



Answer to question:

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION

MIGRATION, PATHWAY TO NATION BUILDING INQUIRY

QUESTION: Re: Canada: Canada is offering incentives to encourage skilled migration.

Q: What are some of those incentives?

ANSWER:

Canada has an immigration process, named Express Entry, specifically designed to manage applications from skilled workers. Additionally, allows Canada to identify the most desirable applicants, based on their occupation and work experience, and prioritise their immigration process, placing them at the front of the queue with the benefit of potentially entering Canada faster.

There are currently three immigration programs managed through Express Entry:

- **Canadian Experience Class** - This program is for skilled workers who have **Canadian work experience** and want to become permanent residents.
- **Federal Skilled Worker Program** - This program is for skilled workers with **foreign work experience** and want to immigrate to Canada permanently.
- **Federal Skilled Trades Program** - This program is for skilled workers who want to become permanent residents based on being **qualified in a skilled trade**.

While the Express Entry programs are similar to the Australian visa programs, the application fees are lower, and the process is less convoluted with less stringent visa application assessments.

Canada also provides numerous economic incentives to ease new immigrants into their transition into the Canadian financial system and ensures support for themselves and their family. These include the following but not limited to:

- **The Canada Child Benefit (CCB):** The goal of this benefit is to offset some of the cost of raising children. The CCB is open to all Canadian citizens, including new immigrants who just arrived in the country, if they are caring for a child under the age of 18 who lives in their residence.

- **Goods and Services Tax/Harmonised Sales Tax Credit:** This credit takes the form of a quarterly, tax-free payment to assist low to moderate incomes to reduce some of the taxes the residents pay on goods and services. This payment is based on the number of children, the net family income, marital status, etc.
- **Provincial or Territorial Benefits:** There are 13 different territories and provinces in Canada that offer separate and distinct benefits for its residents. For example, in Ontario there is a credit that help low to moderate income residents with the sales tax on energy and property taxes.
- The **Social assistance system** in Canada is among the best in the world, as the government provides many benefits that includes employment insurance, pensions, housing benefits, training, and disabilities reliefs.
- **Universal Healthcare:** The Canadian government offers universal healthcare for all their residents, including new immigrants.