Table 1: Expansion to regional and international venues

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy Change** | **Date** | **Policy**  **Sub-sector** | **Description** |
| Expansion of Foreign Credentials Recognition Office through the Canadian Immigration Integration Project | Nov 2007; expanded again 2010 | Integration | Provides pre-arrival service like information on foreign credential recognition, labour in Canada, counselling, and personal settlement plans in overseas offices in India, China, and the Philippines, and later in the UK. |
| Launch of Youth Mobility Program Poland | Jul 2008 | Temporary immigration | Allows Canadian citizens and Polish citizens between 18 and 35 to travel to and work in the other country on 1-year work visa. |
| Launch of Transit Without Visa Program | Aug 2008 | Temporary immigration | Allows citizens of Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, and the Philippines with valid US visa to transit through participating Canadian airports. |
| Launch of Canadian work permit for NAFTA professionals | Dec 2008 | Temporary immigration | Allows certain qualified professionals from the USA and Mexico a 3-year renewable work permit. |
| Amendment to Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement | Jul 2009 | Permanent immigration | Prevent people with temporary stays of removal from making a refugee claim in Canada if they could have made one in the USA. |
| Implementation of visa requirement on Mexican and Czech Republican visitors | Jul 2009 | Temporary immigration | To deter refugee claims, visitors from Mexico and Czech Republic must get visitor visa to enter Canada. |
| Launch of Five Country Conference international initiative to combat immigration fraud | Aug 2009 | Permanent immigration | Enables information sharing between Canada, UK, and Australia, specifically fingerprint information of asylum seekers and foreign nationals facing deportation. |
| Extension of the India Student Partners Program | Jan 2010 | Temporary immigration | A joint pilot project between Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges to streamline visa application process for international students travelling to Canada from India. |
| Expansion of Designated Countries of Origin list | Sep 2010; expanded in 2013 and 2014 | Permanent immigration | As an amendment to the *Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act,* adds more countries to the list of countries that do not generally have human rights abuses; refugee claimants from which will have applications fast-tracked. |
| Release of "Bringing Education in Canada to the World, Bringing the World to Canada" education marketing plan | Jun 2011 | Permanent immigration | Joint plan between the Council of Ministers and Education in Canada and the Federal Ministers of Immigration to develop seamless connection between education and migration. |
| Launch of Global Visa Application Centre Network | Jan 2012 | Temporary immigration | Expands and standardizes visa application centre network to new global model. |
| Stakeholder consultation on Beyond the Border Action Plan | May 2012 | Public engagement | Consultations with stakeholders jointly facilitated by Canadian and American governments on cross-border business and improving border security. |
| Implementation of the Immigration Information Sharing Treaty as part of the Beyond the Borders Action Plan | Dec 2012; signed in 2011 | Permanent immigration | Facilitates movement of people and goods between Canada and the USA; strengthens border security by allowing for information sharing on third-country visa applicants and asylum claimants. |
| Launch of Temporary Resident Biometrics Program | Apr 2013; introduced in Jun 2009 | Temporary immigration | Supports partnership with the Canada Border Services Agency and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to strengthen border security and reduce identity fraud by introduces biometrics into Canada’s temporary residents program. |
| Expansion of Business Express Program | Oct 2014 | Permanent immigration | Facilitates business travel to and from Bulgaria and Romania. |
| Expansion of China Transit Program | Jun 2015 | Temporary immigration | Allows eligible citizens from China with a valid US visa, transit through Canada without a visa via participating Canadian airports. |

Table 2: Creation and opening up of non-governmental venues

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy Change** | **Date** | **Policy**  **Sub-sector** | **Description** |
| Launch of Off-Campus Work Permit Program | Apr 2006; expanded in 2008 | Temporary immigration | Allows full-time international students attending post-secondary institutions to work part-time off-campus while classes are in session and full-time during summer and reading week. |
| Launch of Temporary Foreign Worker Unit pilot project | Apr 2006 | Temporary immigration | Facilitates entrance of temporary foreign workers and offer guidance and info to employers in Calgary and Vancouver. |
| Strategic plan for immigration to Francophone minority communities | Sep 2006 | Permanent immigration; Integration | Plans for the attraction, retention, and integration of Francophone immigrants, provincial and community coordination, business and university, and national level strategy. |
| Creation of Regional Occupations Under Pressure List for Temporary Foreign Worker Program | Sep 2006 | Temporary immigration | Aids employers in Western Canada hire temporary foreign workers that meet regional labour demands. |
| Launch third phase of Metropolis Project | Jan 2007; reformed in 2012 | Public engagement | Provides funding for a range of policy and academic research on the subject of immigration in Canada. |
| Reform to Temporary Foreign Worker Program | Feb 2007; further reforms in Apr 2011 | Temporary immigration | Extends duration of LMO to 24 months and up to 3 years for live-in caregivers; extends length of work permit for temporary foreign workers under the Pilot Project for Occupations Requiring Low Levels of Formal Training; streamlines employer application process. Reforms provide more a rigorous assessment of job offers for temporary foreign workers and punishment for employers who breach contract; limits lengths of time a temporary foreign worker may work in Canada |
| Expansion of Alberta's Assessment Centre for Internationally Educated Nurses Pilot Program | Dec 2007 | Temporary immigration; Permanent immigration | Provides funding to Alberta Health and Wellness to assess language, knowledge, and skills in order to prepare for licensing and employment in Alberta prior to immigration. |
| Reform to Post-Graduation Work Permit Program | Apr 2008; expanded in 2011 | Temporary immigration | Provides eligible international students graduates with open work for up to 3 years. |
| Launch of Canadian Experience Class | Sep 2008; reformed in 2010 and 2013 | Permanent immigration | Creates new pathway for temporary foreign workers and international students to apply for permanent residency; reforms emphasize attracting best candidates by emphasizing Canadian work experience and language skills, as well as, reducing backlogs and processing times. |
| Launch of Action Plan for Faster Immigration | Nov 2008; expanded in 2010 | Permanent immigration | Outlines new eligibility criteria that apply to all new federal skilled worker applications received on or after February 27, 2008, including: offer of employment, or 1-year experience in Canada as a temporary foreign worker or international student, or have 1-year skilled work in high-demand area such as health, skilled trades, finance and resource extraction. |
| Awareness campaign regarding immigration representative scams | Apr 2009 | Permanent immigration; Public engagement | Warns against hiring a fraudulent immigration consultant and provides tips on finding a authorized consultant, in form of video. |
| Reform to Live-in Caregiver Program | Apr 2010; reformed again in 2011 | Temporary immigration | Expands worker protections and benefits and provides reforms eligibility requirements for applying for permanent residency. |
| Launch of Young Newcomers Internship Program | Apr 2010; expanded in Oct 2010 | Integration | Provides internships to new immigrant in public departments, later expanded to two private sectors. |
| Public consultation to search for regulatory body for immigration consultants | Aug 2010 | Public engagement | Search for regulatory body for immigration consultants. |
| Public consultation on marriage fraud | Sep 2010 | Public engagement | Invites public to participate in questionnaire on the issues of marriage fraud or ‘marriages of convenience’. |
| Launch of Ontario Pilot Project for Spouses, Common-Law Partners and Dependents of Returning Canadian Workers | Jan 2011; expanded to BC in Aug 2011 | Permanent immigration | Allows spouses, common-law partners and dependent children of certain Canadian citizens and permanent to receive open work permits within Ontario. |
| Royal Assent to Bill C-35 *Cracking Down on Crooked Immigration Consultants Act* | Mar 2011; introduced Jun 2010 | Permanent immigration; Temporary immigration; Institutional-legal changes | Prohibits and establishes penalties for anyone other than an authorized representative to collect a fee for service related to any stage of an immigration application or proceeding; creates Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council. |
| Launch of partnership with Rainbow Refugee Committee to sponsor LGBTQ refugees | Mar 2011 | Permanent immigration; Settlement | Provides up to three months of income support for LGBTQ refugees through Vancouver-based non-profit. |
| Implementation of tip line to report citizenship fraud | Jul 2011 | Citizenship | Establishes a confidential tip line for citizens to report on immigration fraud. |
| Stakeholder consultation on immigration | Jul 2011; again in Jun 2013 | Public engagement | Invites public to participate in consultation regarding levels of immigration, appropriate mix between economic immigrants, family immigrants, and refugees, and suggestions for more efficient system with great fairness and better outcomes for newcomers. |
| Reform to Federal Skilled Worker Program | Nov 2011; reformed again Dec 2012 and May 2013 | Permanent immigration | Establishes initiative to attract and retain international PhD students; further reforms to points grid eligibility criteria emphasizing Canadian work experience and language skills; processing of applications paused between Jul 2012 and Jan 2013. |
| Expansion for Temporary Foreign Worker Occupation-Specific Pilot Project under the Agreement for Canada-Alberta Cooperation on Immigration | July 2012; agreement originally launched in 2011 | Temporary immigration; Federal-provincial relations | Allows temporary foreign workers in Alberta working in high-demand occupations with access to work permits that allow them to move freely between employers. |
| Launch of Start-Up Visa Program pilot | Jan 2013 | Permanent immigration; Temporary immigration | Aims to link immigrant entrepreneurs with private sector organizations that have expertise in working with start-ups. |
| Launch of Living in Canada web tool | Oct 2013 | Settlement | Creates a semi-customized settlement plan for newcomers that links them with information and local immigrant-serving organizations. |
| Implementation of Temporary Resident Visa fee changes | Feb 2014 | Temporary immigration | Introduces as increase for Study Permit and Work Permit fees and a decrease for the Multiple-Entry Visa fee. |
| Implementation of new caps for permanent residency applications | Apr 2014 | Permanent immigration | Introduces new annual caps on permanent residency applications from the Federal Skilled Worker and Federal Skilled Trades Programs, and Canadian Experience Class pathways. |
| Launch of CAN+ Program for Mexican travellers | May 2014 | Temporary immigration | Allows Mexican citizens who can demonstrate that they have previously travelled to Canada or the USA in the last 10 years a more streamlined process to apply for a visa for entry to Canada. |
| Changes to the Paul Yuzyk Award for Multiculturalism | Oct 2014 | Multi-culturalism | Allows a wider range of citizens to be recognized for their work in multiculturalism by creating two new award categories for youth and organizations. |
| Launch of Caregiver Program | Nov 2014 | Temporary immigration | Replaces the Live-in Caregiver Program; divides program into two new pathways to residency: Caring for Children Pathway & Caring for People with High Medical Needs Pathway; removes live-in requirement; reduces permanent residency application backlog. |
| Launch of Express Entry Program | Jan 2015; introduced Mar 2014 | Permanent immigration | Replaces Expression of Interest Program; allows applicants applying through FSWP, FSTP, CEC, or BCP to fill out online profile for a chance to selected for express entry based on Canadian labour market needs. |

Table 3: Decentralization into subnational venues

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy Change** | **Date** | **Policy**  **Sub-sector** | **Description** |
| Signing of the Canada-British Columbia Memorandum of Understanding | Aug 2006 | Permanent immigration; Federal-provincial relations | Facilitates the entry of entrepreneurs to BC through their Provincial Nominee Program. |
| Increase in settlement funding across all provinces | Nov 2006; again in Dec 2007 | Settlement; Federal-provincial relations | Increases settlement funding across all provinces in accordance with provincial agreements. |
| Development of the *Strategic Plan for Settlement and Language Training* under the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) | Dec 2006 | Settlement; Federal-provincial relations | Provides funding for settlement services and language training in Ontario. |
| Signing of Agreement for Canada-Alberta Cooperation on Immigration | May 2007 | Settlement; Federal-provincial relations | Provides funding for settlement services, language training, and mentorship programs in Alberta. |
| Launch of Foreign Credentials Recognition Office | May 2007 | Integration | Places credential recognition services in 320 Service Canada offices to help international workers get credentials assessed and recognized. |
| New settlement funding under COIA | Dec 2007; again in 2008 | Settlement; Federal-provincial relations | Provides funding for Immigrant and Settlement Adaptation Services across Ontario. |
| New settlement funding under the Language Instruction to Canada Program | Mar 2008 | Settlement; Federal-provincial relations | Provides funding for immigrant language services in Alberta. |
| New settlement funding under for francophone newcomers under COIA | Mar 2008 | Settlement; Federal-provincial relations | Provides funding to organizations that provide settlement services in French in Ontario. |
| New settlement funding for youth initiatives and settlement services in schools and libraries under COIA | Mar 2008; expanded in 2009 | Settlement; Federal-provincial relations | Provides funding to place settlement workers in libraries and schools and for organizations that provide settlement services for youth in Ontario. |
| Signing of Agreement for Canada-Yukon Cooperation on Immigration | May 2008 | Federal-provincial relations; Permanent immigration | Establishes the Yukon Nominee Program, allowing Yukon to nominate an unlimited number of candidates who want to work and live in the territory. |
| Expansion of Foreign Credentials Recognition Program | May 2008 | Integration | Increases in funding for new projects through HRSD to improve credential recognition process. |
| Signing of Agreement for Canada-Prince Edward Island Cooperation on Immigration | Jun 2008 | Federal-provincial relations; Permanent immigration | Confirms ongoing respective roles and responsibilities for each government; allows PEI to nominated unlimited number of immigrants through the Provincial Nominee Program |
| Government stakeholder consultations on IRPA | Jul 2008 | Public engagement | Facilitates meetings between provinces, territories, regional and national stakeholders on the issues of immigration addressing labour market needs, occupational pressures, and the Federal Skilled Worker Program. |
| New settlement funding | Aug 2008 | Settlement; Federal-provincial relations | Provides settlement funding for organizations across Saskatchewan. |
| New settlement funding for language skills under COIA | Aug 2008 | Settlement; Federal-provincial relations | Provides funding to help internationally trained professionals strengthen their language skills in Ontario. |
| New settlement funding | Mar 2009 | Settlement; Federal-provincial relations | Provides settlement funding for organizations across Alberta. |
| New healthcare-related settlement funding under COIA | Apr 2009 | Settlement; Federal-provincial relations | Provides funding for an immigrant support network at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto to improve services in newcomers/ |
| Signing of the Canada-Northwest Territories Territorial Nominee Program Agreement | Aug 2009 | Permanent immigration; Federal-provincial relations | Creates the Northwest Territories Nominee Program, allowing the Northwest Territories to nominate an unlimited number of candidates who want to work and live in the territory. |
| Launch the Language Training Voucher pilot program | Oct 2009 | Settlement; Federal-provincial relations | Allows newcomers in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Alberta with vouchers for their choice of free language class. |
| Increase intake of refugees and settlement funding under Resettlement Assistance Program | Mar 2010 | Settlement; Permanent immigration | Implements increase of 2,500 more refugees per year over the next two years (500 GARs, 2,000 PSRs), along with an increase of permanent settlement funding. |
| Signing of the Canada-British Columbia Immigration Agreement | Apr 2010 | Federal-provincial relations | Replaces 2004 agreement; confirms ongoing respective roles and responsibilities for each government; allows BC to nominate immigrants through the Provincial Nominee Program; coordinates settlement and integration services for immigrants and refugees. |
| Extension of Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement | May 2010 | Federal-provincial relations | Extends the agreement between the federal government and Ontario provincial government that lays out roles and responsibilities governing province-led immigration to Ontario and subsequent settlement. |
| Annex to the Agreement on Yukon Temporary Foreign Worker Program | Feb 2011; original agreement signed in 2008 | Temporary immigration; Federal-provincial relations | Allows Yukon to exempt certain occupations from the requirement to obtain an LMO before hiring temporary foreign workers. |
| Annex to the Agreement for Canada–Nova Scotia Co‑operation on Immigration | Mar 2011; original agreement signed in 2007 | Temporary immigration; Federal-provincial relations | Allows Nova Scotia to exempt certain occupations from the requirement to obtain an LMO before hiring temporary foreign workers. |
| Development of Joint Federal-Provincial-Territorial Vision for Immigration | Nov 2012 | Federal-provincial relations | Establishes plan that focuses on immigration levels planning, economic immigration, and settlement and integration of newcomers through established principles of a Federal-Provincial-Territorial partnership model. |

Table 4: Reinvestment into administrative and executive venues

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy Change** | **Date** | **Policy**  **Sub-sector** | **Description** |
| Launch of Temporary Resident Permits for victims of human trafficking | May 2006; reforms in 2007 | Temporary immigration | Allows victims of human trafficking to stay in Canada for 120 days and access services under the Interim Federal Health Program, exempt from processing fees; later reforms extend stay and provide work permits. |
| Introduction of Bill C-14 *An Act to amend the Citizenship Act (adoption)* | May 2006; reforms in 2007 | Citizenship | Aims to eliminate the residency requirement and criminal and security prohibitions for children adopted internationally by Canadian citizens |
| Targeted resettlement of Karen and Bhutanese refugees | Jun 2006, further waves of settlement in 2007, 2008, and 2013 | Permanent immigration; Settlement | Allows for resettlement of Karen and Bhutanese refugees from refugee camp in Thailand as government-assisted and privately sponsored refugees. |
| Expedite permanent residency applications for certain Lebanese citizens | Jul 2006 | Permanent immigration | Expedites permanent residency application under the Family Class for relatives of Canadian citizens and permanent residents effected by conflict in Lebanon; includes emergency evacuation of Canadian-Lebanese dual citizens. |
| Lift visa requirements for visitors from certain EU nations | Sep 2006; Oct 2007; Mar 2009 | Temporary immigration | Lifts visa requirements for visitors from Estonia Czech Republic, Latvia, and Croatia |
| Call for independent review of Immigration and Refugee Board selection process | Nov 2006; revisions implemented Jul 2007 | Institutional-legal changes | Establishes independent review of Immigration and Refugee Board selection process. |
| Targeted resettlement of Vietnamese refugees through Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds applications | May 2007 | Permanent immigration | Allows the immigration of stateless Vietnamese in the Philippines to Canada under Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds. |
| Expedite permanent residency applications for certain Iraqi citizens | Nov 2007 | Permanent immigration | Expedites permanent residency application under the Family Class for relatives of Canadian citizens and permanent residents affected by conflict in Iraq. |
| Royal assent to Bill C-50 *Budget Implementation Act* | Feb 2008 | Permanent immigration; Temporary immigration; Institutional-legal changes | Provides new authority to Minister to issue “ministerial instructions” to establish priorities that limit number of applications processes and increase labour market responsiveness, avoiding public consultation and parliamentary debate and consideration of certain Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds applications from outside of Canada. |
| Targeted resettlement of Iraqi refugees | Jan 2009, further waves in 2010, 2011, and 2013 | Permanent immigration | Allows for resettlement of Iraqi refugees from refugee camp in Thailand as government-assisted and privately sponsored refugees. |
| Introduce Bill C-45 *An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* | Jun 2009; did not receive royal assent | Temporary immigration | Aims to prevent human trafficking of temporary foreign workers; later replaced by Bill C-56. |
| Launch of special immigration program for Afghan nationals | Sep 2009; program closed in Sep 2011 | Permanent immigration | Allows certain Afghan nationals who have served as local staff in Kandahar province and have faced unusual risk or injury as a result of employment in support of Canadian government, or are the spouse or dependent child of an Afghan national who faced death as a result of employment in support of Canadian government, to immigrate to Canada. |
| Priority processing for victims of Typhoon Ketsana in Philippines | Oct 2009 | Permanent immigration | Allows for priority processing for applications under the Family Class for relatives of Canadian citizens and permanent residents affected by Typhoon Ketsana in the Philippines. |
| Launch of ‘Discover Canada’ citizenship guide | Nov 2009 | Citizenship | Replaces ‘Look at Canada’ citizenship guide that include information on: responsible government, Remembrance Day, the Québécois nation and the Quiet Revolution, gender equality, the impact of residential schools on Aboriginal people, Canada’s role in historical conflicts, and expanded sections on Canadian heroes, sports, diversity and artists. |
| Launch of online services for temporary visa applicants | Dec 2009 | Temporary immigration | Establishes online services for temporary residents applying for work permits, visitor records, and post-graduation work permits. |
| Expedite immigration applications from certain Haitian applicants | Jan 2010 | Permanent immigration | Expedites permanent residency application under the Family Class for relatives of Canadian citizens and permanent residents affected by the earthquake in Haiti. |
| Launch of Business Express Program | Apr 2010 | Temporary immigration | Establishes a special visa application program for Mexican business travellers. |
| Royal Assent of Bill C-11 *Balanced Refugee Reform Act* | Jun 2010; introduced Mar 2010 | Permanent immigration; Temporary immigration | Allows for quicker decisions on refugee claims and faster removal for failed claims; creates IRB Refugee Appeal Division; provides authority to designate safe countries of origin; launch of Assisted Voluntary Returns Pilot Program; Limits access to Pre-Removal Risk Assessment to 1 year after negative decision; reforms to Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds provisions. |
| Royal Assent to Bill C-268 *Trafficking in Minors Act* | Jun 2010 | Permanent immigration; Temporary immigration | Amends the Criminal Code to impose a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years imprisonment for trafficking of a person under the age of 18 years for purposes of labour and sexual exploitation. |
| Moratorium imposed on adoptions from Nepal | Jun 2010 | Permanent immigration | Halts adoptions from Nepal due concerns of fraud and child trafficking. |
| Introduction of Bill C-49 *Preventing Smugglers from Abusing Canada’s Immigration System Act* | Oct 2010; did not receive royal assent | Temporary immigration | Aims to prevent human smuggling; in response to the arrival of Tamil refugees by boat August 2010. |
| Reforms to the Immigrant Investor Program | Nov 2010 | Permanent immigration | Establishes new eligibility criteria for the IIP, including increase in personal net worth and investment commitment; new applications temporarily on hold to reduce backlog. |
| Introduction of Bill C-56 *Preventing Trafficking, Abuse and Exploitation of Vulnerable Immigrants Act* | Nov 2010; did not receive royal assent | Temporary immigration | Aims to provide immigration officers discretion to refuse to authorize foreign nationals to work in Canada if suspected to be a victim of human trafficking. |
| Lift visa requirement for visitors from Taiwan | Nov 2010 | Temporary immigration | Allows visitors from Taiwan to travel to Canada without a visa. |
| Introduction of Bill C-37 *Strengthening the Value of Canadian Citizenship Act* | Jun 2010; did not receive royal assent | Citizenship; Institutional-legal changes | Aims to protect against and increase penalties for immigration fraud (including revocation of citizenship); increase residency requirement for citizenship applicants; prevents foreign criminals from accessing Canadian citizenship; supports first generation limits on access to citizenship |
| Extension of work permits and health coverage to Haitians temporarily in Canada | Jan 2011 | Temporary immigration | Allows Haitians temporarily in Canada to be eligible for work permits and access to the Interim Federal Health Program. |
| Repeal of Source Country Class | Mar 2011 | Permanent immigration | Eliminates the refugee selection class that allows people still in their home country facing persecution to be selected for resettlement in Canada as a refugee. |
| Amendment to Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations regarding convicted criminals and family sponsorship | Nov 2011 | Permanent immigration | Prohibits a person convicted of committed a violent crime from sponsoring family members to immigrate to Canada. |
| Launch Action Plan for Faster Family Reunification | Nov 2011 (Phase 1); May 2013 (Phase 2) | Permanent immigration; Temporary immigration | Phase 1: Increases number of parents and grandparents accepted as permanent residents; Establishes multiple entrance visa that will allow parents and grandparents to remain in Canada for up to 24 months at a time without having to renew their status; proposes public consultation process; Implements temporary pause on new applications to reduce backlog.  Phase 2: Maintains admission levels; makes Super Visa a permanent program; implements new qualifying criteria for permanent residency sponsorship; allows for new applications once again. |
| Royal Assent of Bill C-10 *Safe Streets and Communities Act* | Mar 2012; first introduced Sep 2011 | Temporary immigration; Institutional-legal changes | Part of omnibus bill, enables the Minister to issue written instructions to immigration officers, giving them the authority to deny work permits for applicants who are vulnerable to abuse or exploitation. |
| Royal Assent of Bill C-31 *Protecting Canada’s Immigration System Act* | Jun 2012; first introduced Feb 2012 | Permanent immigration | Reforms to the Immigration and Refugee Board; creates Refugee Appeal Division and List of Designated Countries of Origin; focuses on identifying unfounded refugee claims, the removal of failed claimants, cases of human smuggling limits access to pre-removal assessments; implements mandatory detention for irregular arrivals; supports collection of biometric data from certain foreign nationals |
| Amendment to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations regarding marriage fraud prevention | Oct 2012 | Permanent immigration | Requires that certain spouses or partners in a relationship with their sponsor lasting 2 years or less with no common children, must cohabit in a legitimate relationship with their sponsor for two years after they receiving permanent residency, with exceptions in cases of abuse and death of sponsor; prevents sponsored spouses or partners from sponsoring new partners for 5 years after receiving permanent residency. |
| Targeted resettlement of Iranian, Iraqi, and Syrian refugees | Jan 2013; further waves in 2015 | Permanent immigration | Allows for resettlement of refugees as government-assisted and privately sponsored refugees. |
| Royal Assent to Bill C-43 *Faster Removal of Foreign Criminal Act* | Jun 2013; introduced Jun 2012 | Permanent immigration | Facilitates removal of dangerous foreign criminals; aims to prevent those who pose a risk to Canadians to come to the country and facilitate entry for other visitors. |
| Launch of new ten-year multiple-entry visa | Feb 2014; introduced in 2011 | Temporary immigration | Allows visa-holder with valid passports to enter Canada multiples times throughout the duration of their visa. |
| Termination of Federal Immigrant Investor and Entrepreneur Programs | Feb 2014 | Permanent immigration | Terminates Federal Immigrant Investor and Entrepreneur Programs as pathways to permanent residence; shift to Start-Up Visa Program. |
| Royal Assent of Bill C-24 *Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act* | Jun 2014; reforms in May 2015 | Citizenship | Creates simplified decision-making model; introduces new criteria emphasizing attachment to Canada, new residency and basic knowledge and language; extends citizenship to ‘Lost Canadians’; introduces stronger penalties for fraud; increases in citizenship fees; limits on citizenship of decent; revokes or denies citizenship of those who commit acts of terrorism or against Canadian interests; regulates citizenship consultants. |
| Launch new Immigrant Investor Venture Capital Pilot Program | Dec 2014 | Permanent immigration | Provides up to 60 investors and their families with pathway to permanent residency conditional on long-term investments in Canadian-based start-ups with high growth potential. |
| Royal Assent of Bill S-7 *Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act* | Jun 2015 | Integration | Establishes polygamy as grounds for ineligibility for Canadian citizenship; establishes requirements for consensual marriage, including the prohibition of multiple marriages or marriage under the age of 16; establishes penalties for officiating a non-consensual marriage or the removal of a child from Canada with the intent of marriage. |