



Online survey on economic priorities for category-based selection in Express Entry in 2026

Thank you for your interest. This survey is an opportunity to provide your feedback on the economic priorities that the Government of Canada should consider to help address Canada's economic and labour force needs through category-based selection in 2026.

- It is available in both English and French. Please select your preferred language above.
- Our survey may not automatically save your draft responses, so you may wish to prepare your answers in advance. You can review the questions by downloading a PDF copy of the survey from our [consultation webpage](#).
- If you would like to include other perspectives from within your organization, we encourage you to consult with your colleagues and submit one response on behalf of your organization.

Tell us about yourself

Q1 – Are you taking part in this survey as an individual or on behalf of an organization?

- a. As an individual – my views are my own
- b. On behalf of an organization – my views represent those of my organization

Q2 – [if Q1b is selected] Please provide your organization's name.

- a. Organization's name: _____
- b. Your name (optional): _____

Q3 – [if Q1b is selected] Which best describe(s) your organization? (Please select up to two options.)

- a. Diversity, equity, and inclusion organization (including 2SLGBTQI+)
- b. Academia, research foundation or institution, or think tank
- c. Advocacy group
- d. Arts and culture organization (archives, art gallery or museum, cinema, concert venue, library, performing arts venue, theatre or dance company, etc.)
- e. Business
- f. Chamber of commerce, board of trade or economic development organization
- g. Educational organization (primary or secondary school, post-secondary institution, designated learning institution, student association, school board, etc.)
- h. Faith-based organization
- i. Francophone or official language minority community organization
- j. Government (federal, provincial or territorial, municipal or regional administration)
- k. Health care organization or other care service
- l. Immigration consulting or legal service
- m. Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit or Métis) organization
- n. Industry or sector council



- o. Labour group or union
- p. Member of a Local Immigration Partnership
- q. Member of Rural and Francophone Community Pilots
- r. Multicultural or ethno-cultural association
- s. Not-for-profit, charitable or non-government organization
- t. Settlement or resettlement organization
- u. Regulatory body
- v. Other (please specify): _____
- w. Prefer not to say

Q4 – [if Q1b is selected] In which sector(s) does your organization primarily operate? Please select sectors that you feel comfortable discussing in terms of labour needs or shortages.

- a. Accommodation, hospitality and food services
- b. Administrative services
- c. Aerospace
- d. Agriculture and agri-food
- e. Arts, entertainment and recreation
- f. Automotive
- g. Banking and insurance
- h. Bio-manufacturing
- i. Construction (residential)
- j. Construction (industrial or commercial)
- k. Consulting and legal services
- l. Defence
- m. Dental care
- n. Education
- o. Energy
- p. Fashion and design
- q. Forestry
- r. Health care
- s. Manufacturing
- t. Mining and oil and gas extraction
- u. Real estate and rental and leasing
- v. Retail and trade
- w. Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)
- x. Social assistance
- y. Tourism
- z. Trades (excluding construction)
- aa. Transportation
- bb. Utilities
- cc. Other (please specify): _____
- dd. Prefer not to say

Q5 – [if Q1b is selected] In which province(s) or territory(ies) does your organization primarily operate? Please select all that apply.

- a. Alberta
- b. British Columbia
- c. Manitoba



- d. New Brunswick
- e. Newfoundland and Labrador
- f. Northwest Territories
- g. Nova Scotia
- h. Nunavut
- i. Ontario
- j. Prince Edward Island
- k. Quebec
- l. Saskatchewan
- m. Yukon
- n. Outside of Canada

Q6 – [if “Quebec” is selected alone] Does your organization have a national mandate, or is your mandate limited to the province of Quebec?

- a. National mandate
- b. Quebec mandate

Q7 – [if Q1b is selected] In which language(s) does your organization primarily operate?

- a. English
- b. French
- c. Other (please specify): _____

Q8 – [if Q1a is selected] In which province or territory do you live?

- a. Alberta
- b. British Columbia
- c. Manitoba
- d. New Brunswick
- e. Newfoundland and Labrador
- f. Northwest Territories
- g. Nova Scotia
- h. Nunavut
- i. Ontario
- j. Prince Edward island
- k. Quebec
- l. Saskatchewan
- m. Yukon
- n. Outside of Canada

Q9 – [if Q1a is selected] Which language do you speak most often at home?

- a. English
- b. French
- c. Other (please specify)



Looking back

Q10 – [if Q3b, Q3e, Q3f, Q3g, Q3j, Q3k, Q3n, Q3o or Q3u is selected] To what extent have these components of Express Entry contributed to the timely selection of immigrants over the last five years?

	Great extent	Moderate extent	Small extent	Not at all	Don't know
Canadian Experience Class	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal Skilled Worker Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal Skilled Trades Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Express Entry points grid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Express Entry categories	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q11 – [if Q3b, Q3e, Q3f, Q3g, Q3j, Q3k, Q3n, Q3o or Q3u is selected] To what extent have these components of Express Entry contributed to filling labour market needs in Canada over the last five years?

	Great extent	Moderate extent	Small extent	Not at all	Don't know
Canadian Experience Class	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal Skilled Worker Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal Skilled Trades Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Express Entry points grid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Express Entry categories	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q12 – [if Q3i is selected] To what extent have these components of Express Entry contributed to the selection of French-speaking immigrants outside of Quebec over the last five years?

	Great extent	Moderate extent	Small extent	Not at all	Don't know
Canadian Experience Class	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal Skilled Worker Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal Skilled Trades Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional points for French language skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
French-language proficiency category	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Tell us what you think about selection approaches in Express Entry

Q13 – With category-based selection, Express Entry can focus selection either on candidates with the highest human capital scores:

- overall and within programs (general and program-specific rounds); or
- within categories determined by profile characteristics linked to economic goals

Category-based rounds are focused, for example, on candidates with work experience in occupations known to face long-term labour shortages.



Do you think Express Entry should focus more heavily on one of these two selection approaches?

- a. Greater focus on category-based selection
- b. Greater focus on general and program-specific rounds
- c. Equal focus on these two selection approaches
- d. Don't know

Q14 – Would you like to provide information on your answer to the previous question?

Tell us the profile characteristics for candidates that Express Entry categories could continue to focus on in 2026

Q15 – Express Entry categories currently focus on selecting workers who:

- can help address long-term labour shortages in Canada (priority 1)
- can support economic growth through Francophone immigration outside Quebec (priority 2)

These areas of focus are also reflected in the eligibility criteria for the post-graduation work permit (PGWP).

The following questions seek to better understand your views on 2025 Express Entry categories continuing into 2026.

Do we need to continue to focus on these economic priorities in 2026?

	Great need	Average need	Little need	No need at this time	Don't know/Not sure
Address long-term labour market shortages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support economic growth through Francophone immigration outside Quebec	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q16 – Would you like to provide information on your answers to the previous question?



Priority 1: Addressing long-term labour market shortages

Q17 – Based on your experience, do we need to continue to prioritize candidates eligible to each of the 2025 categories in order to address long-term shortages into 2026?

	Great need	Average need	Little need	No need at this time	Don't know/Not sure
Agriculture and agri-food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Healthcare and social services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trades	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q18 – For each of these categories, should we focus more heavily on selecting skilled workers in Canada (students or temporary workers) or outside Canada?

	Inside Canada	Outside Canada	Both equally	Don't know/Not sure
Agriculture and agri-food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Healthcare and social services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trades	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q19 – [if Q4d is selected] One category in Express Entry in 2025 focuses on selecting skilled workers with work experience in [1 occupation](#) in agriculture and agri-food. You indicated this as a primary area of focus for your organization.

We welcome your thoughts on:

- the nature, severity, and/or duration of labour shortages affecting the agriculture and agri-food sector (including or beyond the occupations currently prioritized)
- the extent to which you think permanent economic immigration through Express Entry, including category-based selection, can play a role in addressing these long-term shortages

Q20 – [if Q4m, Q4r or Q4x is selected] One category in Express Entry in 2025 focuses on selecting skilled workers with work experience in [37 occupations](#) in healthcare (including dental care) and social services. You indicated this as a primary area of focus for your organization.

We welcome your thoughts on:

- the nature, severity, and/or duration of the labour shortages affecting this sector (including or beyond the occupations currently prioritized)



- the extent to which you think permanent economic immigration through Express Entry, including category-based selection, can play a role in addressing these long-term shortages

Q21 – [if Q4w is selected] One category in Express Entry in 2025 focuses on selecting skilled workers with work experience in [11 occupations](#) in STEM. You indicated this as a primary area of focus for your organization.

We welcome your thoughts on:

- the nature, severity, and/or duration of the labour shortages affecting this sector (including or beyond the occupations currently prioritized)
- the extent to which you think permanent economic immigration through Express Entry, including category-based selection, can play a role in addressing these long-term shortages

Q22 – [if Q4i or Q4j is selected] One category in Express Entry in 2025 focuses on selecting skilled workers with work experience in [25 occupations](#) in trades. You indicated this as a primary area of focus for your organization.

We welcome your thoughts on:

- the nature, severity, and/or duration of the labour shortages affecting this sector (including or beyond the occupations currently prioritized)
- the extent to which you think permanent economic immigration through Express Entry, including category-based selection, can play a role in addressing these long-term shortages

Q23 – [if Q4n is selected] One category in Express Entry in 2025 focuses on selecting skilled workers with work experience in [5 occupations](#) in education. You indicated this as a primary area of focus for your organization.

We welcome your thoughts on:

- the nature, severity, and/or duration of the labour shortages affecting this sector (including or beyond the occupations currently prioritized)
- the extent to which you think permanent economic immigration through Express Entry, including category-based selection, can play a role in addressing these long-term shortages

Q24 – [if Q4aa is selected] A category focusing on transportation occupations that had been in place in Express Entry in 2023 and 2024 was not renewed for 2025. As you indicated that transportation is your organization's primary area of focus, we welcome your thoughts on the discontinuation of this category. If your response refers to labour shortages in this sector, please indicate the nature, severity, and/or duration of these labour shortages.



Q25 – Are there any other labour needs that you think IRCC could consider prioritizing in Express Entry categories? Reference to specific sectors or occupations, if applicable, would be helpful.

Q26 – Current Express Entry categories focusing on labour shortages select candidates who:

- are eligible for federal skilled immigration programs, and
- have accumulated, within the past 3 years, at least 6 months of full-time, continuous work experience (or an equal amount of part-time experience) in one of the occupations listed in those categories

Do you think the work experience eligibility criteria for categories focusing on labour shortages should require 12 months of continuous work experience in a listed occupation within the past 3 years (rather than 6 months)? Please use the text box that appears to tell us about your response.

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

Q27 – We know that foreign credential recognition is a key barrier to labour market integration. Current eligibility criteria for categories focusing on labour shortages do not account for candidates' readiness to practice in regulated professions. In your view, would restricting prioritization to candidates with Canadian work experience in a regulated profession be an effective strategy to mitigate this barrier whilst also addressing labour shortages? Please use the text box that appears to tell us about your response.

- a. Yes
- a. No
- b. Don't know

Priority 2: Supporting economic growth through Francophone immigration outside Quebec

Q28 – Since 2023, category-based selection in Express Entry has focused on selecting skilled workers with strong French proficiency skills to support economic growth through Francophone immigration outside Quebec. Their French test results must show a minimum score of 7 in all 4 language abilities on the *Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens* (French version of the Canadian Language Benchmarks).



Based on your experience, do you think we need Express Entry to continue to prioritize these candidates? Please use the text box that appears to tell us about your response.

- a. Great need
- b. Average need
- c. Little need
- d. No need at this time
- e. Don't know/not sure

Tell us what new candidate profile characteristics Express Entry categories could focus on in 2026

Q29 – To date, Express Entry categories that prioritize skilled workers with specific work experience have focused only on occupations documented to experience long-term shortages. A more proactive immigration approach could also focus on occupations that are not documented to experience long-term and national shortages, but that could benefit Canada's competitiveness in specific areas. To what extent would you recommend this expanded approach?

- a. Great extent
- b. Moderate extent
- c. Small extent
- d. Not at all
- e. Don't know

Q30 – Talented individuals with diverse backgrounds are invited through Express Entry's general and program-specific rounds.

To what extent do you think we need an Express Entry category to further prioritize candidates in leadership and innovation positions? Please use the text box that appears to tell us about your response.

- a. Great need
- b. Average need
- c. Little need
- d. No need at this time
- e. Don't know/not sure

Q31 – To address this leadership and innovation economic priority, category-based selection could focus on

- experienced senior managers who oversee the operations of an organization and lead a team of employees;
- highly experienced and specialized military personnel from allied countries who are recruited to help build Canadian Armed Forces' military capacity; and
- scientists and researchers whose discoveries and innovations can stimulate economic growth.



To what extent do you think there is a need for category-based selection to prioritize these candidates?

	Great need	Average need	Little need	No need at this time	Don't know/Not sure
Senior managers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skilled military recruits for the Canadian Armed Forces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scientists and researchers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q32 – Would you like to provide information on your answers to the previous question?

Give us your feedback on this survey

Q33 – This survey was easy to complete.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

Q34 – [if Q33d or 33e is selected] Why did you say this survey was not easy to complete? Please select all that apply.

- a. Survey questions were vague or lacked detail
- b. Survey questions were hard to understand
- c. Survey questions were too technical
- d. Survey questions needed research and analysis to respond
- e. Survey questions were not sufficiently tailored to my area of work or my situation
- f. There were not enough open-ended questions or opportunities to express opposing views
- g. Survey was too long
- h. Other (please specify): _____

Q35 – Do you have any suggestions on how IRCC can engage with stakeholders and partners on future economic priorities and categories? Please select all that apply.

- a. Providing more data would be useful for context
- b. More engagement with provinces and territories, regions, and municipalities
- c. More industry-specific engagement sessions
- d. More cross-sectoral engagement sessions
- e. More engagement with academics and researchers
- f. Hold in-person engagement sessions (panel discussions, roundtables, one to one meetings)



- g. More frequent engagement sessions or surveys
- h. Other (please specify): _____
- i. I have no suggestions

Q36 – Do you agree to have your written submission published in full or in part in upcoming reports?

- Yes, with full attribution – My full name and/or my organization's name can be published
- Yes, with partial attribution by name – Only my full name can be published
- Yes, with partial attribution by organization – Only my organization's name can be published
- Yes, with anonymized contribution – My comments can be published, but without reference to either my full name or my organization's name
- No, I do not agree to have my written submission published at all

Thank you for sharing your views!