

Langley and Immigration Growing Together

Langley is rapidly growing and evolving. Between 2016 and 2021, the overall population of the City and Township of Langley grew by 12.6% and the immigrant population across the two municipalities grew by a staggering 35.4%, outstripping population growth in any other Metro Vancouver municipality. As of 2021, nearly 23% of Langley's 159,000 residents were immigrants, a proportion that will increase significantly in years to come. This is a look at the changing face of Langley.

New immigrants (Permanent Residents) to Canada are increasingly choosing British Columbia as their new home.

Immigration to Canada and B.C. The Big Picture

Canada welcomes 100s of thousands of immigrants each year. In 2021, the country welcomed a record number – 406,000 —and the plan is for this number to grow. Currently, immigrants make up 23% of the total population of Canada, also a new high.

Region	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Canada	296,370	286,540	321,055	341,175	184,590	406,030
Ontario	109,880	112,005	137,465	153,370	82,950	199,280
British Columbia	38,085	38,465	44,855	50,230	28,475	69,470
Quebec	53,240	52,380	51,125	40,565	25,240	50,275
Alberta	49,250	42,120	42,010	43,715	22,970	39,395
Manitoba	16,825	14,640	15,225	18,870	8,610	16,575
Saskatchewan	14,880	14,685	15,510	15,870	7,425	10,955
Nova Scotia	5,510	4,515	5,985	7,595	3,520	9,160
New Brunswick	4,715	3,660	4,610	6,005	2,890	5,310
Prince Edward Island	2,315	2,345	2,125	2,445	1,290	2,615
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,200	1,185	1,525	1,855	900	2,050

The number of immigrants settling in B.C. almost doubled between 2016 and 2021; 38,085 arrived in 2016 and 69,470 arrived in 2021. In 2021, 17% of all new permanent residents to Canada chose B.C. as their destination, up from 13% in 2016. This trend is likely to continue; B.C. should be prepared to welcome an increasing number of immigrants each year.

Canada's immigration targets have an economic rationale

Between 2023 and 2025 Canada intends to welcome an unprecedented number of immigrants, mostly in the Economic class, which is primarily comprised of working age, educated people who have English or French language skills.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has targeted a significant increase in admissions in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

2023-2025 Immigration Levels Plan

Immigrant Category	2023	2024	2025
Total	465,000	485,000	500,000
Economic	266,210	281,135	301,250
Family	106,500	114,000	118,000
Refugees and Protected Persons	76,305	76,115	72,750
Humanitarian & Compassionate and Other	15,985	13,750	8,000

Source: IRCC Supplementary Information for the 2023-2025 Immigration Levels Plan

Immigration to Langley

Top 10 Largest Immigrant Populations Across Metro Vancouver

(ranked by total immigrant population)

Region	2021 Total Pop	2016 Total Pop	2016-2021 Total Pop Growth %	2021 Immigrant Pop #	2021 Immigrant/Total Pop %	Recent Immigrant Pop #	Recent Immigrant/Total Pop %	2016 Immigrant Pop	2016-2021 Immigrant Pop Growth %
Canada	36,328,480	35,151,728	5.2%	8,361,505	23.0%	1,328,245	3.7%	7,540,830	10.9%
BC	4,915,945	4,560,235	7.8%	1,425,715	29.0%	197,425	4.0%	1,292,675	10.3%
Greater Vancouver (CMA)	2,607,010	2,426,235	7.5%	1,089,185	41.8%	154,815	5.9%	989,540	10.1%
1. Vancouver	650,380	618,210	5.2%	274,365	42.2%	41,360	6.4%	262,770	4.4%
2. Surrey	562,565	511,545	10.0%	250,870	44.6%	39,910	7.1%	220,155	14.0%
3. Richmond	208,400	196,665	6.0%	125,600	60.3%	13,705	6.6%	118,305	6.2%
4. Burnaby	245,725	230,080	6.8%	123,795	50.4%	18,920	7.7%	115,145	7.5%
5. Coquitlam	147,465	138,090	6.8%	67,540	45.8%	8,595	5.8%	61,060	10.6%
6. Delta	107,270	100,840	6.4%	35,560	33.1%	4,325	4.0%	31,240	13.8%
7. Langley, Township	130,960	115,835	13.1%	29,890	22.8%	3,805	2.9%	22,495	32.9%
8. New Westminister	78,055	69,905	11.7%	29,265	37.5%	5,050	6.5%	24,375	20.1%
9. North Vancouver, DM	87,385	84,875	3.0%	28,195	32.3%	3,340	3.8%	26,505	6.4%
10. North Vancouver, City	57,505	52,185	10.2%	22,020	38.3%	3,585	6.2%	19,930	10.5%
15. Langley, City	28,025	25,315	10.7%	6,530	23.3%	1,310	4.7%	4,395	48.6%
Langley Area	158,985	141,150	12.6%	36,420	22.9%	5,115	3.2%	26,890	35.4%

Source: Census 2016 and Census 2021: Immigrant status and period of immigration - 25% sample data

Overall, during the 2016-2021 census period, Metro Vancouver was home to 78% of the province's immigrants. During that period, the immigrant population in Langley City and Township increased by almost 33%, more than three times as quickly as in Metro Vancouver as a whole. The growth in the immigrant population contributed to more than 50% of Langley's overall population increase within the period.

Immigrant populations across Metro Vancouver's largest municipalities illustrate Langley's tremendous growth.

New immigrants to the City and Township of Langley 2001 - 2021

As the tables on the right indicates, the City and the Township of Langley have both seen rapid growth in their immigrant populations. Between 2001 and 2021, the immigrant population doubled in the Langley area, with an increase of 124% for the Township of Langley and 80% for the City of Langley. During the same period, Greater Vancouver saw a much lower rise (47%) in its immigrant population.

Township of Langley Population				
2021	2016	2011	2006	2001
Total Pop 130,960	Total Pop 117,285	Total Pop 104,177	Total Pop 93,726	Total Pop 86,896
Immigrants 29,890 22.8%	Immigrants 22,495 19.4%	Immigrants 18,520 18.0%	Immigrants 15,880 16.9%	Immigrants 13,340 15.4%
Recent Immigrants 3,805 2.9%	Recent Immigrants 2,615 2.2%	Recent Immigrants 2,180 2.1%	Recent Immigrants 2,350 2.5%	Recent Immigrants NA

Source: Census 2006-2021

City of Langley Population				
2021	2016	2011	2006	2001
Total Pop 28,025	Total Pop 25,888	Total Pop 25,081	Total Pop 23,606	Total Pop 23,643
Immigrants 6,530 23.3%	Immigrants 4,395 17.4%	Immigrants 3,805 15.5%	Immigrants 4,170 17.7%	Immigrants 3,630 15.4%
Recent Immigrants 1,310 4.7%	Recent Immigrants 2,615 2.0%	Recent Immigrants 2,180 3.6%	Recent Immigrants 2,350 3.0%	Recent Immigrants NA

Source: Census 2006-2021

Where Langley's immigrants are arriving from

Langley attracts immigrants from a diverse array of source countries. The 10 largest source countries are listed here and account for almost three-quarters of all **new immigrants** to the area, with the remainder sourced from many dozens of countries. Immigration patterns are continually evolving. The list depicting **all immigrants** looks very different with South Korea, India and the U.K. as the top three source countries.

Between 2016 and 2021, some 70% of immigrants to the Township and City came from countries in Asia, a proportion similar to that of Metro Vancouver.

Immigrants Place of Birth

Township of Langley

Recent Immigrants		Total Immigrants	
Total	3,805	Total	29,890
China	780	Korea, S.	4,060
Korea, S.	610	India	3,375
India	530	U.K.	3,125
Philippines	270	China	2,920
U.S.	180	Philippines	1,970
Brazil	145	U.S.	1,245
U.K.	145	Viet Nam	945
Viet Nam	85	Taiwan	810
Syria	70	Germany	790
Mexico	60	Netherlands	660
Others	930	Others	9,990

City of Langley

Recent Immigrants		Total Immigrants	
Total	1,310	Total	6,530
India	280	India	845
Philippines	140	Philippines	785
Syria	90	U.K.	635
Korea, S.	75	U.S.	300
Brazil	50	Korea, S.	260
U.S.	45	Germany	170
Thailand	45	China	165
China	40	Netherlands	150
Mexico	30	Myanmar	145
Colombia	30	Syria	135
Others	485	Others	2,940

Racialized groups in Langley

In Canada's most populous census metropolitan areas, specifically Metro Toronto and Metro Vancouver, racialized groups (also termed visible minorities) are now a majority. In 2021, 54.5% of Metro Vancouver's population identified as racialized. In comparison, 26.6% of Township residents and 24.7% of those in the City identified as a member of a racialized group.

Languages spoken in Langley

A glance at the Top 10 mother tongues spoken in Langley further illustrates how immigration patterns have shifted,

Township of Langley

Mother Tongue

Total Pop	131,925
English	98,820
French	890
Korean	5,360
Punjabi (Panjabi)	3,895
Mandarin	3,895
Spanish	1,515
German	1,440
Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	1,325
Vietnamese	1,170
Yue (Cantonese)	860
Dutch	770
Russian	755
Others	11,230

City of Langley

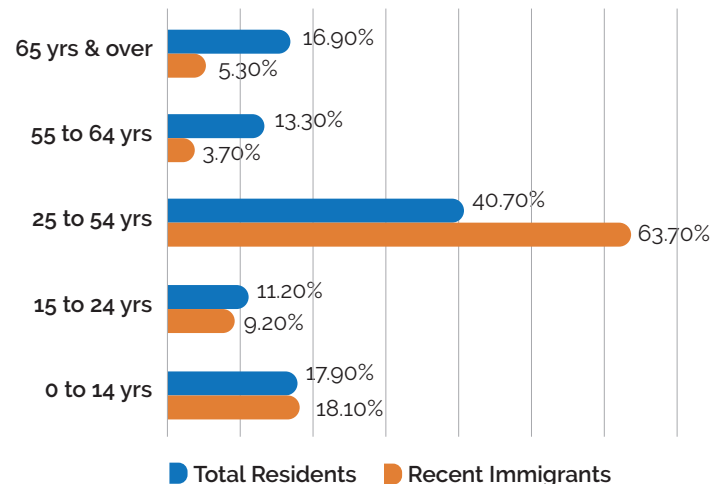
Mother Tongue

Total Pop	28,155
English	21,535
French	270
Punjabi (Panjabi)	670
Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	515
Spanish	500
Korean	330
Arabic	315
Mandarin	235
German	235
S'gaw Karen	225
Hindi	170
Vietnamese	155
Others	3,000

Langley's immigrants are younger than the general population

Canada's immigration system has been designed to favour working age immigrants (25 to 54). The graph below compares age patterns between new immigrants and the population as a whole. With the exception of ages 0 to 14, there is a notable variation in age between Langley's new immigrants and its overall population.

Age Distribution Langley Area



Immigrant admission categories

Economic class immigrants comprise 58% of arrivals in Langley, similar to the regional average. It is interesting to note that Langley has a slightly lower proportion of family class immigrants compared to Metro Vancouver. Also of interest, refugees have been arriving in the City of Langley at more than double the rate of the Township and Metro Vancouver.

Between 1980 and 2021, almost 60% of Langley's new immigrants arrived within the economic class.

Immigrant population by immigration admission category 1980 - 2021 for the City, the Township and Greater Vancouver

	Township of Langley	City of Langley	Langley, Area	Greater Vancouver
Total	23,620	5,185	28,805	930,915
Economic immigrants	14,305	2,615	16,920	554,240
Principal applicants	5,135	1,020	6,155	225,255
Secondary applicants	9,165	1,595	10,760	328,990
Immigrants sponsored by family	7,230	1,465	8,695	282,705
Refugees	1,945	1,030	2,975	81,155
Other immigrants	150	75	225	12,805

Data Sources: IRCC Open Data <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/f7e5498e-0ad8-4417-85c9-9b8aff9bgeda>
 Statistics Canada Census Data for 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021: 25% sample data <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/start>
 Supplementary Information for the 2023-2025 Immigration Levels Plan, IRCC <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/notices/supplementary-immigration-levels-2023-2025.html>

About the Langley LIP

The Langley Local Immigration Partnership is one of more than 86 Immigration Partnerships in Canada. With funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, the Langley LIP was established in April 2020 to bring community leaders together to develop and implement a plan to improve immigrant and refugee settlement and integration in the City and the Township of Langley. For more information about the Langley Local Immigration Partnership contact:

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