

A Study of the Relationship Between New Japanese Immigrants and the Japanese Canadian Community

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[Note to Readers] As the first half of this paper focuses heavily on statistical analysis, it is recommended that you first read “Chapter III: Interactions Between New Immigrants and the Descendants of Pre-World War II Japanese Immigrants” before proceeding to “Chapter II: Demographic Characteristics of New Japanese Immigrants (New Immigrants).” Chapter VI, “Changes to Canadian Immigration Policy in 2025 and Their Impact on New Immigrants and the Japanese Canadian Community,” has been added, and Chapter V, “Conclusion,” has been revised to reflect these impacts.

I. Introduction

Much of the existing research on the history of the Japanese Canadian community in the 20th century has focused on the struggle against injustices stemming from racially discriminatory policies implemented by the federal and provincial governments during and immediately after World War II, the community’s revival, and the fight for legal and moral redress (the redress movement). However, the Canadian government’s complete abolition of race-based national immigration quotas in 1967 and the introduction of a “points system” that quantitatively assessed individual abilities and qualifications marked a decisive turning point, transforming the structure of the Japanese Canadian community. This policy shift encouraged the settlement of new immigrants from Japan and led to the emergence of a distinct social group within the Japanese Canadian community collectively referred to as “newcomers.” Unlike the historical context of the prewar Issei and their descendants, the experiences of the new immigrants are characterized by cultural adaptation, language acquisition, and the reconfiguration of identity as part of their integration into Canada’s multicultural society.

The historical experiences of the pre-war first-generation immigrants and their descendants (second, third, and fourth generations) continue to form the core of the Japanese Canadian community’s identity. However, with the arrival of over 46,000 new Japanese immigrants between 1967 and 2022, the community’s demographic foundation has undergone a fundamental restructuring. Today, these new immigrants and their descendants account for more than half of the total Japanese Canadian population; however, their social realities, motivations for immigration, and the challenges they face differ significantly from those of the existing pre-war community.

The purpose of this paper is to present a comprehensive demographic and sociological analysis of this new cohort of immigrants and to examine their role and position within the broader Japanese Canadian community. Specifically, this paper seeks to address the following three points:

- **Elucidation of the structural characteristics of new immigrants:** Based on demographic data, this paper analyzes the overwhelming majority of female immigrants, their high educational attainment, and their unique migration patterns driven by economic and social motivations—in contrast to the labour-driven immigration of the early 20th century.
- **Exploring Intergenerational and Intergroup Interactions:** This study investigates the complex dynamics between new immigrants and the descendants of pre-war immigrants, examining the

cultural and linguistic divides between the two groups as well as the ways in which shared spaces serving as points of mutual connection are created.

- Evaluation of Structural Adaptations in Community Organizations: This study evaluates how community organizations—including the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC), local cultural centers, and language education institutions—have adapted to bridge the gaps between these groups with differing characteristics and analyzes the potential for fostering an inclusive and cohesive Japanese Canadian identity for the future.

II. Demographic Characteristics of New Japanese Immigrants (Newcomers)

1. Historical Development of Canadian Immigration Policy Toward Japanese Immigrants

Prompted by the rapid increase in Japanese immigration in the early 20th century and the subsequent anti-Asian riots that erupted in Vancouver in 1907, the governments of Canada and Japan concluded the “Remyu-Hayashi Agreement.” Under this agreement, new immigration from Japan was, in principle, limited to 400 people per year, and eligibility was restricted primarily to family members of existing residents, forcing a fundamental change in migration patterns. However, since the agreement permitted spouses and children to travel, family formation proceeded through the “Picture Bride” system. As a result, the Japanese Canadian community transitioned from a group of single men working as migrant labourers to a permanent family-based community, establishing a foundation for their lives primarily along the coast of British Columbia (BC).

Even after the end of World War II, the Canadian government continued its exclusionary policies toward Japanese Canadians, forcing them to choose between forced repatriation to Japan or forced relocation east of the Rocky Mountains. As a result, a total of 3,964 Japanese Canadians were repatriated to Japan. Furthermore, 1,688 Japanese Canadian children who had travelled to Japan before the war—often at their parents’ request—to receive an education were also barred from re-entering Canada due to wartime measures. In addition to these repatriation and dispersal policies, the federal government implemented a total ban on new Japanese immigration, which remained effectively in place until 1967. However, between 1945 and 1967, in response to sustained lobbying by organizations such as the Japanese Canadian Citizens’ League (JCCL), the government was compelled to allow the re-entry of some displaced Japanese Canadians.

Between 1945 and 1951, Canada accepted more than 157,000 refugees from war-torn Europe. In contrast, the total number of Japanese immigrants from 1951 to 1976 was only 2,397, the vast majority of whom were relatives of Japanese Canadians who had been repatriated or interned during and after the war. Under the strict restrictions of the early postwar period, the formation of networks by resident Japanese to bring over relatives and acquaintances was hindered, making the autonomous expansion of the community impossible. Consequently, Japanese Canadians were forced to rebuild their community based on extremely small, scattered settlements resulting from their forced dispersal.

Although statutory legal restrictions on Japanese Canadians were completely abolished on March 31, 1949, restrictions on new immigrants from Japan remained in place, and the community had to wait for the introduction of the “points system” through the 1967 amendment to the Immigration Act. With the establishment of the points system, the discriminatory selection framework based on race, nationality, and origin was abolished, and those who travelled to and settled in Canada after 1967 are currently defined as “new immigrants” within the community.

Table 1
Number of Immigrants with Japanese Citizenship to Canada, 1945 to 2022

Year	Number	Year	Number	Year	Number	Year	Number
1945	0	1965	188	1985	205	2005	1,065
1946	1	1966	500	1986	273	2006	1,210
1947	0	1967	858	1987	446	2007	1,250
1948	5	1968	693	1988	346	2008	1,285
1949	11	1969	766	1989	541	2009	1,195
1950	11	1970	797	1990	365	2010	1,165
1951	3	1971	883	1991	492	2011	1,265
1952	6	1972	718	1992	586	2012	1,210
1953	46	1973	1,105	1993	910	2013	985
1954	71	1974	859	1994	956	2014	1,125
1955	97	1975	635	1995	835	2015	995
1956	121	1976	498	1996	1056	2016	1,035
1957	180	1977	412	1997	971	2017	1,085
1958	183	1978	359	1998	1,021	2018	1,035
1959	190	1979	666	1999	1,356	2019	1,115
1960	159	1980	737	2000	1,010	2020	615
1961	114	1981	770	2001	1,090	2021	1,405
1962	134	1982	630	2002	805	2022	885
1963	171	1983	330	2003	815	2023	
1964	140	1984	250	2004	975	2024	

Source: Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada

Table 2
Japanese Immigrants to Canada by Period

Period	Number
1967 -1976	7,032
1977- 1986	4,175
1987 - 1996	7,733
1997 - 2006	8,586
2007 - 2016	11,095
2017 - 2022	4,020
Total	42,641

Source: Immigration, Refugee and
Citizenship Canada

2. Demographic Structure of the New Immigrant Population

Between 1967 and 2022, a total of 46,945 Japanese immigrants settled in Canada. Statistics by generation, gender, and age group, based on the 2021 Census data, clearly reveal structural changes within the Japanese Canadian community. The definitions of generational categories in the Census are as follows.

- First generation: Individuals born outside Canada (first-generation immigrants born abroad and new immigrants).
- Second generation: Individuals born in Canada with at least one parent born outside Canada (second-generation).
- Third generation or more: Individuals born in Canada to parents who were both born in Canada (third generation, fourth generation, etc.).

As of 2021, there were 129,430 Canadians who reported having single or mixed Japanese ethnic and cultural origins (defined in this paper as Japanese Canadians). Of these, 48,190 were first-generation (including new immigrants), accounting for 37.2% of the total. If we assume that those aged 55 and older among the second generation (38,810 people) are descendants of pre-war immigrants, the remaining 32,285 people are descendants of new immigrants (second generation). Combining these figures, the total number of new immigrants and their descendants reach 80,575, accounting for 62.2% of the total Japanese Canadian population. In other words, within the contemporary Japanese Canadian community, the population descended from new immigrants constitutes the primary component, forming a quantitative majority.

Another striking demographic characteristic of the new immigrant cohort is a significant gender imbalance in favour of women. Among the first generation (new immigrants), there are 32,070 women, accounting for 66.5%.

Table 3

People of Japanese Ethnic or Cultural Origin by Generation Status, Sex and Age Group in 2021

Generation status	Total			First generation			Second generation			Third generation or more		
Gender	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total - Age	129,430	56,845	72,580	48,190	16,120	32,070	38,810	19,265	19,545	42,425	21,460	20,965
0 to 14 years	30,900	15,930	14,970	3,715	1,815	1,900	15,080	7,785	7,300	12,100	6,330	5,775
15 to 19 years	9,670	4,805	4,860	2,495	1,155	1,340	3,970	2,010	1,960	3,200	1,640	1,560
20 to 24 years	8,505	4,145	4,360	2,585	1,190	1,395	3,030	1,470	1,560	2,890	1,485	1,405
25 to 34 years	16,750	6,925	9,825	7,130	2,395	4,735	3,810	1,810	2,000	5,810	2,715	3,090
35 to 44 years	18,020	6,630	11,395	9,825	2,695	7,130	3,795	1,800	2,000	4,395	2,130	2,265
45 to 54 years	17,485	6,200	11,285	10,420	2,625	7,790	2,700	1,315	1,385	4,370	2,260	2,110
55 to 64 years	11,755	4,995	6,765	4,680	1,330	3,355	1,435	740	700	5,640	2,930	2,710
65 to 74 years	8,610	3,910	4,695	4,310	1,740	2,575	1,250	625	630	3,055	1,555	1,500
75 years and over	7,735	3,310	4,430	3,030	1,180	1,850	3,740	1,715	2,030	965	420	550

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0338-01, Ethnic or cultural origin by generation status

Table 4

**People of Japanese Ethnic or Cultural Origin by Generation
Status and Sex in 2021**

	Total sex	Men	Women
Total	129,430	56,845	72,580
First generation	48,190	16,120	32,070
Second generation	38,810	19,265	19,545
Third and more generations	42,425	21,460	20,965

Cultural Origin by Generation Status and Sex in 2021

	Total sex	Men	Women
Total	100.0	43.9	56.1
First generation	100.0	33.5	66.5
Second generation	100.0	49.6	50.4
Third and more generations	100.0	50.6	49.4

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-

Table 5

Japanese Visible Minority Immigrants by Period of Immigration and Sex in 2021

Period of immigration	Immigrants	Before 1980	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000
Total - Gender	29,930	4,925	2,225	5,360
Men	8,200	2,140	795	1,275
Women	21,730	2,785	1,430	4,080
Period of immigration	2001 to 2010	2011 to 2015	2016 to 2017	2018 to 2021
Total - Gender	8,410	4,405	1,800	2,805
Men	1,765	1,080	475	660
Women	6,645	3,325	1,325	2,145

Source: Statistics Canada. 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0325-01

Tables 5 and 6 show the distribution of Japanese immigrants classified as “visible minorities” by migration period and gender as of 2021. Here, “visible minorities” refers to non-Indigenous people of non-white race or ethnicity, as defined by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act. According to the 2021 survey, there were 98,895 Japanese immigrants classified as “visible minorities,” which is fewer than the total number of Japanese Canadians (129,430). This discrepancy stems primarily from the fact that some Japanese Canadians—particularly those from multigenerational families—do not self-identify as visible minorities in the census. According to the data, only 4,925 Japanese immigrants arrived before 1980, and the majority (approximately 83.5%) of the 29,930 Japanese immigrants identified as visible minorities in the 2021 census were new immigrants who arrived after 1980. Furthermore, among those who immigrated during the most recent 20-year period, from 2001 to 2021, the proportion of women ranged from 75% to 79%, indicating that the extremely high female-biased trend continues.

Table 6

Percentage distribution

Period of immigration	Immigrants	Before 1980	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000
Total - Gender	100	100	100	100
Men	27	43	36	24
Women	73	57	64	76
Period of immigration	2001 to 2010	2011 to 2015	2016 to 2017	2018 to 2021
Total - Gender	100	100	100	100
Men	21	25	26	24
Women	79	75	74	76

Canada's permanent resident admission categories consist primarily of the following four classifications.

- **Economic Immigrants:** Principal applicants expected to contribute to the economy through balancing labour market supply and demand, business start-ups and investment, or specialized skills, along with their accompanying family members (secondary applicants such as spouses and dependent children). Assessment is based on a points system, such as the Federal Skilled Worker (FSW) Program and the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) under Express Entry.
- **Family-Sponsored Immigration:** A program aimed at family reunification—including spouses, common-law partners, minor children, parents, and grandparents—under the sponsorship of a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.
- **Refugees:** Individuals granted permanent residence under the Geneva Convention to seek protection from a well-founded fear of persecution, civil war, or large-scale human rights violations.
- **Other Immigrants:** A special category based on humanitarian considerations or other grounds not covered by the three categories above.

Table 7
Japanese Immigrants by Period of Immigration and Admission Category in 2021

Men and Women	Total - Period of immigration	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2011 to 2021	2011 to 2015	2016 to 2021
Admission category and applicant type							
Total - Admission category	25,830	2,270	5,715	8,860	8,985	4,535	4,445
Economic immigrants	11,960	1,325	2,795	3,580	4,255	2,310	1,945
Principal applicants	6,455	585	1,530	1,825	2,520	1,290	1,230
Secondary applicants	5,505	745	1,265	1,760	1,735	1,025	720
Immigrants sponsored by family	13,410	870	2,840	5,150	4,555	2,150	2,405
Refugees	205	25	45	70	75	15	55
Other immigrants	250	50	30	65	100	60	40
Men	Total - Period of immigration	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2011 to 2021	2011 to 2015	2016 to 2021
Admission category and applicant type							
Total - Admission category	6,435	795	1,450	2,005	2,185	1,150	1,035
Economic immigrants	4,745	635	1,095	1,415	1,595	890	715
Principal applicants	3,030	460	720	805	1,045	540	505
Secondary applicants	1,715	175	375	615	555	350	205
Immigrants sponsored by family	1,560	140	335	545	540	245	305
Refugees	75	10	15	30	15	0	10
Other immigrants	60	0	10	20	25	15	0
Women	Total - Period of immigration	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2011 to 2021	2011 to 2015	2016 to 2021
Admission category and applicant type							
Total - Admission category	19,390	1,475	4,265	6,850	6,800	3,390	3,415
Economic immigrants	7,210	690	1,700	2,165	2,660	1,425	1,235
Principal applicants	3,425	125	810	1,020	1,475	750	720
Secondary applicants	3,785	570	890	1,145	1,185	670	515
Immigrants sponsored by family	11,850	725	2,510	4,605	4,015	1,910	2,105
Refugees	135	10	25	35	60	15	45
Other immigrants	195	45	25	45	75	40	35

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0317-01 Period of immigration by admission category and place of birth: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts

Table 8
Percentage Distribution of Japanese Immigrants by Period of Immigration and Admission Category in 2021

Men and Women	Total - Period of immigration	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2011 to 2021	2011 to 2015	2016 to 2021
Admission category and applicant type							
Total - Admission category							
Economic immigrants	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Principal applicants	46	58	49	40	47	51	44
Secondary applicants	25	26	27	21	28	28	28
Immigrants sponsored by family	21	33	22	20	19	23	16
Refugees	52	38	50	58	51	47	54
Other immigrants	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
	Total - Period of immigration	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2011 to 2021	2011 to 2015	2016 to 2021
Men							
Admission category and applicant type	Total - Period of immigration	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2011 to 2021	2011 to 2015	2016 to 2021
Total - Admission category							
Economic immigrants	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Principal applicants	74	80	76	71	73	77	69
Secondary applicants	47	58	50	40	48	47	49
Immigrants sponsored by family	27	22	26	31	25	30	20
Refugees	24	18	23	27	25	21	29
Other immigrants	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Women							
Admission category and applicant type	Total - Period of immigration	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2011 to 2021	2011 to 2015	2016 to 2021
Total - Admission category							
Economic immigrants	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Principal applicants	37	47	40	32	39	42	36
Secondary applicants	18	8	19	15	22	22	21
Immigrants sponsored by family	20	39	21	17	17	20	15
Refugees	61	49	59	67	59	56	62
Other immigrants	1	1	1	1	1	0	1

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0317-01 Period of immigration by admission category and place of birth: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts

The analysis results in Tables 7 and 8 reveal the structural characteristics of the admission categories for Japanese-born immigrants (25,830 individuals) who entered the country from 1980 to 2021. Overall, economic immigrants account for 46% and family-sponsored immigrants for 52%, showing a nearly even split; however, there is a marked asymmetry based on gender. While 74% of male immigrants are economic immigrants (47% as principal applicants, 27% as dependent applicants), family-sponsored immigrants account for 61% of female immigrants, with economic immigrants making up only 37%. This gender-based difference in selection patterns has remained extremely stable since 1991.

3. Comparative Analysis of Educational Attainment

As a whole, Japanese Canadians maintain an educational attainment level that is significantly higher than the national average in Canada. According to 2021 Census data (Table 9), 66.6% of Japanese Canadians aged 15 and older hold a post-secondary certificate or degree, significantly exceeding the average for all Canadians of 55.9%. The rate of those holding a bachelor's degree or higher stands at 39.2% for Japanese Canadians, compared to the average of 22.6% for all Canadians.

The educational attainment of the first generation (new immigrants) is particularly notable, with 41.7% holding a bachelor's degree or higher (44.7% for men and 40.4% for women). The higher rate of higher education among the first generation compared to the second generation (33.5%) and the third generation and beyond (39.6%) is partly due to a statistical effect stemming from the fact that the census covers the entire population aged 15 and older. Specifically, while 38.9% of the second generation and 28.5% of the third generation and beyond are in the 15–19 age group—which is typically in school—only 7.7% of the first generation falls into this age group; the inclusion of a large number of individuals who have not completed their education in the denominator contributes to the differences in figures across generations.

Table 9
Percentage Distribution of Visible Minority Japanese Canadians in 2021 by Generation and Gender of Age 15 and Over

Gender	All Generations			First Generation			Canada		
	Total - Gender	Men	Women	Total - Gender	Men	Women	Total - Gender	Men	Women
Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No certificate, diploma or degree	8.4	10.7	6.8	5.2	7.9	4.0	16.7	18.0	15.4
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	25.1	27.1	23.7	21.7	24.4	20.6	27.5	27.5	27.5
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	66.6	62.2	69.5	73.0	67.7	75.4	55.9	54.5	57.1
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	4.6	6.8	3.2	4.1	5.2	3.6	10.3	14.6	6.1
Non-apprenticeship trades certificate or diploma	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.3	5.6	6.5	4.7
Apprenticeship certificate	2.4	4.4	1.1	1.7	2.7	1.3	4.7	8.1	1.4
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	18.9	14.8	21.8	21.5	12.3	25.4	20.4	17.5	23.2
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	3.8	2.9	4.4	5.8	5.4	6.0	2.6	2.1	3.1
Bachelor's degree or higher	39.2	37.8	40.2	41.7	44.7	40.4	22.6	20.4	24.8
Bachelor's degree	28.4	26.1	30.0	30.5	29.3	31.0	15.0	13.2	16.8
University certificate or diploma above bachelor level	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.8
Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5
Master's degree	6.2	6.3	6.0	6.1	8.0	5.3	4.7	4.3	5.0
Earned doctorate	1.7	2.3	1.2	2.3	4.4	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.7
Percentage of people age 15 to 19*	23.9	28.0	20.6	7.7	11.3	5.9			

Table 5 continued

Gender	Second Generation			Third or More Generation		
	Total - Gender	Men	Women	Total - Gender	Men	Women
Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No certificate, diploma or degree	14.3	15.6	13.2	8.8	9.7	7.8
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	29.6	29.4	29.7	26.9	28.0	25.7
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	56.1	54.9	57.1	64.4	62.3	66.4
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	5.0	7.1	3.1	5.1	7.9	2.3
Non-apprenticeship trades certificate or diploma	2.1	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.7
Apprenticeship certificate	3.0	4.7	1.2	3.2	5.7	0.6
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	15.6	14.8	16.3	17.6	17.0	18.1
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.3	2.9
Bachelor's degree or higher	33.5	31.3	35.6	39.6	36.1	43.2
Bachelor's degree	24.5	22.9	26.1	28.1	25.6	30.6
University certificate or diploma above bachelor level	1.6	1.5	1.7	2.1	1.6	2.7
Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.4	1.7	1.1
Master's degree	5.4	4.8	5.9	6.8	5.9	7.7
Earned doctorate	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.1
Percentage of people age 15 to 19*	38.9	40.4	37.3	28.5	29.5	27.5

Note: * calculated from Table 3.

Source: 2021 Census of Population, Table: 98-10-0429-01

4. Analysis of Employment Income and Structural Disparities

Employment income data for 2020 (Table 10) clearly demonstrate the existence of gender disparities and disparities based on place of birth (Canadian-born vs. foreign-born) within the Japanese Canadian community. The average employment income for all Japanese Canadians in 2020 was \$51,450, slightly below the average for non-visible minority (white) Canadians (\$52,550). However, when broken down by gender, the average income for Japanese Canadian men (\$65,800) surpassed that of white men (\$60,900), whereas the average income for Japanese Canadian women (\$41,080) fell short of that of white women (\$43,440).

Furthermore, a key issue is the structural problems surrounding the economic integration of new immigrants (foreign-born individuals). While the average income of Canadian-born Japanese women with a post-secondary education reaches \$59,800, the average income of foreign-born new immigrant women with equivalent post-secondary qualifications stands at \$36,720, indicating a significant income disparity (a gap of approximately 38.6%). This suggests that the underemployment of female newcomers—resulting from the undervaluation of overseas work experience and qualifications, language barriers, and factors such as spousal sponsorship—is affecting their earning potential.

Table 10

Average Employment Income of Visible Minority Japanese Canadians and Non-Visible Minority Canadians in 2020 by Immigration Status, Gender and Educational

	Total - Gender					
Immigrant status	Total - Immigrant status		Non-immigrants		Immigrants	
Visible minority	Japanese	Not a visible minority	Japanese	Not a visible minority	Japanese	Not a visible minority
Total educational attainment	51,450	52,550	56,650	52,050	41,080	57,250
No certificate, diploma or degree	17,760	27,760	17,460	27,400	18,400	31,800
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	32,640	37,800	33,040	37,720	29,760	38,960
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	59,450	63,200	70,100	62,950	43,760	65,600
Postsecondary certificate or diploma below bachelor level	45,240	50,840	55,250	51,200	33,920	47,400
Bachelor's degree or higher	68,700	80,300	78,600	80,600	51,550	79,800

	Men					
Immigrant status	Total - Immigrant status		Non-immigrants		Immigrants	
Visible minority	Japanese	Not a visible minority	Japanese	Not a visible minority	Japanese	Not a visible minority 13
Total educational attainment	65,800	60,900	63,850	60,200	58,000	67,400
No certificate, diploma or degree	21,140	32,760	20,520	32,360	22,400	37,200
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	39,240	44,600	37,240	44,480	39,900	46,040
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	80,000	74,900	80,900	74,600	63,800	77,800
Postsecondary certificate or diploma below bachelor level	62,500	60,500	64,500	61,100	49,440	54,950
Bachelor's degree or higher	91,000	98,600	92,400	99,300	71,700	97,300

	Women					
Immigrant status	Total - Immigrant status		Non-immigrants		Immigrants	
Visible minority	Japanese	Not a visible minority	Japanese	Not a visible minority	Japanese	Not a visible minority
Total educational attainment	41,080	43,440	49,280	43,240	34,680	45,720
No certificate, diploma or degree	13,360	19,560	13,040	19,220	15,000	23,360
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	26,440	29,680	28,120	29,600	24,700	31,240
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	46,200	51,900	59,800	51,950	36,720	52,150
Postsecondary certificate or diploma below bachelor level	34,560	40,000	44,200	40,200	29,760	38,080
Bachelor's degree or higher	53,950	65,800	67,200	66,600	42,920	61,950

Notes:

Immigrant status refers to whether the person is a non-immigrant, an immigrant or a non-permanent resident.

Non-immigrants includes persons who are Canadian citizens by birth.

"Not a visible minority" includes all Canadians who do not belong to the visible minority groups.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0439-01

5. Language Shift and Intergenerational Transmission of the Native Language

Language data from the 2021 Census (Table 11) highlights the reality of a rapid language shift within the Japanese Canadian community. While 88% of the first generation (new immigrants) speak Japanese as their mother tongue, among the Canadian-born second generation, the proportion speaking Japanese as their mother tongue drops sharply to 37%, with 71% choosing English. Furthermore, among the third generation and beyond, 97% list English as their mother tongue, while only 2% list Japanese as theirs. These figures confirm the reality that, even under North America's multiculturalism policies, maintaining the transmission of Japanese within the home becomes increasingly difficult with each generational shift.

Table 11
Mother Tongue of Japanese Canadians by Generation, 2021

	English	French	Japanese
All generations	56	2	47
First generation	13	1	88
Second generation	71	4	37
Third and more	97	2	2

Source: Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0325

6. Historical Changes in Motives for Emigrating to and Settling in Canada

The motivations for Japanese immigrants to settle in Japan underwent a qualitative shift between the early immigration period—from the late 19th century to the first half of the 20th century—and the modern immigration period beginning in the 1980s.

Motivational Structure of the Early Immigration Period (Late 1800s–1930s)

- Men (First Generation): Seeking to escape poverty in rural Japan and the rigidity of the eldest-son inheritance system (the family system), their primary objective was to secure economic opportunities by entering the manual labor market in sectors such as fishing, forestry, mining, and railroad construction. “Chain migration”—reliance on the kinship and local ties of established immigrants—was common.
- Women: Their migration was based on family reunification with men already settled in the United States or on the “mail-order bride” system. They served as domestic workers, provided supplementary labor for family businesses (such as agriculture and fishing), and played a foundational role in community building.

Driving Forces of the Modern Immigration Period (Since the 1980s)

- Men: The primary factors include the development of international careers as engineers, researchers, highly specialized professionals, and entrepreneurs; sympathy for multiculturalism and environmentalism; and intra-company transfers or business expansion by global corporations.
- Women: The primary factors include self-actualization, pursuing higher education abroad, lifestyle choices (work-life balance, enjoyment of gender equality, and the pursuit of a safe social environment), and settling locally through international marriage. In particular, migration seeking liberation from Japan's rigid gender roles is notable.

7. Analysis of a Survey on the Actual Conditions of New Immigrants in Edmonton

A historical research project conducted by the Edmonton Japanese Community Association (EJCA) in 2016 (including a questionnaire survey conducted in 2013) presents the actual living conditions of new immigrants in a regional city. According to the analysis of 77 respondents (20 men and 57 women), 90% of male new immigrants entered the country as “economic immigrants,” while 70% of female new immigrants entered as “family reunification (spouse sponsorship)” cases.

As of 2013, the employment rate among male economic migrants was 100%. Meanwhile, of the 40 female family-sponsored migrants, 18 were employed, and 22 were homemakers (full-time housewives, etc.). Of the 18 employed women, 8 were engaged in Japanese language education-related work (university lecturers, private tutoring, courses for local organizations, etc.). It was confirmed that opportunities to engage in Japanese language education serve as a major channel for Japanese female immigrants who arrived under family reunification to enter the local labor market and secure professional roles.

8. Geographic Distribution and Settlement Patterns by City

As shown in Tables 11 and 12, when comparing the geographic distribution patterns of Japanese Canadians with those of the overall Canadian population, a marked tendency toward concentration in specific provinces and cities is evident.

Table 12
Japanese Canadians by Province and Generation in 2021

	All Generations	First Generation	Second Generation	Third and More Generations	% of First Generation
Canada	129,430	48,190	38,810	42,425	37.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	150	80	25	45	53.3
Prince Edward Island	250	165	45	35	66.0
Nova Scotia	1,125	585	310	230	52.0
New Brunswick	445	170	105	170	38.2
Quebec	7,465	3,810	2,405	1,245	51.0
Ontario	42,250	15,260	13,215	13,775	36.1
Manitoba	2,770	715	665	1,385	25.8
Saskatchewan	1,295	490	330	475	37.8
Alberta	18,605	5,135	5,090	8,370	27.6
British Columbia	54,640	21,560	16,500	16,580	39.5
Yukon	275	130	50	95	47.3
Northwest Territories	150	75	50	20	50.0
Nunavut	15	10	10	10	66.7

Sources: 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0338-01

Table13
Distributions of Japanese Canadians and the First Generation in 2021

	All Generations	First	All Canadians
Canada	100.0	100.0	100.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.1	0.2	1.4
Prince Edward Island	0.2	0.3	0.4
Nova Scotia	0.9	1.2	2.6
New Brunswick	0.3	0.4	2.1
Quebec	5.8	7.9	22.9
Ontario	32.6	31.7	38.6
Manitoba	2.1	1.5	3.6
Saskatchewan	1.0	1.0	3.0
Alberta	14.4	10.7	11.5
British Columbia	42.2	44.7	13.5
Yukon	0.2	0.3	0.1
Northwest Territories	0.1	0.2	0.1
Nunavut	0.0	0.0	0.1

Sources: 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0338-01

- Table 12 shows that both the overall Japanese Canadian population and the first-generation (new immigrants) are significantly concentrated in British Columbia compared to the general Canadian population.
- While 5.8 percent of all Japanese Canadians live in Quebec, 7.9 percent of the first generation reside there.
- In other provinces, the distribution of Japanese Canadians as a whole and first-generation immigrants is roughly the same as that of the Canadian population as a whole.
- Table 13 shows the percentage of first-generation (new immigrants) among Japanese Canadians living in each province. Before the Pacific War, the majority of Japanese Canadians lived in British Columbia (BC), but during and after the war, the Canadian government's policy of forcibly dispersing Japanese Canadians outside of BC led to their relocation to central and eastern Canada. In April 1949, Japanese Canadians were finally permitted to move to British Columbia, and since then, the number of Japanese Canadians living in the province has gradually increased. As of 2021, 42.2 percent of Japanese Canadians live in British Columbia.

III. Interaction Between New Immigrants and the Descendants of Pre-World War II Japanese Immigrants

1. Comparative Analysis of Identity Structures

A. Sociocultural Characteristics of Descendants of Pre-War Immigrants (Third and Fourth Generations)

- **Diminishing Japanese Cultural Ties:** Except for culinary traditions and ritual customs such as New Year's and Obon, direct exposure to the everyday language (Japanese) and traditional codes of conduct is extremely limited.
- **Historical Disruption and Pressure to Assimilate:** The internment during World War II and the federal government's postwar forced dispersal policy created pressure for rapid assimilation into the majority society (Canadian culture), resulting in the gradual abandonment and invisibilization of Japanese cultural elements.
- **Rediscovery of Identity:** With the maturation of multiculturalism in recent years, attempts to reconnect with one's historical background have been observed through the rediscovery of roots, travel to Japan, language learning, and participation in community activities.
- **Structural Integration into Canadian Society:** They are integrated on an equal footing with majority citizens across all domains—education, employment, lifestyle, and political participation—and played a leading role in the 1980s redress (state compensation) movement and the promotion of multicultural human rights.
- **High Interethnic Marriage Rates and Hybrid Identities:** Due to high rates of interethnic marriage (over 90%), they maintain a hybrid “Japanese Canadian” identity that integrates diverse cultural backgrounds.

B. Social and Cultural Characteristics of New Immigrants

- **High Cultural Continuity:** They maintain a high level of fluency in Japanese and sustain daily transnational (cross-border) connections with family, friends, and media in Japan.
- **Selective Integration and Transnational Self-Identity:** While accepting Canadian multiculturalism and concepts of gender equality as a framework for daily life, they maintain modern Japanese norms of behaviour and value systems in their private lives.
- **Community Independence:** There is a strong tendency to form unique social circles (various Japanese-language networks and social clubs) independent of existing pre-war Japanese Canadian communities, and certain barriers exist to organizational integration.
- **Language Barriers and Psychological Inhibition:** Despite high educational attainment, feelings of inadequacy and psychological barriers regarding the official languages (English and French) act as factors hindering active participation in Canadian society and traditional Japanese Canadian organizations.

2. Interactions and Divergences (Divergent Paths and Points of Contact)

The dynamics between new immigrants who settled after 1967 and the descendants of pre-war immigrants (third and fourth generations) are characterized by both “mutual centrifugal forces”—arising from the asymmetry of immigration histories, disparities in language proficiency, and differences in community priorities—and “centripetal forces” based on shared culture and historical heritage.

Due to differences in historical background, a certain degree of mismatch is observed in their mutual perceptions. From the perspective of new immigrants, the identities of third- and fourth-generation Japanese Canadians may appear to be “highly assimilated, with little interest in contemporary Japanese culture.” On the other hand, from the perspective of the third- and fourth-generation Japanese Canadians, new immigrants are sometimes perceived as “failing to understand the historical struggles of the Japanese Canadian human rights movement and taking their current social status and multicultural rights for granted.” In metropolitan areas, where well-established Japanese-language networks exist, the social circles of these two groups tend to be fragmented and isolated. However, in regions with a relatively small Japanese population, such as Edmonton, a structure exists in which both groups are compelled to collaborate under a single local organization (the Edmonton Japanese Cultural Association), serving as a model case for mutual integration.

3. Institutional Framework and Organizational Practices

A. The Structural Model of the Edmonton Japanese Cultural Association (EJCA)

The EJCA adopts an inclusive membership structure that welcomes Japanese Canadians, new immigrants, and non-Japanese Canadians alike. As of 2025, the membership composition consists of 25% third- and fourth-generation Japanese Canadians, 25% new immigrants, and 50% non-Japanese Canadians; non-Japanese Canadians also serve on the Executive Committee. The EJCA maintains a community cultural center, providing a base for various group activities such as martial arts, ikebana, tea ceremony, taiko drumming, and Japanese conversation.

A particularly important initiative is the outreach education program targeting local middle and high schools. Through the “Japan Today” program, the association welcomes approximately 2,500 second-year middle school students from about 30 schools each year to participate in half-day sessions on Japanese history, culture, and language. In addition, the “Explore Japan” program is designed for high school students studying Japanese and complements the Alberta Ministry of Education’s official curriculum. Most instructors for these educational programs are women who are new immigrants; this provides them with opportunities to gain teaching experience in the local community and build their careers, serving as a substantive bridge between pre-war Japanese residents and the general Canadian public.

B. Initiatives of the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) and the “Japanese New Immigrant Committee (JNIC)”

As a national organization, the NAJC has historically focused primarily on the redress movement addressing the injustices suffered by pre-war immigrants and on historical preservation; consequently, it has been criticized for lacking a specific mission addressing the needs of the new immigrant population. At the 2017 annual general meeting in Ottawa, issues such as language barriers, isolation, lack of information on healthcare and human rights, and the loss of social networks resulting from children dropping out of Japanese supplementary schools were brought to light.

Following an online dialogue in 2021, a temporary committee for new immigrants was established within the NAJC in 2022 and was elevated to a permanent “Committee for New Japanese Immigrants (JNIC)” in May 2023. JNIC’s mission is to promote human rights and social justice, foster cultural dialogue, provide education on Japanese Canadian history, and build a network of new immigrants across Canada. JNIC organizes Japanese-language seminars on Japanese Canadian history, publishes the “Remote Care Handbook” in collaboration with JAMSNET

(Japanese Medical Network in Canada), hosts roundtable discussions, and runs online support groups for women in international marriages. Through NAJC's national network, it functions as an organization that ensures the realities of new immigrants are reflected in public policy.

C. Tonari Gumi (Vancouver)

Established in 1974, Tonari Gumi (Japanese Community Volunteer Association) was founded to support elderly first-generation Japanese Canadians who had returned to Vancouver from wartime internment camps and were facing isolation and poverty. Over the course of its 50-year history, it has evolved into a nonprofit welfare organization supported by approximately 200 volunteers. New immigrants actively participate as volunteers in activities such as meal delivery (bento) services, food preparation, home visits, digital skills support ("Tech to Go"), and the organization of cultural events, providing a practical framework for intergenerational and intercultural support between pre-war seniors and new immigrants.

D. Japanese Cultural Centre of Toronto (JCCC)

Established in 1963, the JCCC is one of North America's largest Japanese cultural institutions, boasting over 5,000 members and 210,000 annual visitors. It offers a wide range of programs, including traditional culture workshops, martial arts, film festivals, historical exhibitions, and support for seniors. Within its volunteer organization of approximately 1,100 members, new immigrants collaborate with pre-war Japanese Canadians as ambassadors of contemporary Japanese culture and as operational staff, contributing to the revitalization of the community.

E. National Japanese American Museum and Cultural Center (NNMCC / Burnaby)

Established in 2000, the NNMCC is a national-level historical archive and cultural hub dedicated to preserving and educating the public about the historical legacy of the Issei and Nisei generations (particularly records of forced internment). Through activities such as cataloging and digitizing exhibits and archives, and volunteering to organize the Nikkei Matsuri festival, new immigrants are directly learning about the history of pre-war Japanese Canadians while engaging in activities to introduce contemporary Japanese culture.

G. Japanese Social Service, Toronto (JSS)

Japanese Social Services (JSS) is a Toronto-based nonprofit organization that supports the Japanese Canadian community by providing life counselling, general counselling, support for seniors, and domestic violence (DV) counselling—in both Japanese and English—to Japanese Canadians and new immigrants. Established in the 1990s, the organization provides guidance in Japanese on issues such as immigration-related anxieties, family problems, mental health, and accessing the social welfare system, and refers clients to medical institutions, legal support services, and specialized domestic violence agencies as needed. Its services cover a wide range of areas, including individual counselling, women's support groups, programs for seniors, assistance for those facing financial hardship, and informational seminars. It is highly regarded as a safe space where new immigrants can seek advice in Japanese.

F. The Dichotomy of Japanese Language Education Institutions (Supplementary Schools vs. Japanese Heritage Schools)

Japanese-language education institutions in Canada are divided into two categories based on their objectives and target student populations.

- Japanese Supplementary Schools (Supplementary Schools): These are primarily intended for the children of temporary residents—such as corporate expatriates and Ministry of Foreign

Affairs personnel—who plan to return to Japan in the future. In accordance with the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's (MEXT) curriculum guidelines, subjects such as Japanese language, mathematics, social studies, and science are taught in Japanese, with the aim of facilitating reintegration into the Japanese school system upon return. Some new immigrants also send their children to these schools.

- Japanese Heritage Education Schools (Heritage Schools): These schools are intended for the children of Japanese Canadians who are permanent residents of Canada (second-, third-, and fourth-generation Japanese Canadians, as well as children of new immigrants). In a learning environment where English and French are the primary languages, these schools focus on fostering bilingualism, preserving cultural identity, and deepening understanding of their roots. It is common to organize classes by proficiency level based on Japanese language ability rather than age.

In small cities and other areas with small Japanese Canadian populations, efforts are underway to establish hybrid schools that combine the two functions described above; however, operational challenges often arise from discrepancies in language goals and teaching methods. Flexible class placement based on proficiency is a key requirement for success.

IV. The Transformation of Canada's Immigration Policy in 2025 and Its Impact on New Immigrants and the Japanese Canadian Community

This chapter is a summary of Takashi Oki's "The Transformation of Canadian Immigration Policy in 2025 and Its Impact on New Japanese Immigrants and the Japanese Canadian Community" (August 2026). August 2026, the author obtained and analyzed data from Canada's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada on "the number of Canadian permanent residents granted to Japanese nationals by immigration category" from 2015 to May 2026. The analysis revealed that the Canadian government's major shift in immigration policy in 2025 had already significantly affected the number of Canadian permanent residents granted to Japanese nationals by immigration category in 2025. Since the fundamentals of this new immigration policy are expected to remain in place for the next 10 years, understanding its impact is crucial for predicting the relationship between new immigrants and Japanese Canadians, which led to the creation of the above report.

1. Number of Canadian Permanent Residency Grants to Japanese Nationals by Immigration Category from 2015 to 2025 and Projections for 2026 to 2035

Table 14
Number of Japanese Citizens Granted Permanent Residency in Canada by Immigration Category, 2015 - 2025

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% Dist.
Total	995	1,035	1,085	1,035	1,115	615	1,405	885	1,015	900	650	10,735	100.0
Agri-Food Pilot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0.0
Atlantic Immigration Pilot Programs	0	0	0	0	15	0	--	--	0	0	0	15	0.1
Atlantic Immigration Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	--	15	0.1
Canadian Experience	25	25	30	45	45	25	155	40	90	120	85	685	6.4
Caregiver	0	--	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	--	10	10	0.1
Federal Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	40	80	0.7
Rural and Northern Immigration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	10	10	--	20	0.2
Skilled Trade	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Skilled Worker	690	400	180	295	290	85	60	205	115	50	25	2,395	22.3
Worker Program	715	425	210	345	350	115	220	245	215	235	165	3,240	30.2
Entrepreneur	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Investor	30	30	95	25	25	10	30	5	25	20	--	295	2.7
Self-Employed	5	0	--	5	0	0	0	0	0	15	10	35	0.3
Start-up Business	0	5	0	0	5	0	--	--	25	105	40	180	1.7
Business	35	35	95	30	30	10	35	10	50	135	50	515	4.8
Provincial Nominee Program	80	95	105	135	180	85	80	205	265	215	160	1,605	15.0
Provincial Nominee Program	80	95	105	135	180	85	80	205	265	215	160	1,605	15.0
Temporary Resident to Permanent Resident Pathway	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	45	50	5	5	130	1.2
Temporary Resident to Permanent Resident Pathway	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	45	50	5	5	130	1.2
Economic	825	555	410	510	560	210	360	505	580	590	380	5,485	51.1
Sponsored Children	15	25	25	15	15	15	20	15	15	10	25	195	1.8
Sponsored Extended Family Member	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	10	0.1
Sponsored Parent or Grandparent	40	40	40	45	35	20	25	35	55	35	25	395	3.7
Sponsored Spouse or Partner	145	205	235	320	275	180	280	290	305	315	280	2,830	26.4
Sponsored Family	200	270	300	375	325	215	325	345	375	360	330	3,420	31.9
Sponsored Family	200	270	300	375	325	215	325	345	375	360	330	3,420	31.9
Blended Sponsorship Refugee	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0.0
Government-Assisted Refugee	10	25	--	--	5	--	5	10	10	10	5	80	0.7
Privately Sponsored Refugee	10	15	25	20	20	--	5	10	5	--	--	110	1.0
Resettled Refugee	20	40	25	20	30	10	10	20	15	10	10	210	2.0
Protected Person in Canada	55	40	45	60	65	95	235	240	265	290	160	1,550	14.4
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	75	85	70	80	95	100	245	260	275	305	170	1,760	16.4
All Other Immigration	10	10	5	20	30	10	25	30	35	15	10	200	1.9

Table 15
Estimates of the Number of Japanese Citizens Granted Permanent Residency in Canada by Immigration Category, 2026 -2035

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total	550	550	550	550	710	710	710	710	710	710
Agri-Food Pilot										
Atlantic Immigration Pilot Programs										
Atlantic Immigration Programs										
Canadian Experience	40	40	40	40	60	60	60	60	60	60
Caregiver										
Federal Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot										
Rural and Northern Immigration										
Skilled Trade										
Skilled Worker	10	10	10	10	50	50	50	50	50	50
Worker Program	50	50	50	50	110	110	110	110	110	110
Entrepreneur										
Investor										
Self-Employed										
Start-up Business										
Business	20	20	20	20	40	40	40	40	40	40
Provincial Nominee Program										
Provincial Nominee Program	150	150	150	150	180	180	180	180	180	180
Temporary Resident to Permanent Resident Pathway										
Temporary Resident to Permanent Resident Pathway										
Economic	220	220	220	220	330	330	330	330	330	330
Sponsored Children	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Sponsored Extended Family Member										
Sponsored Parent or Grandparent	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Sponsored Spouse or Partner	300	300	300	300	350	350	350	350	350	350
Sponsored Family	350	350	350	350	400	400	400	400	400	400
Sponsored Family										
Blended Sponsorship Refugee										
Government-Assisted Refugee										
Privately Sponsored Refugee										
Resettled Refugee										
Protected Person in Canada	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
All Other Immigration										

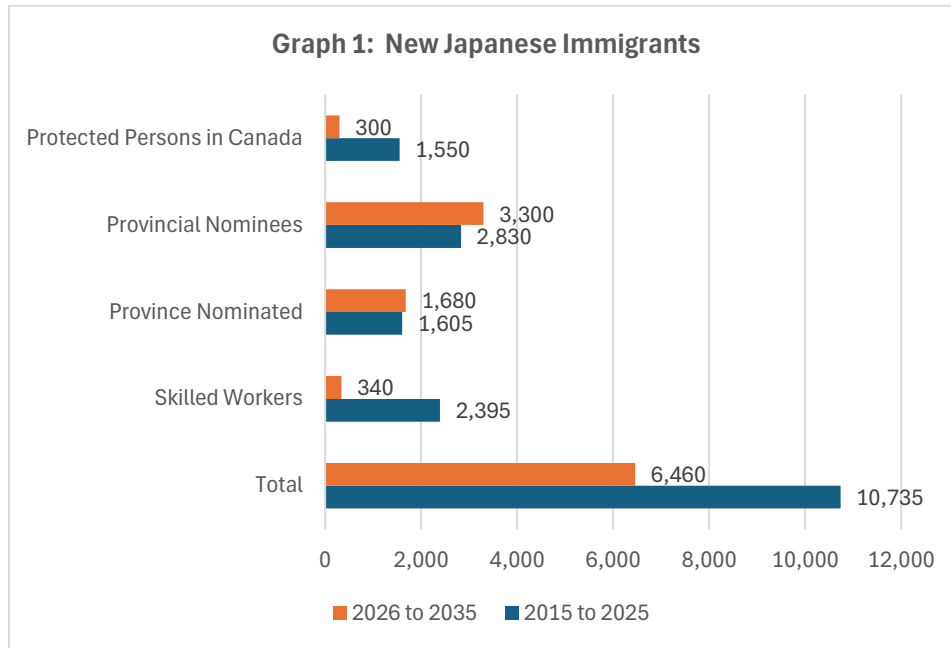
Table 16
Number of Japanese Citizens Granted Permanent Residency in Canada, 2015 - 2035

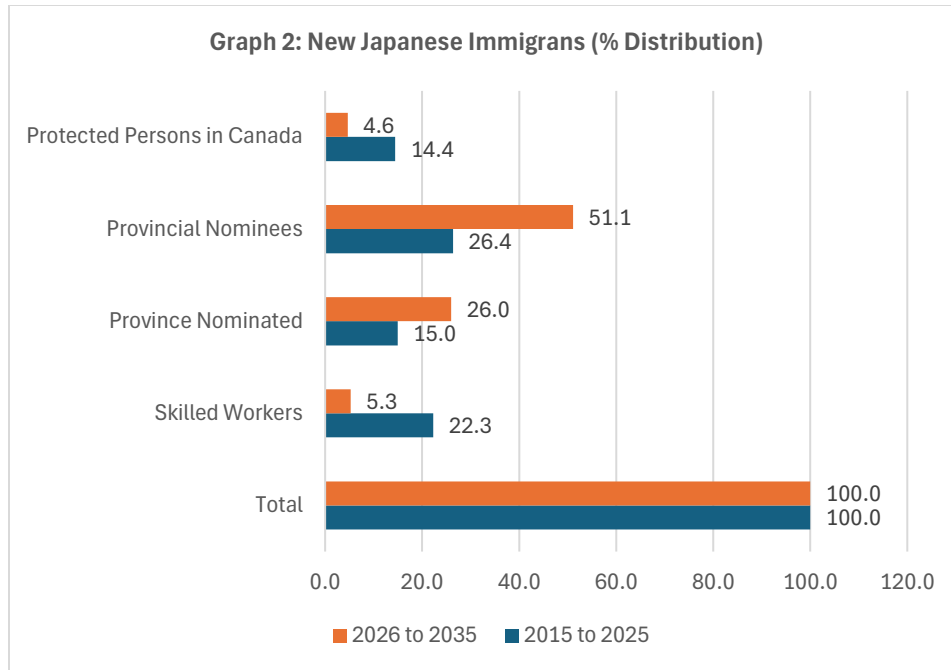
	Actual		Estimates		Actual + Estimates	
	2015 to 2025		2026 to 2035		2015 to 2035	
	Total	% Dist.	Total	% Dist.	Total	% Dist.
Total	10,735	100.0	6,460	100.0	17,195	100.0
Agri-Food Pilot	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Atlantic Immigration Pilot Programs	15	0.1	0	0.0	15	0.1
Atlantic Immigration Programs	15	0.1	0	0.0	15	0.1
Canadian Experience	685	6.4	520	8.0	1,205	7.0
Caregiver	10	0.1	0	0.0	10	0.1
Federal Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot	80	0.7	0	0.0	80	0.5
Rural and Northern Immigration	20	0.2	0	0.0	20	0.1
Skilled Trade	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Skilled Worker	2,395	22.3	340	5.3	2,735	15.9
Worker Program	3,240	30.2	860	13.3	4,100	23.8
Entrepreneur	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Investor	295	2.7	0	0.0	295	1.7
Self-Employed	35	0.3	0	0.0	35	0.2
Start-up Business	180	1.7	0	0.0	180	1.0
Business	515	4.8	320	5.0	835	4.9
Provincial Nominee Program	1,605	15.0	0	0.0	1,605	9.3
Provincial Nominee Program	1,605	15.0	1,680	26.0	3,285	19.1
Temporary Resident to Permanent Resident Pathway	130	1.2	0	0.0	130	0.8
Temporary Resident to Permanent Resident Pathway	130	1.2	0	0.0	130	0.8
Economic	2,530	51.1	2,860	44.3	5,390	31.3
Sponsored Children	195	1.8	250	3.9	445	2.6
Sponsored Extended Family Member	10	0.1	0	0.0	10	0.1
Sponsored Parent or Grandparent	395	3.7	250	3.9	645	3.8
Sponsored Spouse or Partner	2,830	26.4	3,300	51.1	6,130	35.6
Sponsored Family	3,420	31.9	3,800	58.8	7,220	42.0
Sponsored Family	3,420	31.9	0	0.0	3,420	19.9
Blended Sponsorship Refugee	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Government-Assisted Refugee	80	0.7	0	0.0	80	0.5
Privately Sponsored Refugee	110	1.0	0	0.0	110	0.6
Resettled Refugee	210	2.0	0	0.0	210	1.2
Protected Person in Canada	1,550	14.4	300	4.6	1,850	10.8
Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada	1,760	16.4	300	4.6	2,060	12.0
All Other Immigration	200	1.9	0	0.0	200	1.2

Table 17
New Japanese Immigrants by Category

	2015 to 2025	2026 to 2035
Total	10,735	6,460
Skilled Workers	2,395	340
Province Nominated	1,605	1,680
Provincial Nominees	2,830	3,300
Protected Persons in Canada	1,550	300

% Distribution	2015 to 2025	2026 to 2035
Total	100.0	100.0
Skilled Workers	22.3	5.3
Province Nominated	15.0	26.0
Provincial Nominees	26.4	51.1
Protected Persons in Canada	14.4	4.6





Analysis of Statistics

The 2025 shift in immigration policy was introduced as a change to immigration regulations in 2025, and this change is already reflected in the number of Canadian permanent residents granted to Japanese nationals in 2025. As shown in Table 13, the number of Japanese nationals granted Canadian permanent residency decreased from 900 in 2024 to 650 in 2025.

The number of Japanese nationals obtaining permanent residency in Canada under the “Protection Class (Refugee and Humanitarian and Compassionate Considerations, H&C)” category ranged from 40 to 65 per year between 2015 and 2019, but surged sharply after 2021, reaching 290 in 2024. Since Japan is considered a safe country and is not expected to be a source of resettled refugees, these cases involve Japanese nationals who entered Canada for tourism, study, or work and subsequently applied for refugee status or humanitarian and compassionate (H&C) status while in the country, thereby obtaining permanent residency. Underlying this trend are social factors such as the lack of institutional protections for sexual minorities in Japan—including the absence of same-sex marriage—and cases where victims of domestic violence are unable to obtain state protection.

Furthermore, regarding institutional factors within the immigration system, the rising threshold for points under the Express Entry system—a program in which applicants are scored based on age, educational background, work experience, language proficiency, and other factors, and the government periodically issues “invitations” granting the right to apply for permanent residency starting with the highest-scoring applicants—has effectively closed off the standard economic immigration route. As a result, Japanese nationals who find it difficult to apply for immigration due to insufficient language skills or other reasons are utilizing refugee and H&C applications to maintain their legal status. The prolonged duration of refugee assessments (averaging 44 months) has also become a means of extending stay, and the sharp increase in 2021 was partly due to significant

delays in processing applications under the “Special Program to Transition Temporary Residents (TR) to Permanent Residents (PR),” which the Canadian government implemented on a temporary basis. These trends result not from an increase in political refugees but from systemic pressures and are projected to continue at approximately 30 people per year.

After examining the details of the shift in immigration policy and the immigration framework, we projected the number of Japanese nationals obtaining Canadian permanent residency from 2026 to 2035 and compared these figures with the actual numbers from 2015 to 2025, as shown in Table 16, Figure 1, and Figure 2. The following trends can be observed from these tables and figures.

Trends in Canadian Immigration Policy from 2026 to 2035

- The historic shift toward “immigration restraint and cap-based controls” implemented by the Canadian government from late 2024 through 2025 is not merely a temporary policy reversal but marks the beginning of a structural economic, social, and political paradigm shift in Canada that will span the next decade (2026–2035). This restrictive approach is likely to be further “strengthened and refined (with tighter targeting)” over the next few years, after which it will gradually shift toward “strategic and limited easing (adjustments)” in the latter half of the decade, in response to domestic demographic trends and economic demands.

Future Projections by Category (2026–2035):

- Federal Skilled Worker (FSW): Due to the English language proficiency barrier (CLB 9), direct applications from Japan will be effectively cut off, and we predict a severe slump of around 10–30 people per year will continue.
- Canadian Experience Class (CEC): Due to restrictions on Temporary Residents (TR), the pathway for transitioning from study or working holiday programs will narrow, resulting in a decline to approximately 40–60 people per year.
- Provincial Nominee Program (PNP): To avoid the tightening of federal criteria, we predict a surge in applications from Japanese nationals, allowing this category to maintain the largest share within economic immigration (around 150 to 180 people per year).
- Spouse and Partner Sponsorship: As this category does not involve a points-based selection system, it is the most stable and is expected to become the “most stable foundation” for Japanese nationals obtaining permanent residency between 2026 and 2035 (250–300 people per year, approximately 50% share).
- Domestic Protection Category: In contrast to the exceptional surge seen from 2021 to 2024, this category is expected to stabilize at around 30 to 50 people per year due to stricter government regulations.

2. Background of the Shift in Immigration Policy

Population growth policies implemented during the latter half of the Trudeau administration (2020–2025) led to a sharp increase in non-permanent residents—including international students, temporary workers, and refugee claimants—thereby exacerbating housing shortages and causing rents and real estate prices to skyrocket in major cities. Furthermore, the healthcare system became strained; a shortage of family doctors and abnormally long hospital wait times caused the social consensus on immigration—based on traditional multiculturalism—to falter, and public opinion rapidly shifted toward stricter policies. In response to this national crisis, when Prime Minister Carney

took office in 2025 and Mr. Diab was appointed Minister of Immigration, the new administration made breaking free from a low-productivity economy and stabilizing housing and healthcare infrastructure its top priorities, implementing a “historic reduction” that limited the number of temporary residents to less than 5% of the population. As a result of the introduction of a national cap on student visas, stricter language requirements for part-time workers, and significant restrictions on open work permits for spouses, the primary immigration routes that Japanese nationals had traditionally used were effectively narrowed, rendering conventional strategies ineffective.

3. The Impact of the Shift in Immigration Policy

The 2025 shift in immigration policy will have a profound impact not only on the new immigrant community but also on the existing Japanese Canadian community. The most significant issue is the sharp decline in skilled worker immigrants, who have long supported community operations. This group of skilled workers, equipped with specialized expertise and English proficiency, has served as key leaders in the activities of cultural centers and Japanese Canadian organizations; however, due to the policy change, their inflow over the next decade will drop by 85% compared to previous levels, weakening the human resource base of these organizations.

Meanwhile, while obtaining permanent residency through international marriage will continue as before, the structure of spousal dependency pushes Japanese women into a legally precarious position, creating a fear that “if I leave, my permanent residency application will fall through” in cases of domestic violence. There are also concerns that perpetrators may use their residency status as a shield to dominate and exploit their partners.

Furthermore, the pathway to obtaining a state nomination through support from regional employers is also fragile. Many Japanese individuals rely on Japanese-affiliated companies or specific industries, and in the process of aiming for the state-nominated immigration category through temporary work visas, a strong dependent relationship with their employers develops. This makes it difficult to protest poor working conditions, rendering the living conditions of new immigrants extremely unstable.

4. The Need for Programs to Mitigate the Negative Impacts of Immigration Policy Shifts

Due to the 2025 immigration policy shift, new Japanese immigrants are becoming increasingly reliant on spousal sponsorship and provincial PNP programs, placing them in a legally and physically precarious position. Even in cases of failed international marriages, domestic violence, or labour exploitation by regional employers, victims—whose residency status is held hostage—find it difficult to speak out, creating new social welfare challenges for local communities. For Japanese Canadian organizations, building a safety net at the local level is an urgent priority to protect these vulnerable individuals.

Japanese Social Services (JSS) in Toronto serves as a model for this effort. JSS is an organization that provides life counselling, domestic violence support, and support for the elderly in Japanese, and acts as a bridge to medical, legal, and specialized agencies. Operated by a small team of professional staff and volunteers, it has an annual budget of approximately \$150,000. Securing funding through public grants and donations, it has long supported new immigrants facing language and cultural barriers. However, no similar organizations exist in other cities, with facility requirements, the need for specialized personnel, and the difficulty of securing funding serving as major barriers.

Moving forward, the NAJC and its member organizations must collaborate to systematize the conditions and methods for establishing JSS-style organizations.

Even in areas where establishing dedicated facilities is difficult, NAJC member organizations can utilize their websites to provide information in Japanese on public and private support services related to family issues, domestic violence, and labour problems. The first step is to create a standardized information page template so that each organization can publish this information promptly.

Furthermore, since more than half of future new immigrants will be women, primarily immigrants through international marriage, initiatives to develop them as new community leaders will be crucial. EJCA has implemented exchange programs in which new immigrant women and children gather and has encouraged organizational participation by hiring them as instructors for Japanese-language classes and cultural introduction programs. As a result, new immigrant women have taken on roles as board members and become involved in organizing festivals and local events. Such experiences serve as a first step toward community participation and employment.

Furthermore, it is predicted that the number of migrants moving to small cities will increase in the future due to rising sponsored and state-nominated immigration. Since isolation is a serious issue in these areas, the NAJC and its member organizations need to establish a system that connects small-scale networks nationwide to facilitate information sharing and interaction. While numerous small-scale networks exist in scattered locations, there is a need for a national framework that enables collaboration aligned with specific objectives.

V. Conclusion

1. Insights New Immigrants Can Gain from the Descendants of Pre-War Immigrants

- **Understanding the historical context of Japanese Canadian identity:** By learning about the history of forced internment, property confiscation, legal discrimination, and the struggle for human rights through the redress movement, one can grasp the depth of the unique “Japanese Canadian” identity rooted in perseverance and adaptation.
- **Integration Strategies in a Multicultural Society:** By examining the survival strategies of third- and fourth-generation Japanese Canadians, one can identify models for constructing a “hybrid identity” that allows individuals to live as equals in mainstream Canadian society while preserving their Japanese cultural background.
- **Approaches to Organization-Building and Advocacy:** Students can learn the know-how to defend their own rights and to build and maintain community organizations within Canada’s legal and institutional frameworks.

2. Insights that Descendants of Pre-War Immigrants Can Gain from New Immigrants

- **Access to contemporary Japanese culture and linguistic resources:** Through interaction with new immigrants, they can directly experience the living culture, language, and social trends of “contemporary Japan”—rather than fixed, outdated images of the past.
- **Reconnecting with One’s Roots:** This provides an opportunity to rekindle interest in the Japanese language and traditional customs—which had been fading with generational change—and to deepen one’s historical understanding of one’s ancestors.

- A Global Perspective and Transnational Self-Awareness: The perspective of new immigrants, who travel between Japan and Canada and maintain an international outlook, helps expand the local historical view of pre-war communities into a broader global context.

3. Prospects Created Through Collaborative Activities

- Multigenerational and Multilingual Storytelling Project: Through the recording of oral histories, the publication of bilingual materials, and the creation of digital archives, it will be possible to weave a more comprehensive “history of Japanese Canadians” that integrates the trials of the prewar era with the settlement histories of postwar new immigrants.
- Mutual Exchange Through Culture, Food, and the Arts: Hosting events that blend traditional customs (such as mochi pounding and Obon) with contemporary Japanese culture (including contemporary art and culinary traditions) will create shared spaces that transcend generational boundaries.
- Language exchange and mutual mentorship: We will build a mutually supportive relationship in which third- and fourth-generation Nikkei provide local community support to new immigrants (in English, French, and with administrative procedures), while new immigrants offer Japanese language instruction and cultural education.
- Collaboration in Human Rights Advocacy and Civic Activism: It is expected that a solidarity-based approach—combining historical lessons with contemporary perspectives—will be developed to address social challenges facing modern Canadian society, such as anti-Asian racism, elder care, and the defense of immigrants’ and refugees’ rights.

4. Cooperation Between New Immigrants and Japanese Canadians to Address the Adverse Effects of Canada’s 2025 Immigration Policy

- Consideration of Establishing the Japanese Social Services (JSS) Model in Other Provinces
The NAJC and its member organizations need to systematize the criteria for establishing JSS-style organizations.
- Providing Information via Websites
- Even without their own facilities, NAJC member organizations can provide support information via their websites. They can post information serving as a bridge to public and private services for issues such as family problems, domestic violence, and labour issues. There is a need to create a common information page template and publish it promptly.
- Developing Female Leaders Among New Immigrants
More than half of future new immigrants will be women, primarily those immigrating through international marriage. Female new immigrants are key candidates to become future community leaders. EJCA implements exchange programs for women and children to encourage their participation in organizations.
They have been hired as instructors for Japanese language classes and cultural introduction programs, which has led to their participation as board members. Organizational experience serves as the first step toward participation in the local community and the workforce.
- Building Networks for New Immigrants in Small Towns
Due to the increase in sponsored immigrants and state-nominated immigrants, the number of immigrants moving to small towns is expected to rise. Isolation tends to become a serious issue in small communities. The NAJC and its member organizations need to establish a system to

connect small-town networks nationwide. A national framework is needed to coordinate the numerous small-town networks based on specific objectives.

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