rico-Martinez, 2012) Their treatment is different, not based on the substance of their claim, but based on their country of origin and whether they arrived as part of a group or were smuggled into the country.

Designated countries of origin are those that "do not normally produce refugees, but do respect human rights and offer state protection." (CIC, 2012) The initial list was announced on December 14, 2012 and all countries but two are in the European Union (EU). CIC states that 80 per cent of all claims made by EU nationals in 2011 were filed in Canada. The majority of EU claimants withdraw or abandon their claims and the rejection rate of those that do appear before the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada is 91 per cent (CIC, 2012). As of December 15, 2012, claimants from these countries have less time to prove their claim than other refugee claimants. They no longer have access to the Refugee Appeal Division, but can appeal to the Federal Court for review of a negative decision. Researchers as well as community agencies working with these populations raise concerns with these changes. For example, the new timelines may make obtaining documentation to substantiate a claim impossible. There is also a lack of consideration for circumstances within designated countries. Alboim and Cohl note several examples (Roma in Hungary, or gays in some countries), yet all claimants from DCOs will face the same stricter treatment in the new Canadian refugee system (Alboim & Cohl, 2012).

The second new group of refugee claimants are "irregular arrivals." The Minister of Public Safety can designate as such refugee claimants that "arrive in groups of two or more in a way that prevents the timely examination of their identity and admissibility, or allows a minister to reasonably suspect the involvement of human smuggling." (Alboim & Cohl, 2012) Irregular arrivals older than 16 years of age are immediately detained. The Immigration and Refugee Board reviews the grounds for their detention within 14 days, while for other detained refugee claimants this is within 48 hours. Irregular arrivals have no access to the Refugee Appeal Division. Further, they cannot apply for permanent residency, travel documents or family sponsorship for five years after their refugee claim is accepted, unlike other refugees who can make such applications as soon as they become a refugee in Canada (Rico-Martinez, 2012).

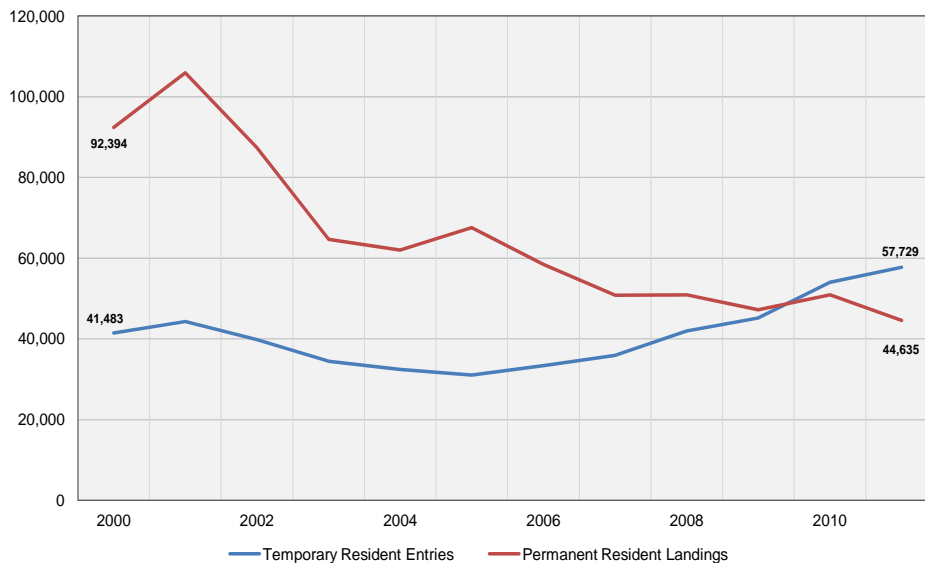
In addition to the above changes, effective June 30, 2012, the Interim Federal Health program was reduced for most refugees and claimants. Other than government-assisted and certain privately sponsored refugees, most refugees and claimants now receive less coverage than welfare recipients. For example, they are no longer eligible for supplemental benefits such as dental and vision care and can receive medications and vaccines only if there is a risk to public health or public safety (Alboim & Cohl, 2012).

The Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration program was piloted in June 2012 in the Greater Toronto Area. It provides reintegration assistance to failed claimants that voluntarily return to their country. They receive up to \$2,000 over a period of time. The program is administered through the International Organization for Migration in the home country.

## Temporary Residents

In recent years Canada has been experiencing a significant increase in temporary immigration and a decline in permanent residency. While CIC plans admission ranges for permanent residents, temporary applications are processed according to demand and application in-flows are not capped (CIC, 2012). The graph below shows the statistics related to temporary and permanent landings in Toronto.

**Permanent and Temporary (Non-Visitor) Landings into Toronto (2000-2011)**



Note that these data are for landings/entries only and do not take into account where individuals move after entering the country.

Permanent resident data includes family class, economic immigrants, and refugees granted permanent resident status. Temporary entries include students, workers, and refugee claimants who have not yet been granted PR status, but does not include visitors or other temporary resident permit holders.

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada 2012 RDM Extracts

Temporary resident class includes temporary foreign workers, international students and visitors.

In recent years, the number of people admitted under Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) category has significantly increased, while the number of admitted economic permanent residents has been on the decline. In 2006 the number of those still present surpassed the number of temporary workers entering Canada (Goldring & Landolt, 2012). "In 2010 and 2011 there were more temporary workers in Canada than all permanent residents admitted in those years as immigrants or refugees." (Alboim & Cohl, 2012)

Most temporary worker programs bind workers to a particular employer, giving a substantial role to employers who select and hire temporary workers, indirectly deciding who will immigrate to Canada or not. These TFW are put in precarious position, as their stay in Canada largely depends on their employer's will.

Some of the more recent changes related to TFWs aim to address these issues. They include a more rigorous assessment of the genuineness of the job offer; a two-year period of ineligibility for hiring temporary foreign workers for employers who fail to meet their commitments with respect to wages, working conditions and occupation; and a maximum four-year limit on the length of time some temporary workers may work in Canada before returning home (CIC, 2012). Alboim and Cohl note that some of these measures may punish foreign workers rather than employers who hire them for work that is really not temporary. TFWs that work for ineligible employers will no longer have legal temporary foreign worker status in Canada (Alboim & Cohl, 2012). They may go underground, the same as those that have reached the four-year maximum stay in Canada.

An example of a positive change concerns a sub-category of TFWs, live-in caregivers. They can apply for permanent residence and an open work permit after completing two cumulative years as a live-in caregiver (CIC, 2012). The open work permits allow them to work in any sector and any job. Other measures have been introduced to increase their protection, such as standard employment contracts, and emergency work permits if they leave a job due to abuse (Alboim & Cohl, 2012).

International students are another category of the temporary resident class that has seen a substantial growth in recent years. The number of international student entries to Canada between 2001 and 2011 increased by approximately 22 per cent, while the number of those present increased by 75 per cent during the same period, indicating that they are remaining for longer periods of time (Alboim & Cohl, 2012). Initiatives introduced to attract and retain international students include off-campus work permit and post-graduation work permit, valid for up to three years. These are positive developments and international students have access to many opportunities in Canada during and after they complete their studies. They are also eligible for permanent residency through the CEC and other programs such as PNP and FSW. At the same time, advantages for Canada are numerous: international students are an important source of revenue for educational institutions, they bring innovation and new ideas and also help address labour shortages. They are also a source of potential immigrants that will likely integrate faster and more successfully than other categories.

## **Changes to Other Aspects of Immigration Policy**

Many other aspects of immigration policy have also changed. They include efforts to combat residence fraud in citizenship and permanent residence programs, introduction of a new security deal between U.S. and Canada, and much stricter regulations for deportation of foreign criminals (including permanent residents). Additional changes are described below.

**Increased Ministerial Powers:** In 2008, IRPA was amended through the 2008 Budget Implementation Act, increasing the decision making authority of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The Minister became authorized to issue Ministerial Instructions to immigration officers. Other bills introduced since then have further broadened Ministerial powers, even introducing a possibility of retroactive application of regulations. Many of the changes described in this report have been introduced through Ministerial Instructions. In its letter to the Senate Committee on National Finance and the Standing Committee on Finance dated May 29, 2012, the National Immigration Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association cautions that this represents a significant change from previous immigration legislation, giving the Minister the power to create immigration classes and to set or change the rules governing them, including retroactively and without "sufficient controls to ensure Parliamentary scrutiny and public input." (Sohn, 2012)

**Citizenship:** In 2010, the federal government introduced a new citizenship exam and increased the passing mark to 75 from 60 per cent. This significantly increased the failure rate, and created a divide between immigrants from English-speaking and European countries, and those from Asian countries (Alboim & Cohl, 2012). As of November 2012, adults between 18 and 54 applying for citizenship must also provide proof that they meet a language requirement for citizenship.

In another amendment to the Canadian Citizenship Act, effective April 17th 2009, citizenship by descent is limited to the first generation of children born outside of Canada to a Canadian parent (naturalized or born in Canada).

**Immigration Consultants:** In June 2011, through Bill C-35, An Act to Amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, the federal government introduced measures to protect potential and new immigrants by strengthening the rules governing immigration consultants. This bill makes it an offence for anyone other than the accredited immigration representative to provide immigration advice, and increases related fines and penalties (CIC, 2012).