

New beginnings

1 Warmer

Write a definition for the word *immigration*. Include an example sentence and any other features that you might see in a dictionary entry.

immigrate /'ɪmɪ,ɡreɪt/ verb [I] to come to a country ...

immigration _____

imminent /'ɪmɪnənt/ adj likely or certain to happen ...

2 Key words

a. Match the key words and expressions from the article with their meanings.

role model	integrate	diversity	social cohesion
ethnic enclaves	skilled labour	compulsory	labour shortage
work permit	policies	union	tolerance

- the fact that very different people or things exist within a group or place _____
- an area of a country or city where a particular group of people live _____
- when people or things combine well socially _____
- the attitude of someone who is willing to accept someone else's beliefs, way of life, etc. without criticizing them even if they disagree with them _____
- become a full member of a society and be involved completely in its activities _____
- an organization that represents the workers in a particular industry and tries to improve pay, conditions, etc. _____
- someone whose looks and behaviour are considered a good example for others to copy _____
- workers with certain areas of expertise _____
- plans or actions agreed on by a government _____
- a lack of (not enough) workers _____
- an official document that gives you permission to work in a particular foreign country _____
- something that must be done because of a rule or law _____

b. Which of the words and expressions do you closely connect with the topic of immigration? Which are more general work-related words and expressions? Write them into the table.

work-related vocabulary	immigration vocabulary

c. Find further examples of general work-related or specific immigration vocabulary in the article and add them to the word fields.

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by Margaret Davis

Immigration is a topic that is causing quite a stir in many places. What criteria are used to decide? What about the language skills and the integration of new citizens? Margaret Davis reports on Canada, which is considered a model for successful immigration policy.

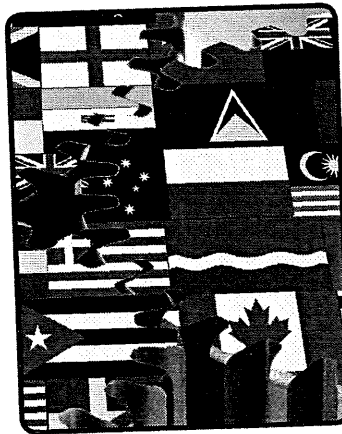
1 Jason Kenney sees immigrants as role models: "You observe how these new Canadians live their lives. ... They're all about a massive work ethic." The 41-year-old's enthusiasm is understandable – after all, he is Canada's minister for citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism. Yet Kenney also says that immigrants have a "duty" to integrate into Canadian society. In a 2010 speech to students at Huron University College in London, Ontario, the minister noted that Canada, with a total population of 34 million, accepts about 250,000 new permanent residents a year. In 2009, over 500,000 newcomers entered the country, if foreign students and temporary foreign workers are also included. "How can a country that maintains such a high level of immigration, while embracing the diversity that it brings, maintain a sense of social cohesion, of common purpose and of national identity?" Kenney asked.

2 Critics have described the Conservative Kenney as "repressive" and given him the title "minister of censorship and deportation". Still, the minister's calls for more integration are mild in comparison with the recent debates in Europe. He is critical of immigrants forming parallel communities, but adds that these "are to some extent a natural, unavoidable and arguably even desirable part of the immigration experience. People come to an immigrant-receiving country and get settled by initially attaching themselves to communities with which they're familiar and that provide social support and social capital. My concern is to ensure that ethnic enclaves don't become traps, preventing people from integrating into the broader Canadian society."

3 Canada has been welcoming immigrants as a policy since the late 19th century. Initially, newcomers were encouraged to build the nation, clearing land for farms and working in forestry and mining. Today the country's needs are different: immigrants provide skilled labour for an information- and knowledge-based economy.

4 According to the Conference Board of Canada, an independent research organization, approximately two thirds of Canada's current population growth comes from immigration. The Conference Board estimates that Canada will need more than 300,000 new immigrants a year after 2011, not including non-permanent workers and students.

5 How will these immigrants adjust to life in Canada? The 2001 Federal Immigrant Integration Strategy states



that "newcomers are expected to understand and respect basic Canadian values, and Canadians are expected to understand and respect the cultural differences newcomers bring to Canada. Rather than expecting newcomers to

abandon their own cultural heritage, the emphasis is on finding ways to integrate ..."

6 An important road to integration is learning one of Canada's two official languages. Since June 2010, a language test of either English or French has become compulsory for skilled workers wanting to enter the country as immigrants. Quebec selects its own immigrants and has its own immigration site, which states: "Speaking French is a necessity."

7 Since the early 1990s, Canada has seen an increase in temporary foreign workers entering the country. In 2006, for the first time, the number of such workers was greater than the number of permanent immigrants. While this means that employers can respond to labour shortages more quickly, the trend has its risks. "How far down the road of recruiting workers to meet short-term, labour-market gaps should Canada go – especially when that raises the possibility of creating a class of individuals who, as a result, are not full citizens and who run the risk of being 'ghettoized' ...?" asks the Conference Board in its 2008 report "Renewing Immigration".

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Work permits are issued for specific purposes and for specific periods of time. According to Statistics Canada, female temporary workers are most often caregivers, domestics or nannies; men are often agricultural workers. Many temporary workers want to become Canadian citizens. "What sets Canada's temporary foreign worker policies apart from policies in most of the rest of the world is that Canada permits long-term international workers to become permanent residents and, ultimately, citizens," notes the Conference Board. "In most other jurisdictions, international workers remain 'foreign' and are expected to leave the country on completion of their term of employment."

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Still, the programme is not without problems. While temporary workers can bring family members with them if they prove they can support them, most low wage earners are unable to do so. Asael Hernandez, 36, a farm worker in southern Ontario, has been leaving his family behind for five months a year for the past eight years. "... I miss [my family] a lot and I feel bad," he told *The Northumberland News*. Hernandez has no plans to become a Canadian citizen and feels no particular ties to the country. "I don't feel anything negative, or positive. Most of the time no one talks to us."

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On 24 December 2009, four migrant workers were killed in Toronto when the scaffold they were standing on collapsed, and they fell more than 13 storeys to the ground. None of the men were wearing safety harnesses, according to the UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers), a national union that speaks out for foreign workers in non-union positions.

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"Foreign workers in non-union settings often aren't told about their health and safety rights, including the right to refuse dangerous work," says union representative Jim Wright. "Even if these workers were concerned that the scaffold was dangerous, migrant workers often work in such desperate conditions that many are afraid to report it because they might get fired and repatriated to their home country."

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Canada's reputation for tolerance has been challenged in recent years by large numbers of non-white immigrants. But has multiculturalism failed? Not according to Phil Ryan, associate professor of public policy at Carleton University in Ottawa, and author of *Multicultiphobia*, a book that looks into immigration and the ways society can handle it. "Our society has changed a lot in its ethnic composition over the last 30 years. Many other societies have changed as well," Ryan told *Embassy* magazine. "We seem much more relaxed about that than many countries — for example, in western Europe. On a broad level, ... we'll try to understand people from other countries, not simply say: 'Look, this is the way it's done here, there's no discussion.' We will adapt in some areas and try to put our fingers on what's really important for us, where we don't want to change and where we should change. I think it's very healthy that we're — by and large — able to do that here."

Canadian journalist **MARGARET DAVIS** edits the *Careers* and *Global Business* sections of *Business Spotlight* magazine.

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Look at these extracts from the article. Explain the meaning of the underlined words and expressions.

1. Immigration is a topic that is causing quite a stir in many places.
2. Still, the minister's calls for more integration are mild in comparison with the recent debates in Europe.
3. People come to an immigrant-receiving country and get settled by initially attaching themselves to communities with which they're familiar...
4. ...immigrants provide skilled labour for an information- and knowledge-based economy.
5. ...that raises the possibility of creating a class of individuals who...are not full citizens and who run the risk of being "ghettoized"...
6. We will adapt in some areas and try to put our fingers on what's really important for us...
7. I think it's very healthy that we're -by and large- able to do that here.

Comprehension check

In pairs, take two paragraphs of the article and prepare four comprehension questions about them to ask the other students in the class.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Discussion

"How can a country that maintains such a high level of immigration, while embracing the diversity it brings, maintain a sense of social cohesion, of common purpose and of national identity?" – Jason Kenney.

Do you think that "a sense of social cohesion, of common purpose and of national identity" is important to a nation? Why (not)?

Do you have a sense of national identity? What does national identity mean to you?

"Canada permits long-term international workers to become permanent residents and, ultimately, citizens". Do you agree with this policy? What do you think should be the criteria for obtaining citizenship?