

Enhance Canada’s immigration system to reclaim leadership in education and talent

Canada’s immigration system is often a first point of contact and gives a critical first impression of the country for investors, business partners, tourists, visitors and international students. It should reflect Canada’s excellence and innovation, high quality of government services, high standard of living and technological advancement. Instead, our immigration system suffers from technical issues and inefficiencies, resulting in complex and delayed application processes.

What needs to be done

The Digital Platform Modernization (DPM) program—with a budget of \$800 million and slated for completion by 2026—aims to ensure every individual’s first interaction with Canada is smooth and positive.

However, as of May 2024,



OF THE PROGRAM’S BUDGET HAS BEEN SPENT DUE TO SIGNIFICANT IMPLEMENTATION DELAYS.

The program should speed up its progress to fulfill its commitments and raise Canada’s global reputation.



Canada can strengthen its economy and enhance productivity by competing for highly skilled newcomers, including international students, who have demonstrated potential to contribute to Canada’s future labour needs.

2021’s census showed that immigrants in Canada account for



1 IN 4 health care workers are recent immigrants.

IN 2022, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SUPPORTED 361,230 JOBS IN CANADA.

International students contributed **\$30.9 BILLION** to the country’s economy.

MODERNIZING OUR IMMIGRATION SYSTEM IS NOT ABOUT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING TO CANADA; IT'S ABOUT ENHANCING OUR NATION'S SAFETY, STRENGTH AND TRANSPARENCY.

What is the Digital Platform Modernization (DPM) program?

The DPM program aims to modernize the immigration department's IT infrastructure to streamline applications, enhance user experience and improve communication. This upgrade is intended to:



Handle increasing application volumes



Support Canada's immigration goals



Ensure fair, transparent processes with a focus on equity and anti-racism

Taking action is urgent: recent public opinion polling shows a lack of trust in our immigration system. Canadians want a process that is controlled and has integrity. A modern Digital Platform will help restore confidence in the system.

The impact of improving our IT infrastructure

Accelerating DPM's implementation will position Canada as a tech-savvy and welcoming destination and making immigration more efficient, transparent and secure. The completed DPM will enhance data sharing, support sound policy-making and boost public confidence by aligning immigration policies with economic and talent needs.

WE RECOMMEND:

- Accelerate the modernization of Canada's immigration system through the Digital Platform Modernization at IRCC, providing better data integrity and sharing for governments, institutions and Canadians.
- Align Canadian departments on a unified strategy to fortify Canada's global leadership in education and international collaboration.

The interest in Canada is declining

Due to Canada's inability to process permits efficiently, international students' and researchers' interest in the country is significantly declining. Canada must strengthen its position as a top destination for education and research.

