

**Part 2** analyses contemporary admission policies, focusing on Canada's three primary streams for permanent admissions: economic, family, and refugee. Each stream is explored in a separate chapter, outlining the changes observed over the past two decades and evaluating how these align with the goals set forth in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act 2001*.

The economic stream ([chapter 2.1](#)) is the primary avenue for permanent resident admissions. While the precise percentage of economic immigrants has experienced minor fluctuations, it has consistently represented around 60 per cent of all admissions throughout the contemporary era (see [figure 3](#)).

The proportion of immigrants entering via family sponsorship ([chapter 2.2](#)) has also displayed some variability since 2001, yet has constituted approximately a quarter of annual permanent resident admissions on average. In more recent years, however, its contribution has diminished to around 21 per cent (see [figure 3](#)).

The number of refugees ([chapter 2.3](#)) granted permanent residency each year has seen a steep rise in the past several years. From 2001 to 2015, approximately 29,000 refugees received permanent resident status on average each year. Since then, the yearly average has increased to 50,000 persons (see [figure 3](#)).

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada administers the *Immigration Refugee Protection Act* and the *Citizenship Act*<sup>1</sup> and reports to the Minister of Immigration Refugees, and Citizenship. Immigration officers assess immigration applications. Shortly after the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* came into force, the Canadian Border Services Agency was created and given responsibility for border control. The Agency reports to the Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions, and Intergovernmental Affairs.<sup>2</sup> It works closely with Immigration Refugees and Citizenship

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1 *Citizenship Act* R.S.C., 1985, c. C-29.

2 It replaced the Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency, the enforcement branch of the Immigration Department and the border examination responsibilities of the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency.

Canada in carrying out its responsibilities for border control and removal of inadmissible immigrants and refugees.

## Eligibility Criteria

Immigrants who seek permanent residence in Canada are assessed according to the criteria applicable to the immigration stream in which their application is made. These are discussed in more detail in the following chapters. The failure to meet the criteria can lead to rejection of their application.

## Inadmissibility Grounds

In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria for the relevant immigration stream, applicants must also be found to be otherwise admissible to Canada.<sup>3</sup> Canadian immigration legislation has always set out who is inadmissible to Canada. For over a century, criminal, security, medical, financial, or misrepresentation have been grounds for inadmissibility. Some of these grounds have been expanded over the past two decades. As discussed in the chapter on refugee admissions, there are additional grounds pertaining to refugee exclusion.

Inadmissibility decisions can be made in various circumstances. They are considered in the context of an immigration application decision. They can also be used to deny a foreign national or permanent resident admission at a Canadian port of entry. And they can be the basis for an inquiry into whether a foreign national or permanent resident in Canada has contravened the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act 2001* and should be detained and removed from Canada. These last two circumstances are discussed in [chapter 3.1: “Deportation.”](#)

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<sup>3</sup> *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, S.C. 2001, c. 27, ss. 33–43.