

COMING TO CANADA: LOOKING TO THE PAST TO PROTECT THE FUTURE

Canada's immigration system was once a global benchmark. It was structured, merit-based and economically driven, attracting educated, highly skilled and diligent workers who were eager to fill essential roles and contribute to Canada's long-term growth. They took the jobs available, built careers and strengthened communities.

However, over the past decade, Trudeau's "Hot N Cold" immigration policies left many Canadians uneasy as immigration shifted from an economic tool to a political metric, a numbers game of quantity over quality that eroded its competitive advantage. The issues:

- **Skills Mismatch** – Despite record immigration, businesses face economic strain as many newcomers are overqualified while trades and healthcare face chronic shortages.
- **Integration Gaps** – Insufficient housing and settlement support have led to underemployment and frustration.
- **Diploma Mills** – Treating student visas as a "cash grab" has prioritized immigration utility over academic intent, resulting in disengaged learning spaces.

Mark Carney's approach to immigration is what Canadians have been waiting for, one that will help us reach the right balance of labor and talent.

- **Labor Market Alignment** – Canada's Express Entry program prioritizes trades, healthcare and tech over broad intake quotas.
- **Housing and Infrastructure Investment** – Carney launched Build Canada Homes, a federal agency aimed at rapidly building affordable housing at scale.
- **Credential Recognition Acceleration** – Canada provides a fast-tracked approach to permanent residency for people with an active or expired H-1B visa.

Carney stated: "We are getting immigration under control." To match immigration levels with our needs and our capacity, the budget will include Canada's new immigration plan to do better – for newcomers, for everyone." This is a message all Canadians have been eager to hear.

Immigration is the best solution forward, but we need to get back to basics and what worked for more than 100 years.



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Karam Lal

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