



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada: Federal Update

British Columbia Council for International Education

Victoria, British Columbia

June 20, 2016



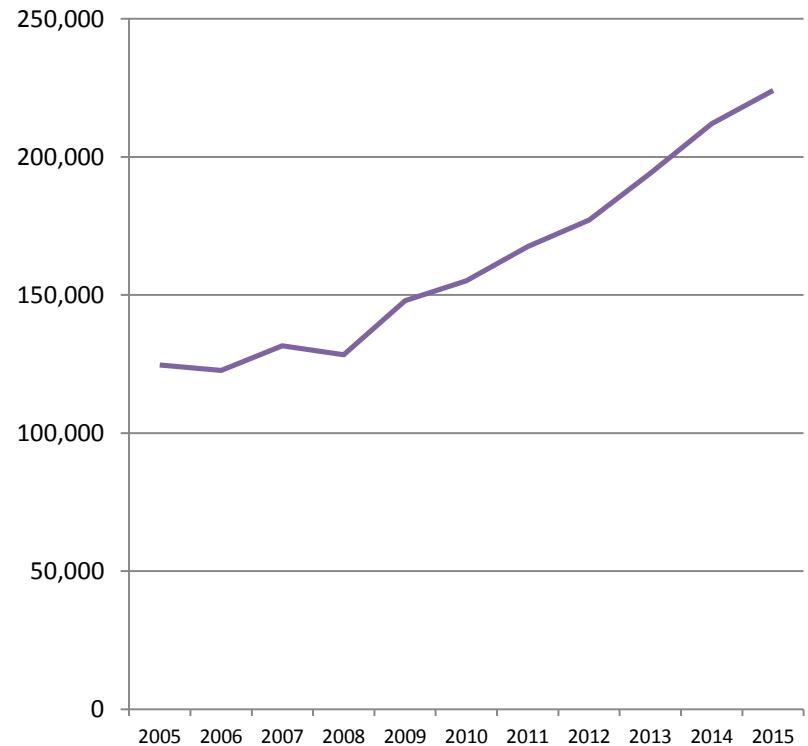
Objectives of Today's Presentation

- Provide an overview provide an update on Canada's International Student Program and other information on immigration issues related to education in Canada including:
 - International student trends;
 - Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC) current operational context;
 - Policy and program updates.
- Provide brief overview of the International Experience Canada (IEC) program, and update on work undertaken to increase Canadian participation in the program.
- Discuss feedback received over the past year from institutions, stakeholders and students on barriers to outward mobility in the Canadian context, and proposed approaches for addressing these barriers.

International Education in Canada: Current Context

- The International Student Program has seen a decade of steady growth with 223,291 study permits issued in 2015 – an increase of 80% from 2005.
- Dedicated recruitment efforts together with immigration policy changes have enhanced Canada's attractiveness as a study destination.
- International students are increasingly viewed as a potential pool of qualified candidates for permanent residency.
- The integrity of our Program is key to maintaining public support. Countries like Australia and UK have seen international student volumes drop when program abuse required government action.

Study Permit Holders by Year in which Permit(s) Became Effective, 2005-2015



Source: IRCC, Permanent and Temporary Resident January 2016 data.

Role of IRCC's International Student Program

The aim of the International Student Program is to enhance Canadian economy and culture:

- Enriching the academic environment and intercultural competencies of domestic students;
- International students contribute more than \$10B a year to the Canadian economy.

IRCC is responsible for study authorizations and related work authorizations:

- Study permits allow eligible students to work on and off campus during studies;
- Work permits are also available for co-op students and spouses of students;
- The Post-Graduation Work Permit Program allows international student graduates to access an open work permit of up to three years, following completion of program/degree.

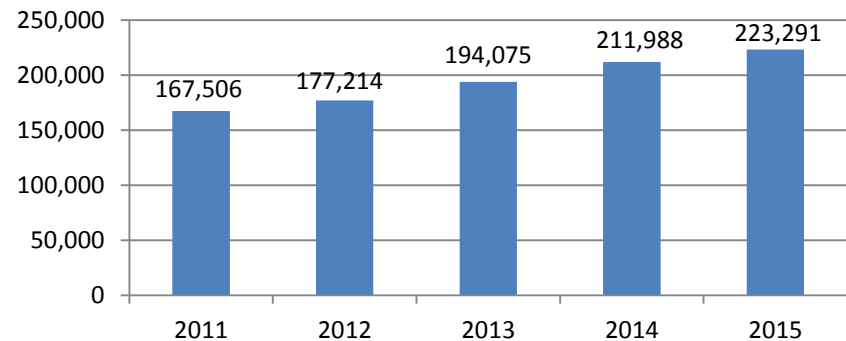
Provinces/territories: partners in maintaining the integrity of the Program:

- Ministries of education designate institutions that may receive international students, based on minimum pan-Canadian standards;
- Over 900 post-secondary institutions have been designated by provinces and territories.

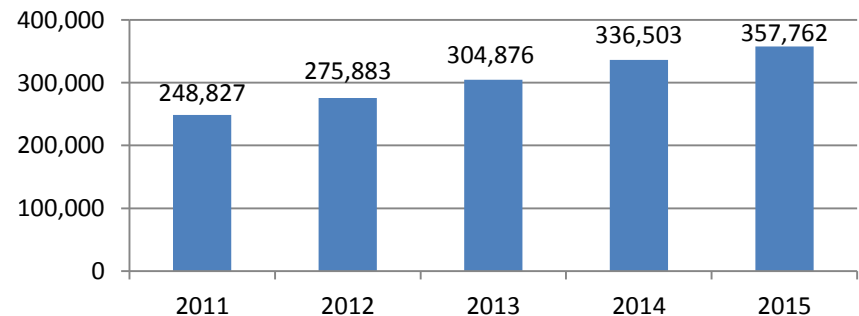
Increasing Numbers of International Students

- Canada has seen strong but steady growth.
- The number of study permit holders has increased at an average rate of 7.5% every year between 2011 and 2015.
- In 2015, 223,291 international students had study permits signed.
- Total number of students residing in Canada also increased to:
 - 357,762 international students with a valid permit on December 31, 2015.

**International Students by sign year
2011-2015**



**International Students with a valid permit on
December 31st, 2011-2015**

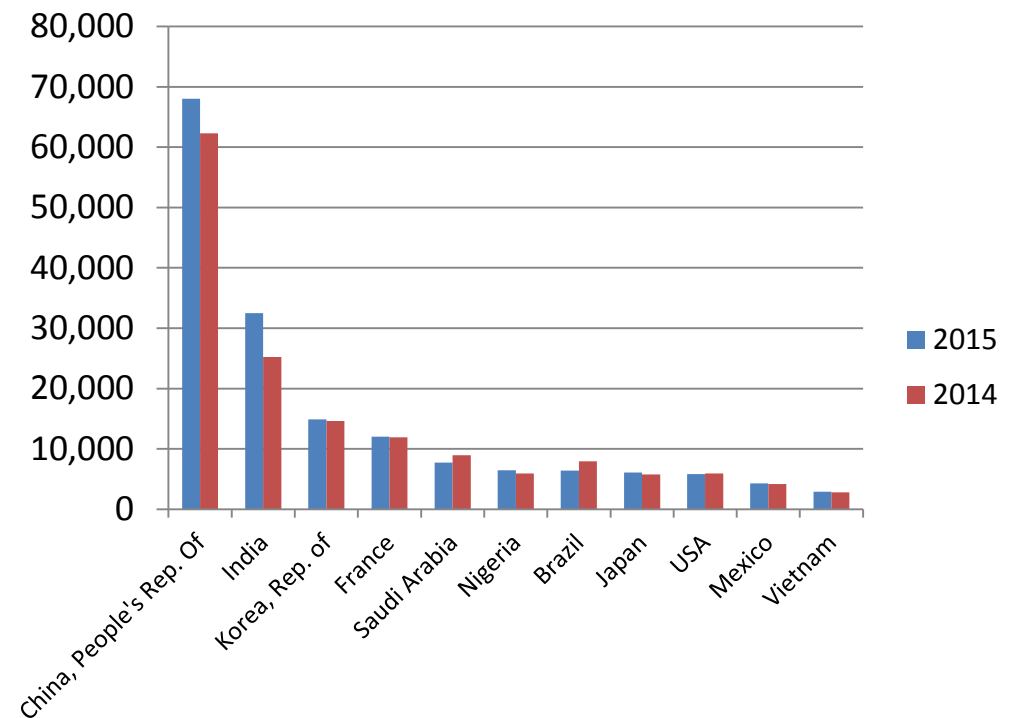


Source: IRCC, Permanent and Temporary Resident January 2016 data.

Students by Top Ten Source Countries

- Students from China (68,019) and India (32,420) represented 45% of total study permits signed in 2015, followed by Rep. Korea (14,885), France (12,006) and Saudi Arabia (7,748).
- Top 10 source countries represented 75% of signed study permits in 2015.

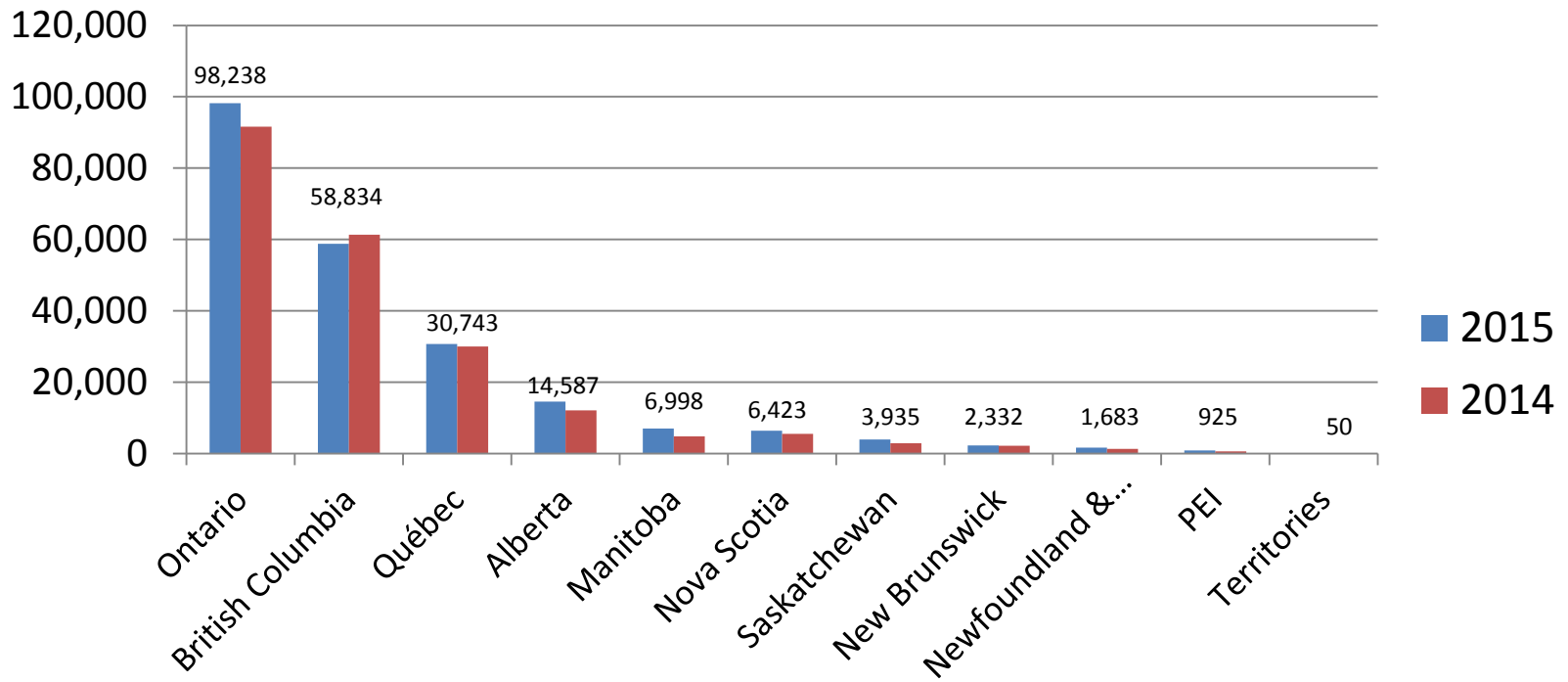
International Students by Top 10 Countries of Citizenship and Sign Year, 2014 and 2015



Source: IRCC, Permanent and Temporary Resident January 2016 data.

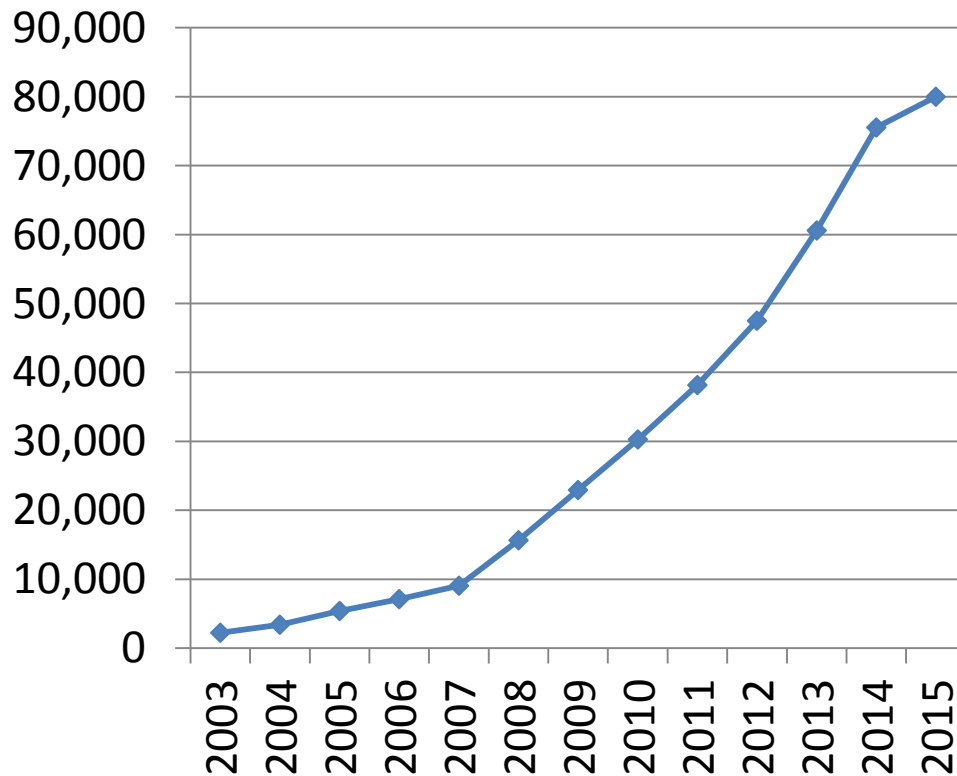
Students by Province of Destination

International Students by Destination and Sign Year 2014 and 2015



Post-Graduation Work Permit Holders

PGWP holders as of December 31, 2015



- The Post-Graduation Work Permit Program is one of the largest sources of temporary foreign workers in Canada.
- The stock of permit holders grew from 3,417 in 2004 to 79,980 in 2015.
- It is unknown how many permit holders remain in Canada for the entire length of their open work permit, but more than 75% are issued three year work permits.

Post-Graduation Work Permit Holders and Transitions to Permanent Residence

- The number of permanent residents with prior Post-Graduation Work Permit holder status increased over 140% between 2010-15 and grew fifteen-fold since 2004.

Admissions of Permanent Residents with Prior Post-Graduate Work Permit Holder Status, 2004-2015												
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	635	763	1,340	1,546	2,394	4,000	4,204	4,193	6,405	6,892	10,011	10,207

- The number of new permanent residents with prior PGWP permit holder status as a proportion of all permanent residents increased in each of the last four years of the analysis: from 1.7% in 2011, to 2.5% in 2012, to 2.7% in 2013, to 3.8% in 2014 and 3.8% in 2015.**
- 55% are male and 45% are female (2004-2015).
- Large majority (78%) were in the 15-29 age category when they landed as a permanent residents (2004-2015).

International Student Program: Updates (1)

Designated Learning Institution (DLI) Compliance Portal:

- During the first national round of reporting in Spring 2015, over 700 Designated Learning Institutions (DLIs) were enrolled with IRCC via the DLI portal.
- The spring 2016 round of compliance reporting closed on June 10. Reporting was mandatory for DLIs who did not submit compliance reports last year and optional for those that did.

International Student Program: Updates (2)

Distance Learning:

- My team is undertaking a review of distance and online learning policy for international students.
- This review, which will outline our policy direction for distance and online learning, is expected to be completed by fall 2016.

Off-campus Work Clarifications:

- Off-campus work policy and operational clarifications will be completed by fall of this year.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE CANADA

What is International Experience Canada?



Ticket to working and travelling abroad!

Opportunity to build professional profile in an international work environment!



Gain exposure to different cultures, meet new people, and become global citizens!

3 Ways to Work and Travel in 32 Countries



- ✓ Work for any employer(s), anywhere in the host country
 - ✓ No need to secure a job offer prior to departure
-



- ✓ For students looking to complete an internship or co-op placement abroad
 - ✓ Need to secure internship/co-op placement prior to departure
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- ✓ Ideal for those in the early-mid career looking to gain international experience in a field related to their current job and/or studies
- ✓ Need to secure employment prior to departure

The Year in Review

- Since June 2015, IEC has met with over 50 educational institutions to:
 1. Raise awareness of, and promote the IEC program;
 2. Explore opportunities to work together to increase the number of youth who go abroad to work and travel; and,
 3. Listen to challenges Canadian youth face when it comes to considering going abroad.
- IEC has also held meetings with eight provinces to explore how we can work together to meet shared internationalization objectives.
- Finally, IEC has participated in various education-related events to raise the profile of IEC domestically and internationally, connecting with key stakeholder groups, and more importantly, youth themselves.

Barriers to Outbound Mobility & Proposed Approaches

BARRIER

STRATEGY

Lack of recognition/value placed on international experiences.

- Integrate experiential learning into curricula.
- Provide formal recognition (e.g. certificates, qualification on diplomas).
- Obtain employer testimonials on value of international experiences.

Difficulty or inability to obtain academic credits or recognition for international experiences.

- Award credits for international experiences clearly linked to learning outcomes.

Barriers to Outbound Mobility & Proposed Approaches – *Cont'd*

BARRIER

STRATEGY

Lack of support from influencers (i.e. parents).

- Engage influencers early on (at K-12 level).
- Demonstrate advantages to personal and professional growth via concrete data and research.

Misalignment between IEC's 32 countries and students'/institutions' interests.

- IEC gathering information on countries of interest to students/ institutions.
- IEC gathering labour market information on 32 countries to learn more about available opportunities.

Lack of available funding.

- Explore funding model whereby initial costs for Canadian youth would be covered (e.g. cost of flight).
- Will require collaboration with partners.

Next Steps

International Experience Canada (IEC):

- ❑ IEC developing more detailed paper on barriers to outbound mobility and the proposed strategies for addressing these barriers.
- ❑ IEC will identify key players in this work and draft a timeline for implementing strategies over the coming months.
- ❑ In the meantime, IEC will continue to meet with institutions to discuss areas for collaboration and host information sessions for students.

Looking for more information?

If you would like more information about either the International Student Program or International Experience Canada, please visit us at our booth.

Annex A: IEC's 32 Partner Countries

