

# In Between Belonging

Immigrant Perspectives on Becoming a Canadian Citizen



### **Executive Summary**

This report examines immigrants' views on Canadian citizenship and explores various social, economic, and other considerations that play a role in the decision to naturalize. A survey of verified permanent residents (PRs) participating in the Institute for Canadian Citizenship's (ICC) <u>Canoo Access Pass</u><sup>1</sup> program shows that while a strong majority of PRs view Canadian citizenship positively, 21% are unsure or unlikely to apply. Follow-up in-depth interviews reveal that some of the reasons for this hesitancy include:

- Dual citizenship restrictions and economic opportunities outside of Canada. Some newcomers from countries with strong economies and restrictions on dual nationality may be less likely to pursue Canadian citizenship due to the potential benefits of retaining their original citizenship.
- Unmet expectations and obstacles to integration. Challenges faced by some newcomers in integrating into Canadian society can lead to feelings of social exclusion and isolation. One significant driver is a mismatch between expectations and the reality of life in Canada, particularly for labour market integration. Cultural and employment-related integration barriers can have a detrimental impact on newcomers' sense of belonging and views of Canadian citizenship.
- Challenges accessing support services that build a sense of belonging. Certain types of support services are either unknown or difficult to access, such as those focused on facilitating integration experiences and building a sense of belonging in Canada. Some newcomers report feeling overwhelmed with the challenges faced on arrival, and a general lack of guidance on how to navigate the integration process has affected their view of Canadian citizenship.

#### Recommendations

Amidst a backdrop of declining naturalization rates, Canadian policy makers can address some of the contributing factors by adopting the following recommendations:

- 1. Set a meaningful naturalization target for permanent residents within 10 years of arrival.
- 2. Publicize citizenship ceremonies and make them more inclusive and accessible to the public.
- 3. **Invest in programs and initiatives** that promote citizenship.
- 4. Make immigrant satisfaction and retention a priority for Canada.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Canoo Gives Newcomers VIP Access to the Best of Canada." Canoo, May 1, 2024. https://canoo.ca/.

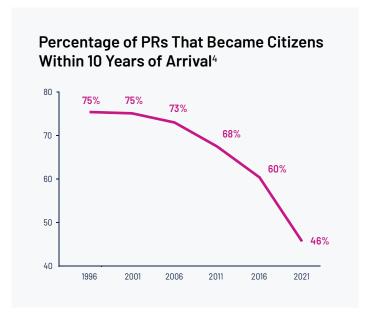
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#### Introduction

In 2023, the ICC <u>published data</u><sup>2</sup> from Statistics Canada showing that the number of permanent residents (PRs) obtaining Canadian citizenship within 10 years of arrival dropped 40% between 2001 and 2021. This decline follows a general trend emerging globally, where the <u>proportion of immigrants naturalizing</u><sup>3</sup> has been decreasing, specifically among immigrant-receiving countries that are economically and socially comparable to Canada.

This data raises significant questions about how newcomers are experiencing Canada – and how they imagine their place within it. In the Canadian context, why are fewer immigrants deciding to become citizens? This report presents findings from recent survey data and interviews with newcomers to explore some of the factors that influence the decision to naturalize.



## Methodology

This research draws from two primary sources collected over two periods throughout 2023:

- 1. A survey of 4,179 verified new Canadian citizens and PRs, which took place in May 2023.
- A series of in-depth semi-structured interviews with 40 immigrants from different countries of origin, immigration categories, genders, provinces of residence and family compositions, which took place in October 2023.

Additional detail on methodology is available in <u>Appendix I</u>.

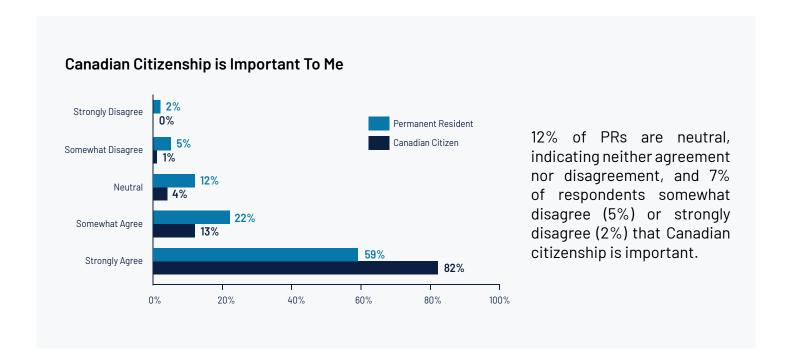
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Newcomers Falling out of Love with Canadian Citizenship." Institute for Canadian Citizenship, May 30, 2023. <a href="https://inclusion.ca/article/newcomers-falling-out-of-love-with-canadian-citizenship/">https://inclusion.ca/article/newcomers-falling-out-of-love-with-canadian-citizenship/</a>.

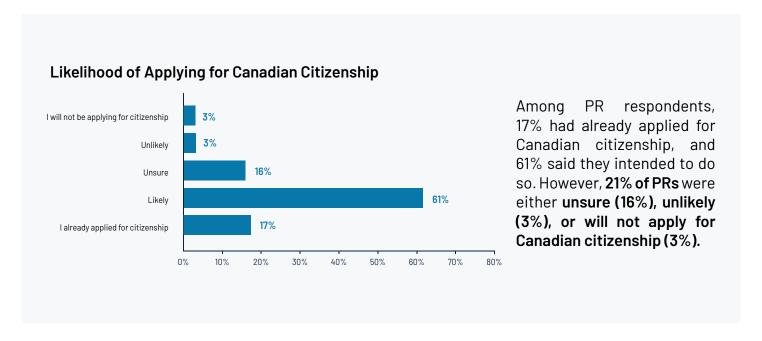
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Citizenship at Crossroads: Comparing Peer Naturalization Rates." Institute for Canadian Citizenship, June 2, 2023. <a href="https://inclusion.ca/article/naturalization-rates-decline-globally/">https://inclusion.ca/article/naturalization-rates-decline-globally/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Hou, Feng, and Garnett Picot. "The Decline in the Citizenship Rate among Recent Immigrants to Canada: Update to 2021." Statistics Canada, 28 Feb. 2024, <a href="https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/36-28-0001/2024002/article/00002-eng.htm">www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/36-28-0001/2024002/article/00002-eng.htm</a>.

# Survey results: Immigrant perspectives on citizenship

Overall, survey results demonstrate that a strong majority of PRs view citizenship positively. 81% strongly agree (59%) or somewhat agree (22%) that Canadian citizenship is important to them.





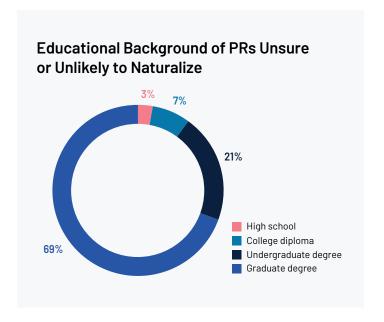
# The role of education, employment, and sense of belonging

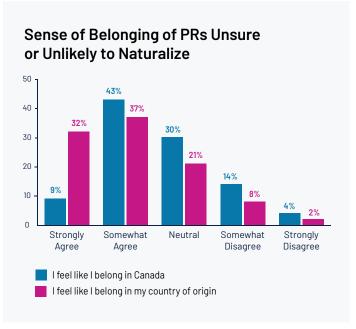
While the survey data provide only a preliminary view, the findings indicate that a significant proportion of the PRs who are hesitant or unlikely to become Canadian citizens are highly educated. Of the 21% of PR respondents who were unsure or unlikely to apply for Canadian citizenship<sup>5</sup>, 69% held graduate degrees, 28% undergraduate degrees/college diplomas, and 3% completed high school. Moreover, 65% were employed or self-employed, while 15% were unemployed<sup>6</sup>.

The PR respondents were asked about their sense of belonging in *Canada*. 52% strongly agree (9%) or somewhat agree (43%) that they belong in Canada. 30% were neutral, and 18% somewhat disagreed (14%) or strongly disagreed (4%).

In contrast, the PR respondents were asked about their sense of belonging in their country of origin, 69% of respondents strongly agree (32%) or somewhat agree (37%) that they felt like they belong in their country of origin. 21% were neutral, and 10% somewhat disagreed (8%) or strongly disagreed (2%).

The 1,346 PR survey respondents provided an important baseline understanding of PRs' sentiments toward Canadian citizenship. However, the findings also raised questions regarding the factors that influence PRs' decision to pursue citizenship. These questions guided a subsequent series of in-depth interviews.





 $<sup>^{5}</sup>$  21% of PRs were either unsure (16%), unlikely (3%), or will not apply for Canadian citizenship (2%)

<sup>6</sup> Other employment status included: Studying university/college/diploma (4%), Employed and in training/education (6%), Homemaker (3%), Not in labour force/retired (3%), Prefer not to answer (4%)

# Interview findings: Factors that influence naturalization decisions

This section explores findings from in-depth interviews with 40 immigrants on their views of pursuing citizenship and reasons affecting their decisions. Respondents were diverse in gender, family composition, source country, and province of residence. They also arrived in Canada under a variety of different immigration categories. The following table shows the likelihood of obtaining citizenship among interview respondents, broken down by immigration category on arrival to Canada.

Economic categories (i.e. CEC, FEC, PNP) are responsible for the largest proportion of immigrants to Canada. In 2023, 58% of PRs<sup>7</sup> were admitted under economic immigration categories. Interestingly, interview respondents who arrived under these categories (CEC, FEC, PNP) were the most hesitant to pursue citizenship. Drawing from interview data and respondent quotes, the following sections of the report explore the different factors that influence immigrants' decision to naturalize.

Respondents' intention to naturalize			
Immigration Category	Yes	Maybe	No
Canadian Experience Class (CEC)	37.5%	37.5%	25%
Family Class	43%	57%	-
Federal Economic Class (FEC)	44%	50%	6%
Humanitarian	100%	-	-
International Student	-	-	100%
Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)	50%	50%	-
Quebec Programs	100%	-	-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> "ICC Immigration Dashboard: 2023 in Review." Institute for Canadian Citizenship, April 29, 2024. https://inclusion.ca/article/icc-immigration-dashboard-2023-in-review/.

#### The appeal of the Canadian passport

Among the 18 respondents who plan to obtain Canadian citizenship, specific personal experiences along with the ability to travel more easily and/or avoid issues associated with their former passport were motivating factors.

For instance, one respondent from Colombia<sup>8</sup> shared an experience of entering Canada from Mexico and enduring a frustrating immigration process, as their luggage was inspected publicly. This individual cited their motivation for attaining Canadian citizenship:

"...They were checking every single item that we have. So, it's frustrating. When you have your Canadian passport, is what I heard from friends – welcome to this country. It's super easy, super friendly... For me, it's way different when you are a citizen. I mean, we complete the time, we apply right away."

For others, Canadian citizenship facilitates travel by reducing barriers and unlocks global opportunities. As stated by a PR from South Africa9:

"if I do want to get a job in the [United] States, it makes it a bit easier. Not that [that] is something that I'm looking at right now. But I will say to myself, 10 years from now, the world can change very quickly. Who knows?"

Several respondents highlighted that possessing a Canadian passport provides travel benefits, increased stability, and a stronger sense of belonging, and removes the fear of deportation. Other reasons cited include seeking a better life for their families, exercising voting rights, becoming active citizens, and viewing naturalization as a logical progression after residing in Canada as a PR. While the allure of the Canadian passport is evident, a sense of connection to Canada or enthusiasm about living in the country did not emerge as primary motivators for seeking citizenship.



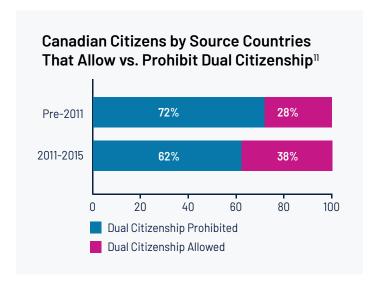
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> PR through CEC category

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> PR through FEC category

#### Challenges with renouncing citizenship

Among the interview respondents, 18 said that they were unsure about applying for Canadian citizenship. Many reasons contributed to this decision, but one recurring factor was the challenge of renouncing their other citizenship.

An <u>earlier study</u> by the ICC shows that in aggregate, restrictions on dual nationality play a limited role in the decline of Canada's naturalization rates overall. While naturalization has decreased among immigrants from source countries that prohibit dual citizenship, it has also decreased among immigrants from source countries that allow dual citizenship.



In the in-depth interviews, respondents focused on the socio-political repercussions of renouncing citizenship. Many expressed the importance of maintaining family ties in their countries of origin. Despite having the option of applying for a visa or other status as Canadian citizens, they feared the consequences of renouncing their original citizenship.

As one respondent from India<sup>12</sup> said:

"I'm not planning to get my citizenship yet because then I have to get visa for India. And I don't want to do that right. Going up and down. As you know, there are tensions going between India and Canada right now. So, I just want to stay as long as my family's in India, maybe I'm gonna delay my citizenship...They say like you can apply for [Overseas Citizenship of India] cards or whatever right... But what's the difference? It doesn't make any difference."

Another respondent from China<sup>13</sup> shared:

"...my husband really wants to get Canadian citizenship. I'm still considering, it's just for me, like my parents, like all my family. My other family members are in China. And, you know, during COVID, China [had] very strict entry policies."

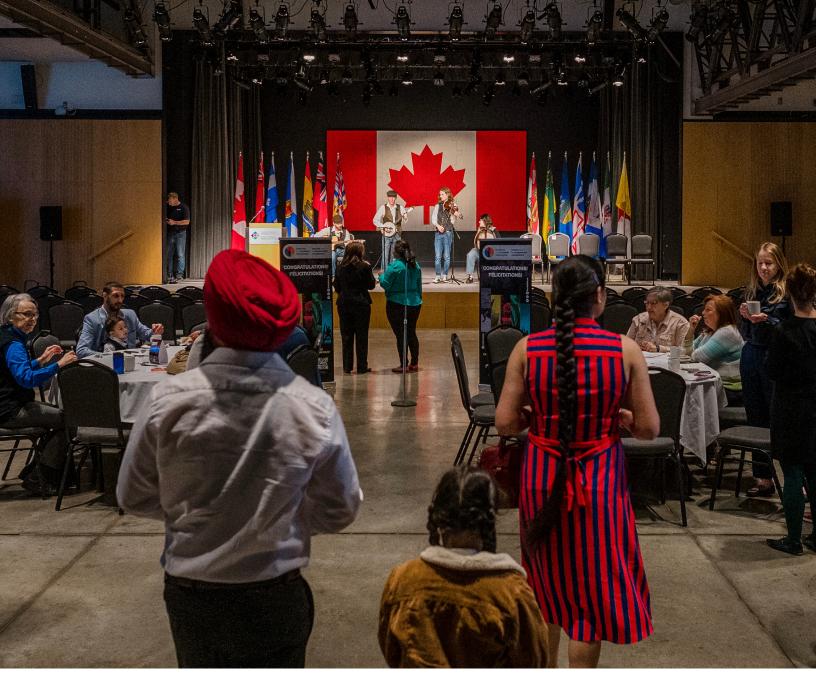
While the legal mechanics of becoming a Canadian citizen are not the immediate deterrence, certain practical complications or perceived risks do play a role in shaping permanent residents' views on naturalizing. While pursuing alternative statuses is possible, such as a visitor visa for China or Overseas Citizenship for India, there remains apprehension about potential delays or denials in the application process.

<sup>10</sup> Griffith, Andrew. "Citizenship in Decline: The Role of Dual Nationality, Immigration Category, and Wait Times." Institute for Canadian Citizenship, August 31, 2023. https://inclusion.ca/citizenship-in-decline-the-role-of-dual-nationality-immigration-category-and-wait-times/.

<sup>11</sup> Ihid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> PR through CEC category

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> PR through Family Class category



INTERVIEW FINDINGS: FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE NATURALIZATION DECISIONS

#### **Expectations of life in Canada**

Many respondents were highly educated and able to move globally to seek better opportunities for their career and/or family. Some lived in other host countries that provided them with baseline expectations for life in Canada. For some respondents, certain expectations had gone unmet in critical areas, such as the immigration system overall, the availability of support on arrival, and barriers to integration.

#### Challenges with Canada's immigration system

Most of the interviewees landed in Canada through one of the economic immigration streams and expected a smooth transition into Canadian society. However, many shared that they faced a very different reality on arrival and found the lack of harmonization across institutions in Canada to be frustrating.

One respondent from Iran who arrived in Canada through the Federal Skilled Workers stream explained that his experience was isolating. As a new immigrant:

"... [you are] left alone by yourself to go figure [out] something for your employment and settlement services. If you do your search, you would go through, but if not, no support."

He went on to say that if immigrants who come through these immigration streams lack the "capacity, capability...even leverage" to navigate Canada's complex social and employment system, they "might just be stuck." He explained: "It seems as if, for the lack of a better word, you're importing important people into the country, but you don't know what happens [to them] afterwards."

Another respondent from India who immigrated through the <u>Alberta Advantage Immigration Program</u><sup>14</sup> with 20 years of HR experience, faced rejection for lacking Canadian experience. This contradicted his expectations prior to arrival in Canada, sharing that: "Canadian experience is the legal way to discriminate and reject."

The respondent questioned the effectiveness of the system and the immigration streams that prioritize skilled migrants yet provide no provisions to connect them to industries facing labour shortages. He said: "Nobody [at the settlement agencies] knew how to help us." He added that the information given through the settlement organizations was "definitely not updated, and sometimes incorrect."

Both the respondents shared that their experiences with the immigration system and settlement services had a negative effect on their view of becoming a Canadian citizen.

These interviews highlight how shortcomings in Canada's immigration and settlement sector can undermine someone's desire to become Canadian down the road.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> "Alberta Advantage Immigration Program." <u>https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-advantage-immigration-program</u>.

#### Social and economic integration barriers

Many respondents spoke about their struggles to integrate into Canadian society, which affected their desire to become citizens.

A respondent<sup>15</sup> and his wife left India in 2019 with the hope of becoming part of the Canadian fabric. Despite trying to integrate, the respondent felt like there was something unsettling – a feeling of belonging combined with a feeling of being unwanted. The respondent shared:

"What matters should be the meritocracy... like what I'm bringing to the table, rather than who I am, where I'm coming from. And if I'm here, treat me like I'm here, right?"

While attracted by the diversity and clean air, the lack of social cohesion has pushed them to feel isolated. The respondent said that though the onus falls on immigrants to find ways to integrate themselves, opportunities to meet people and gain experiences are scarce and financially draining.

A respondent from Australia<sup>16</sup> who arrived in 2019 highlighted both professional and cultural barriers to integration. Arriving with extensive banking experience, he was dismayed by what he saw as an archaic system: "I was shocked that the online banking was kind of the same as what Australia offered back in the 90s."

He also found a reluctance to acknowledge problems and a lack of openness to consider or adopt best practices from other countries:

"We want Canada's problems to become our problems because we want to work together to make the country better. But to start with, we're not allowed to say there are problems."

Despite this experience, he still plans to become a Canadian citizen, however, his primary reason to naturalize is not for his own circumstances; the benefit is for his spouse, who must travel to Canada frequently.



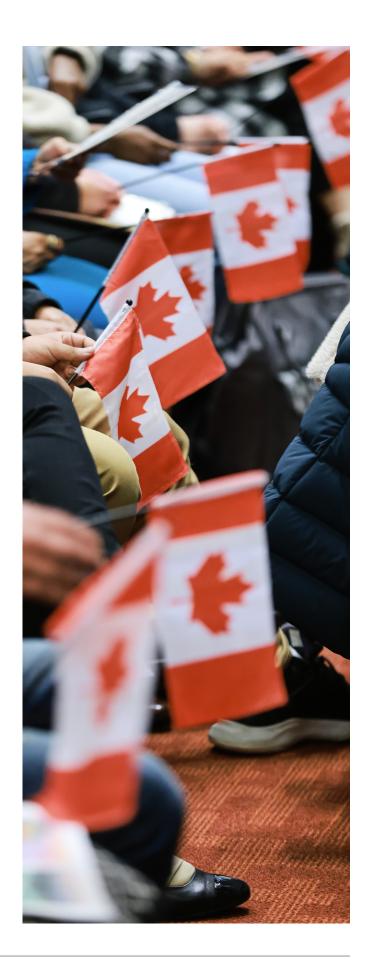
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> PR through FEC category

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> PR through Family Class category

Another respondent of Indian<sup>17</sup> origin held several permanent immigration options simultaneously: a U.S. green card, Canadian permanent residence, and indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom. He shared that a country's willingness to truly welcome newcomers is crucial when it wants to attract the best and brightest minds, and Canada has room to improve:

"In Canada, I feel like in the back of my head, not that anyone was explicitly rude or anything but, you always feel like you're an immigrant who's here to contribute to the economy, like you've been looked at, like a number or a metric, right, rather than [someone who belongs]."

Many respondents shared that they wanted to learn and become a part of the culture and contribute to the betterment of the country. However, without adequate support systems and access to integration services, they found it difficult to commit to Canada with a full heart.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> PR through FEC category

#### Canadian Citizenship: A question of priority

While many interviewees came with the hope of acquiring Canadian citizenship, some viewed it as less of a priority when compared to other concerns.

One respondent from Mexico<sup>18</sup> came to Canada in 2015 to pursue her studies. After completing her undergraduate and master's degrees in Canada, she became a PR, and is now planning to pursue a PhD in another country. When asked about whether she would become a Canadian citizen, she indicated that it wasn't her priority: "I'm giving priority to like, trying to keep my studies going."

While she may leave for her PhD, she does foresee coming back to Canada eventually as she has built her network here and her partner is Canadian. However, citizenship is not a priority for now.

Another respondent from Bangladesh<sup>19</sup> was relocated to Canada from the United States (U.S.) after his company was unable to secure his H-1B visa. He applied for his PR under Canadian Experience Class, while waiting for his company to reissue his U.S. visa. To his frustration, the PR application processing took eight months without clarity on when he would receive the PR card. This experience informed his decision to favour the U.S. over Canada, and he said:

"it was one of the main reasons why I was like, you know, if I'm gonna have to deal with [bad] immigration systems, like I might as well just deal with the [worst] and come back to the U.S."

He explained that financial security for immigrants is very important. Factors like housing and net income were at the top of his mind, and he was wary that: "Canadian tech workers make like 30 to 40% less than American tech workers for doing the same job", further influencing his decision to move.

On the other hand, a respondent from Finland<sup>20</sup> viewed their Finnish passport as equivalent to the Canadian passport. Since they will be travelling back and forth between Finland and Canada, they will explore applying for the Canadian passport if necessary in the future.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> PR through CEC category

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> PR through CEC category

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> PR through Family Class category

#### Reasons not to naturalize

While some respondents indicated that they were on the fence about applying for Canadian citizenship, others were certain that they would not apply. Four respondents, in particular, indicated that they would not apply for citizenship.

Two respondents were from Singapore and two were from China – both countries prohibit dual citizenship. However, the reasons not to naturalize varied among the participants.

One respondent from China who came through the Canadian Experience Class stated: "one huge obstacle that blocks us from applying for Canadian citizenship, which is having properties overseas."

While no specific reason for the complication was provided, the respondent indicated that her ownership of property in China ultimately discouraged her from obtaining Canadian citizenship: "it's not that tempting to convert to a Canadian citizenship yet."

Another respondent from China had lived in the US prior to moving to Canada and did not have any expectations of establishing long term roots in Canada: "I have no intention [of getting citizenship]. I come from a big city in China... living style there is actually sometimes better."

One Singaporean respondent has lived in Canada for 18 years as a PR and was never interested in naturalizing as she as she felt that her Singaporean passport was much stronger. She shared: "No. Because I have Singapore citizenship and they don't allow dual citizenship, and I'm not looking to change that."

Other challenges that strengthened her decision not to naturalize were:

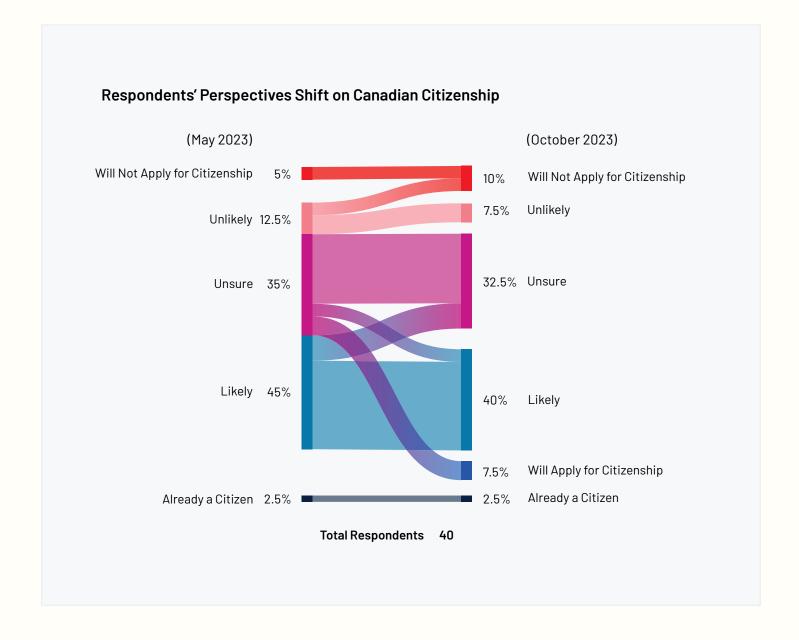
"affordability...It's a challenge to travel within Canada, super expensive. Not super connected. The other one is maybe underlying racism. You can feel it. Even though there are pockets of diversity, I don't think I really connected with neighbours anywhere I've lived...community fostering is not a thing."

The interviews reveal that perspectives on naturalization can be influenced by factors that may not be within Canada's control. Particularly, people from source countries with robust economies that restrict dual citizenship may be less inclined to renounce their original citizenship due to the potential benefit it offers.

## Shifting views on Canadian citizenship

This research highlights how PRs' views on citizenship are influenced by numerous factors. But given the diversity of factors identified, to what extent can people's views on citizenship change over time? During the analysis phase of this research, respondents' interviews were compared with their corresponding survey responses from several months before. The analysis revealed that nuanced perspectives on citizenship can evolve and become more fully formed over time.

Between the survey in May 2023 and the interviews in October 2023, 11 respondents had changed their perspectives on naturalization in subtle yet significant ways. The diagram below illustrates the shift in perspectives from May 2023 to October 2023.



Four respondents who were 'likely' to apply for citizenship at the time of the survey expressed more hesitancy about it during the follow-up interview. Of these four respondents, one individual from Mexico and another from Finland viewed citizenship as a lower priority compared to other issues; one respondent from India was concerned about the impacts of renouncing their Indian citizenship; one respondent from Honduras was looking for better professional and economic opportunities.

The fourth respondent, from Honduras, settled in Canada in 2018 but left the following year after struggling to find suitable employment. He returned to Canada in 2021 but was still struggling to settle at the time of the interview. He shared his intent to apply for citizenship if he remained in Canada:

"We're definitely gonna apply. But of course, it depends on how the market [is]...buying a house is very difficult, even though we have good jobs, my wife and I. But it's ridiculous the amount they're asking for...It's difficult to make a decision [to naturalize] like that."

While many of the factors that influence one's prioritization of citizenship are outside of the control of Canadian policymakers, certain levers may prove effective – and offer alignment with some of Canada's wider policy goals. For example, focusing on improving newcomers' economic integration and expanding access to affordable housing could play a positive role.

Three respondents who were 'unsure' in the survey, shared in the interviews that they will apply for citizenship. Some respondents cited family security and stability as reasons to naturalize. For example, one respondent whose family was stranded in China during the Covid-19 pandemic wanted to ensure that all of his family members were Canadian citizens and therefore no longer at risk of being separated due to differences in status. He stated: "if I [become a Canadian citizen], I just feel more secure."

For others, the reason was more practical in nature; after obtaining permanent residence, there was a desire to avoid having to face administrative issues and delays at IRCC while regularly renewing their permanent residency every 5 years.



#### What is at stake for Canada?

Canada's future hinges on immigration. It is the only source of labour force and population growth. Yet the function of immigration is not solely economic; immigrants infuse the economy with capital, skills, and new ideas, but they also become future voters, leaders, and co-owners in shaping the future of the country. If fewer and fewer immigrants choose to naturalize, questions surrounding the future of Canada's democracy could become existential.

What kind of society will Canada be if a shrinking proportion of the population is committed to the country and eligible to participate in its democratic processes?

The declining naturalization rate is not the only challenge Canada faces.

Recent <u>research</u><sup>21</sup> by the ICC and the Conference Board of Canada indicates that onward migration (i.e., immigrants choosing to leave Canada) has been increasing since the 1980s, with unprecedented peaks in the most recent years. This evidence, along with the declining citizenship rate, suggests that Canada might be losing its appeal.

Immigrants in the interviews highlighted a variety of factors that influence their decision to naturalize. These factors include barriers within the immigration system, economic ties and socio-political dynamics in source countries, unique personal circumstances, and experiences around economic integration and belonging in Canada.

The respondents shared an eagerness to try and be a part of Team Canada but are failing to recognize the value in return. The available evidence indicates that the decline in naturalization is likely to continue unless Canada's leaders decide to make citizenship a priority.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Dennler, Kathryn. "The Leaky Bucket: A Study of Immigrant Retention Trends in Canada." Ottawa: The Conference Board of Canada, 2023.

## **Policy Recommendations**

Leaders can take certain steps to push back against the decline in naturalization by focusing on citizenship and improving newcomers' experiences of immigrating to Canada.

# 1. Set a clear naturalization target of 80% for all permanent residents within 10 years of arrival.

The current naturalization target of 85% includes all immigrants from all periods, going back to when records began. This is an ineffective performance metric. To make monitoring more meaningful and actionable, IRCC's naturalization target should focus on the period when most PRs naturalize, which is within 10 years following arrival.

# 2. Publicize citizenship ceremonies and make them more inclusive and accessible.

In-person citizenship ceremonies are a unique opportunity for Canadians and newcomers to come together to celebrate a moment of profound importance. In-person ceremonies should be offered as the default option for all candidates. They should be open to the public and widely advertised to foster a sense of community. Ceremonies should also be made more accessible by being offered on evenings and weekends.

#### 3. Invest in programs and initiatives that promote citizenship.

Permanent and temporary categories of immigration receive the lion's share of attention and investment, while citizenship is often an afterthought. This research demonstrates that perspectives on citizenship are influenced by various factors and can change over time. To drive citizenship uptake, Canada needs to invest in programs that support newcomers in discovering and learning about citizenship, highlight its benefits, and make it more financially accessible.

#### 4. Make immigrant satisfaction and retention a priority for Canada.

While considerable effort is put into attracting newcomers to Canada and managing their intake via the immigration system, little attention is paid to ensuring that newcomers remain in Canada and build their economic and personal futures here. New funding opportunities should be created for programs focused on retention by accelerating the economic, social, and recreational integration of newcomers and their families.

#### Appendix I

This appendix outlines the methodology employed for this research.

#### Citizenship Survey

Between May 15–21 2023, we conducted an online survey of verified new Canadian citizens and PRs who participated in the ICC's Canoo Access Pass. The survey inquired about various aspects of participants' lives in Canada compared to their country of origin and assessed their perspectives on Canadian citizenship and their likelihood of becoming a citizen.

The analysis took place from May 22–June 22, 2023. After removing incomplete responses, 4,179 responses were analyzed, of which 1,346 (33%) were PRs.

Among PR respondents, the analysis yielded the following results:

17% had already applied for citizenship;

61% were likely to apply;

16% were unsure;

3% were unlikely; and

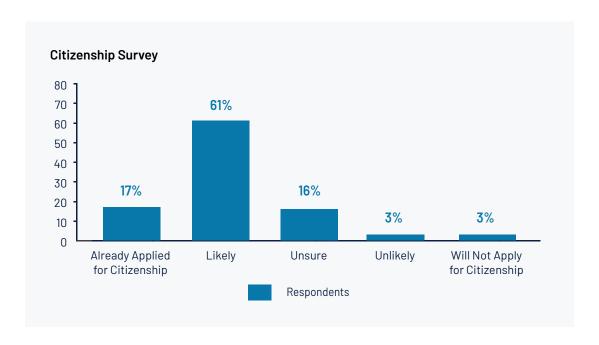
3% stated they would not apply for citizenship.

#### Respondent Interviews

In October 2023, we conducted follow-up semi-structured interviews with 40 survey respondents selected at random. Between October 11 to October 27, interviews were conducted by video conference and phone call. These interviews aimed to delve deeper into respondents' views on Canadian citizenship and their likelihood of applying for citizenship.

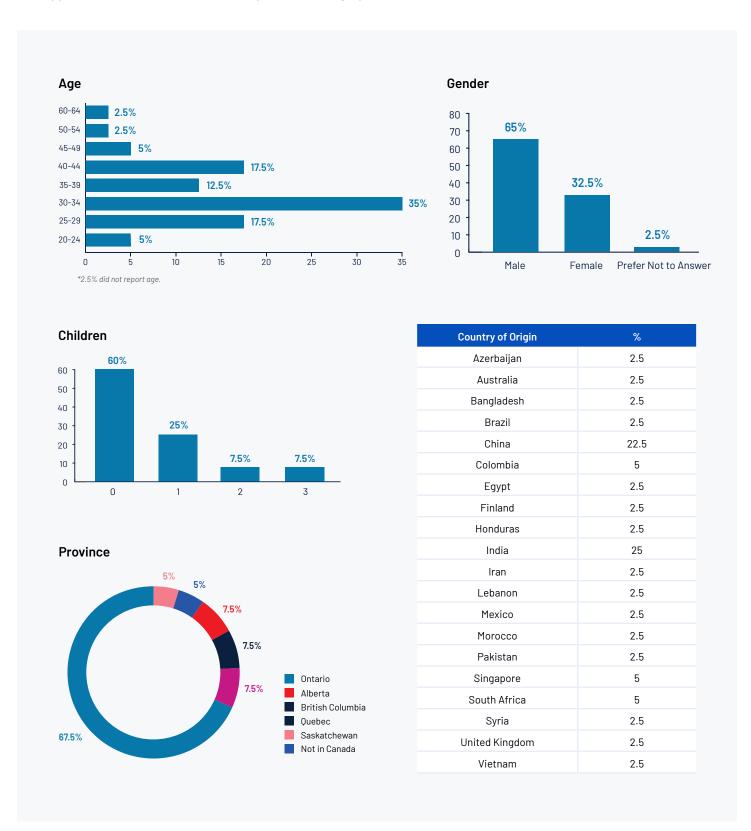
In addition to the lead researcher and author who coordinated and conducted all the interviews, three research assistants transcribed and coded the interviews.

The demographic breakdown of participants can be found in Appendix II.

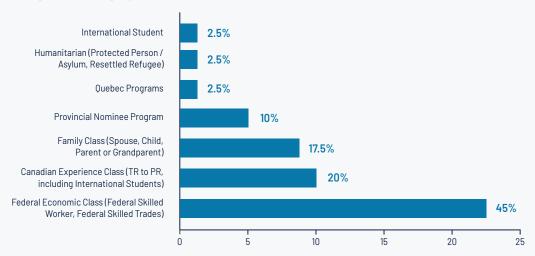


### Appendix II

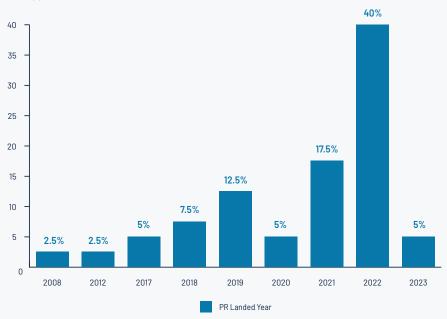
This appendix illustrates the interview respondent demographics.



#### **Immigration Category**

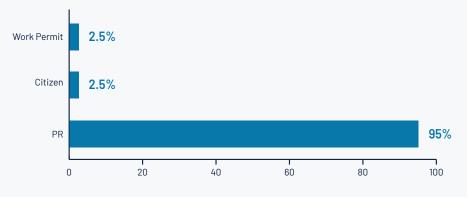


#### PR Year



\*2.5% did not apply for PR.

#### **Immigration Status**

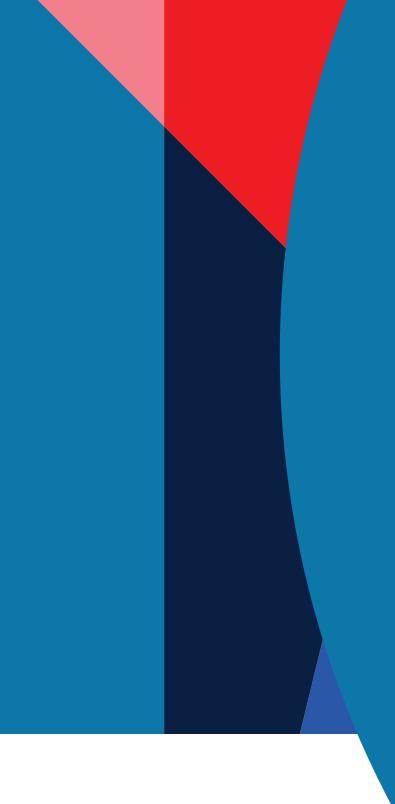


#### Acknowledgments

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Lastly, a heartfelt gratitude to all the interview respondents who took the time and energy to generously share their immigration stories with us.



For every newcomer: Belonging. Opportunity. H