

Smaller Centre Support

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CFP 2024 Information & Data



Funded by:



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

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AMSSA has developed a factsheet tailored for Smaller Centres, providing timely and relevant data to support funding proposals. The factsheet comprises three main sections, including details on IRCC's National Call for Proposals 2024, Census data and statistics on social characteristics across various regions of BC, summaries of relevant reports, and key resources.

Section 1 – The Call for Proposals (CFP)

SETTLEMENT PROGRAM AND RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CFP) 2024

The 2024 National Call for Proposals funding process will provide funding opportunities for settlement and resettlement service providers. Under the Settlement Program, IRCC is inviting proposals for three distinct programming streams as part of CFP 2024, with two streams specifically addressing smaller communities. They are¹:

1. Programming for 2SLGBTQI+ populations: addresses inequities experienced by sexual and gender minority populations; populations underrepresented in existing programming (e.g. youth, lesbians, seniors); in smaller communities; resources on the Canadian legal system, rights and responsibilities; recreational activities to create connections and non-stigmatizing opportunities for dialogue on sensitive topics; mentoring; intergenerational or diaspora programming; volunteering and civic engagement.

2. Programming for Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV): provides both immediate crisis intervention as well as follow up support through resources or referrals, or both, to shelters, anti-violence sector or other community organizations with specific expertise; engagement with men and boys to actively prevent and address SGBV; peer-facilitated activities for youth; services in smaller communities.

Programming should include linkages to the IRCC funded **GBV Partnership settlement sector strategy**.

The Settlement and Resettlement Assistance Programs seek proposals that align with the specific CFP 2024 priorities. The following priority is specifically targeted to rural, remote, smaller and medium sized communities:

- Increasing availability and quality of services in rural, remote communities and small and medium centres
 - Creating conditions in these communities that increase newcomer's access to services and support their successful integration.

¹ Settlement Program and Resettlement Assistance Program: Call for Proposals (CFP) 2024
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/partners-service-providers/funding/settlement-funding-2024.html>

Section 2 – Statistical Highlights²

1: IMMIGRANT AND RECENT IMMIGRANT POPULATION

Census data illustrates change in population for both immigrants and recent immigrants, providing an indicator of where newcomers are arriving and settling more permanently. In Canada, a recent immigrant is defined as “a person who obtained landed immigrant or permanent resident status up to five years prior to a given census year” (Statistics Canada, 2021).

Between 2016 and 2021, British Columbia gained 133,035 immigrants and 21,865 new immigrants.

Cities listed in the Interior and Fraser Valley regions saw significant growth in both categories between 2016 and 2021, while those in the Vancouver Island and North Regions saw significant growth in new immigrant populations and more modest growth in immigrant populations.

On average, the Fraser Valley region saw the greatest growth in immigrant population between 2016 and 2021 (an average of 25%), while the North Region saw the greatest growth in new immigrant population (an average of 44%).

² Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census of Population British Columbia, Province
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=9&lang=E&dguid=2021A000259>

**IMMIGRANT & RECENT IMMIGRANT POPULATION, PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%) FROM 2016 TO 2021,
Select Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) & Census Agglomerations (CAs) in BC**

	Immigrant			Recent Immigrant		
	2021	2016	% change 2016-2021	2021	2016	% change 2016-2021
British Columbia	1,425,710	1,292,675	10.3%	197,420	175,555	12.5%
Interior						
Kamloops	10,820	9,445	14.6%	1,485	1,140	30.3%
Kelowna	31,575	26,450	19.4%	4,300	2,995	43.6%
Trail	1,080	745	45.0%	110	70	57.1%
Salmon Arm	1,915	1,875	2.1%	250	205	22.0%
Vernon	7,820	6,785	15.3%	755	600	25.8%
Vancouver Island						
Campbell River	4,105	3,590	14.3%	420	305	37.7%
Port Alberni	2,360	2,405	-1.9%	175	125	40.0%
Duncan	5,835	5,805	0.5%	555	525	5.7%
Nanaimo	17,195	14,915	15.3%	2,350	1,355	73.4%
Victoria	73,345	65,615	11.8%	10,080	7,690	31.1%
Fraser Valley						
Maple Ridge	20,230	15,465	30.8%	2,160	1,515	42.6%
Langley (DM)	29,890	22,495	32.9%	3,805	2,615	45.5%
Abbotsford-Mission	50,085	43,780	14.4%	6,850	5,880	16.5%
Chilliwack	16,195	13,265	22.1%	1,690	1,180	43.2%
North Region						
Prince Rupert	1,620	1,640	-1.2%	260	180	44.4%
Kitimat (DM)	1,365	1,420	-3.9%	125	60	108.3%
Terrace	1,640	1,530	7.2%	180	145	24.1%
Smithers	645	550	17.3%	130	40	225.0%
Williams Lake	1,985	1,470	35.0%	270	230	17.4%
Fort Nelson	205	375	-45.3%	60	160	-62.5%
Fort St. John	3,025	2,535	19.3%	930	945	-1.6%
Dawson Creek	1,520	1,130	34.5%	435	465	-6.5%
Other						
Squamish	4,775	3,545	34.7%	985	580	69.8%

2: OVERALL POPULATION & POPULATION OF IMMIGRANTS AND RECENT IMMIGRANTS

Census data illustrates how immigrants contribute to overall population trends in British Columbia, and what percentage of those immigrants are new immigrants (2016 to 2021).

Overall, immigrants comprise 29% of the population in B.C. Of this immigrant population, 13.8% arrived in the province in the last five years.

Of the smaller centre regions, the Fraser Valley region has the highest average immigrant population percentage (21%). In that region, an average of 12% of the immigrant population arrived in the last five years.

The North Region is where the largest percentage of immigrants arrived within the last five years. There, immigrants comprise 11% of the total population, and 20% of those immigrants arrived in the last five years.

All smaller centres represented have a lower immigrant-population rate than the provincial average. However, in more than half of smaller centres, the percentage of the immigrant population that represents new immigrants is equal to or higher than the provincial average.

**NUMBER & DISTRIBUTION (IN PERCENTAGE) OF THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION AND RECENT IMMIGRANTS
in census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations, British Columbia, 2021**

Geography	Total Population	Immigrant Population	% Immigrant Population	Recent Immigrants (2016-2021)	% Recent Immigrants (2016-2021)
British Columbia	4,915,940	1,425,715	29%	197,420	13.8%
Interior					
Kamloops	110,545	10,820	9.8%	1,485	13.7%
Kelowna	218,525	31,575	14.4%	4,295	13.6%
Trail	13,860	1,080	7.8%	110	10.2%
Salmon Arm	18,890	1,915	10.1%	250	13.1%
Vernon	65,325	7,820	12%	755	9.6%
Vancouver Island					
Campbell River	39,935	4,105	10.3%	420	10.2%
Port Alberni	25,380	2,360	9.3%	175	7.4%
Duncan	46,435	5,835	12.6%	555	9.5%
Nanaimo	112,410	17,195	15.3%	2,350	13.7%
Victoria	388,470	73,345	18.9%	10,080	13.7%
Fraser Valley					
Maple Ridge	89,865	20,230	22.5%	2,155	10.6%
Langley (DM)	130,960	29,890	22.8%	3,805	12.7%
Abbotsford-Mission	192,115	50,085	26.1%	6,850	13.7%
Chilliwack	111,560	16,195	14.5%	1,690	10.4%
North Region					
Prince Rupert	13,295	1,620	12.2%	260	16%
Kitimat (DM)	8,210	1,365	16.6%	125	9.2%
Terrace	19,515	1,635	8.4%	180	11%
Smithers	5,150	645	12.5%	130	20.2%
Williams Lake	23,340	1,985	8.5%	270	13.6%
Fort Nelson	2,645	205	7.8%	60	29%
Fort St. John	28,430	3,025	10.6%	930	30.7%
Dawson Creek	17,380	1,520	8.7%	435	28.6%
Other					
Squamish	23,955	4,775	19.9%	985	20.6%

3: PLACE OF BIRTH AMONG IMMIGRANTS

Census data provides insight into immigrants' places of birth, including the most common places of birth among immigrants who arrived in the last five years.

The most common places of birth reported by immigrants and recent immigrants in smaller centres are:

Immigrants:

1. United Kingdom
2. India, United States of America
3. Philippines

Recent Immigrants:

1. India
2. Philippines
3. United States of America

THE TOP THREE PLACES OF BIRTH AMONG IMMIGRANTS & RECENT AMONG IMMIGRANTS (2021)

Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Immigrants	Recent Immigrants
Interior		Vancouver Island	
Kamloops		Campbell River	
1 United Kingdom	India	1 United Kingdom	Philippines
2 India	Philippines	2 United States of America	Korea, South
3 United States of America	United Kingdom	3 Philippines	South Africa, Republic of
Kelowna		Port Alberni	
1 United Kingdom	Philippines	1 United Kingdom	India
2 India	India	2 Netherlands	Korea, South
3 Germany	United States of America	3 India	Vietnam
Trail		Duncan	
1 United Kingdom	India	1 United Kingdom	Philippines
2 United States of America	United States of America	2 United States of America	India
3 Italy	Philippines	3 Germany	Syria
Salmon Arm		Nanaimo	
1 United Kingdom	Philippines	1 United Kingdom	China
2 United States of America	Syria	2 United States of America	Philippines
3 Germany	United States of America	3 Germany	India
Vernon		Victoria	
1 United Kingdom	Philippines	1 United States of America	Philippines
2 Germany	India	2 China	India
3 United States of America	Syria	3 Philippines	China

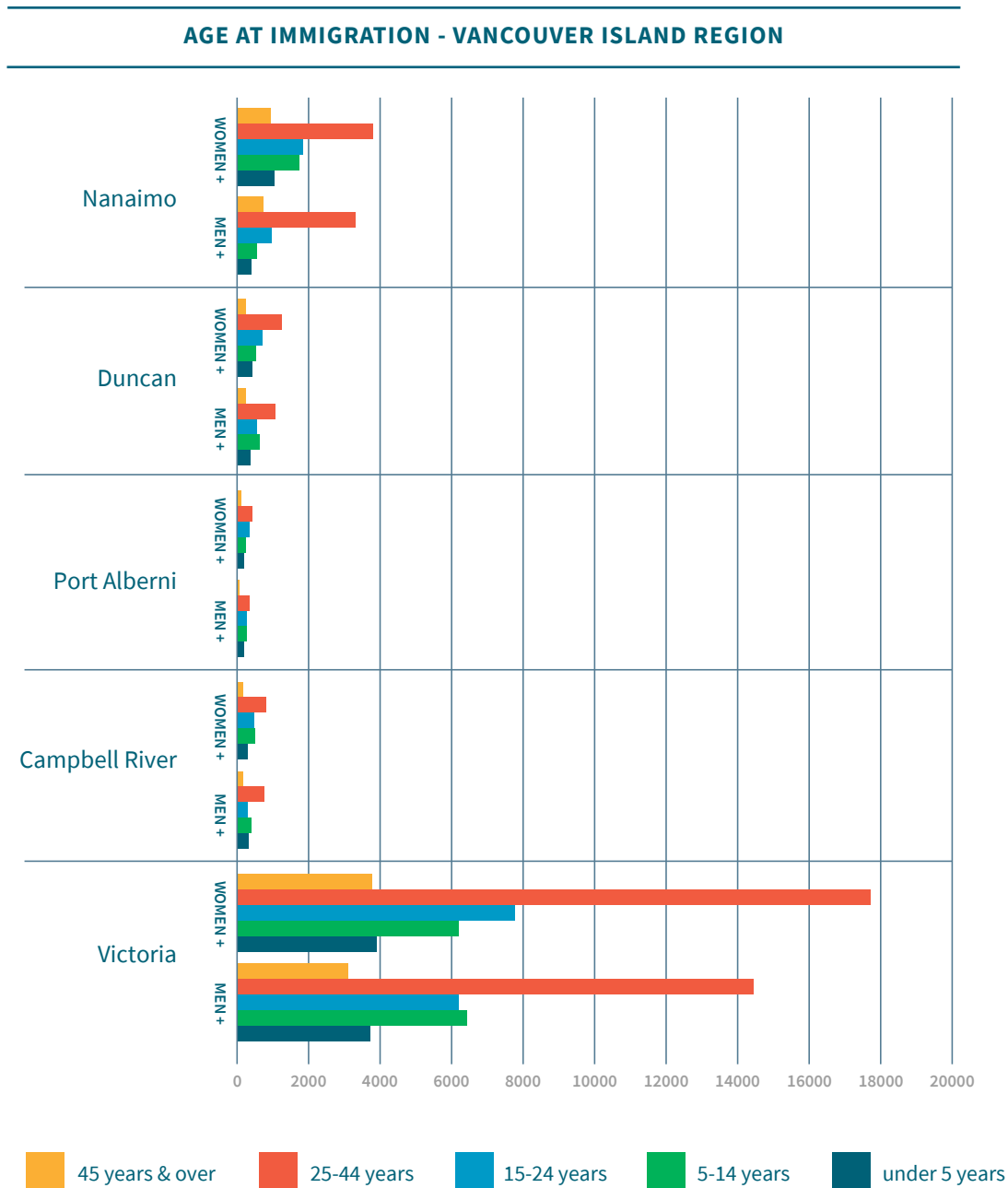
Immigrants	Recent Immigrants
Fraser Valley	
Maple Ridge	
1 United Kingdom	Philippines
2 Philippines	India
3 India	China
Langley	
1 Korea, South	China
2 India	Korea, South
3 United Kingdom	India
Abbotsford - Mission	
1 India	India
2 United Kingdom	Philippines
3 Philippines	Syria
Chilliwack	
1 United Kingdom	India
2 Netherlands	Philippines
3 India	China
Other	
Squamish	
1 United Kingdom	United Kingdom
2 India	United States of America
3 United States of America	Australia

Immigrants	Recent Immigrants
North Region	
Prince Rupert	
1 Vietnam	India
2 India	Vietnam
3 Philippines	Philippines
Kitimat	
1 Portugal	India
2 United Kingdom	Philippines
3 Philippines	United States of America
Terrace	
1 United Kingdom	Philippines
2 India	United States of America
3 United States of America	India
Smithers	
1 Netherlands	Pakistan
2 United Kingdom	India
3 Philippines	N/A
Williams Lake	
1 United States of America	India
2 India	United States of America
3 United Kingdom	South Africa, Republic of
Fort Nelson	
1 Philippines	Philippines
2 United Kingdom	India
3 India	N/A
Fort St. John	
1 United States of America	Philippines
2 Germany	India
3 United Kingdom	United States of America
Dawson Creek	
1 Philippines	Philippines
2 United States of America	India
3 India	Jamaica

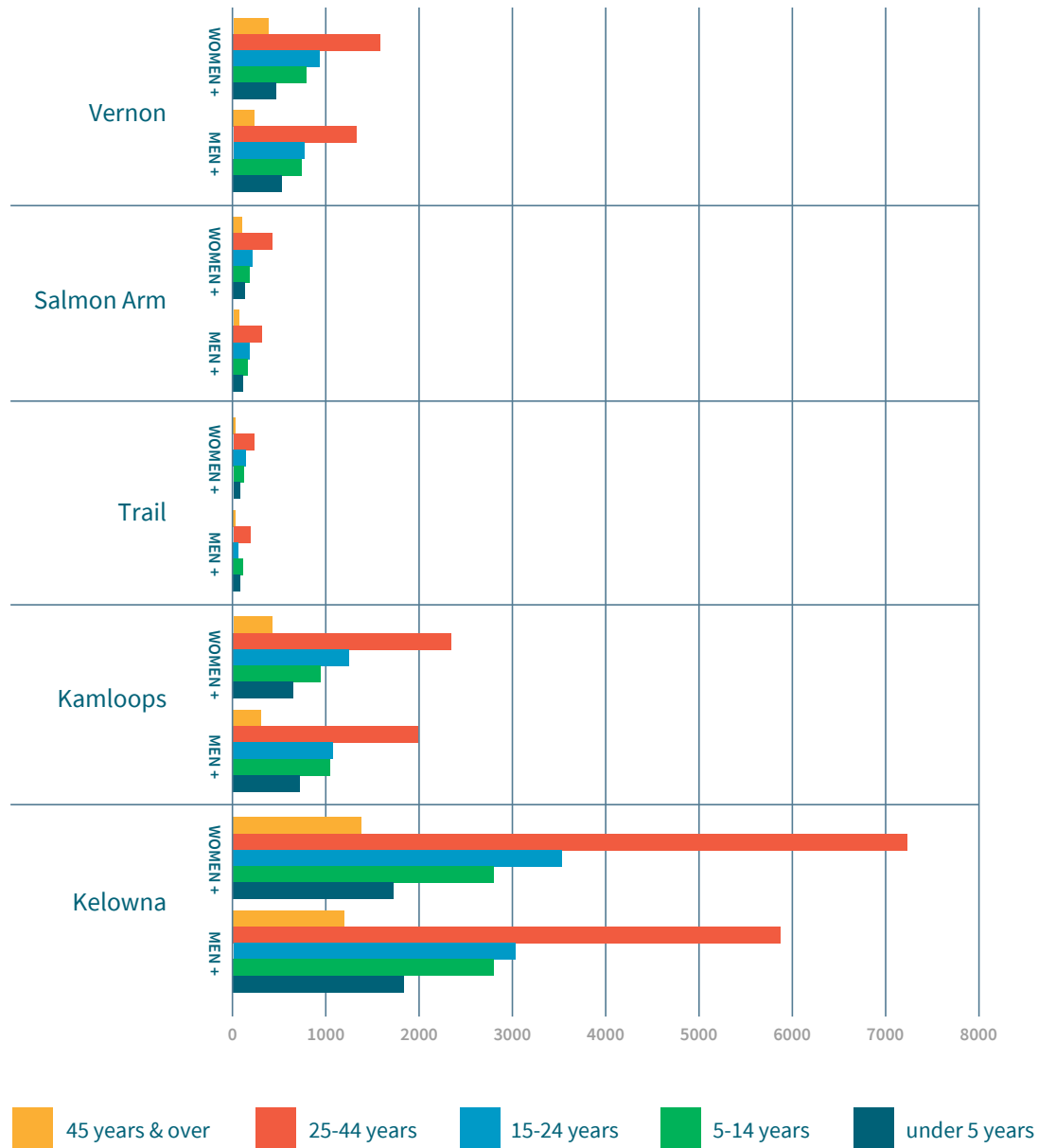
4: AGE

Census data tracks the age at time of immigration for people living in private households. It also shows the proportion of men and women arriving for each age range.

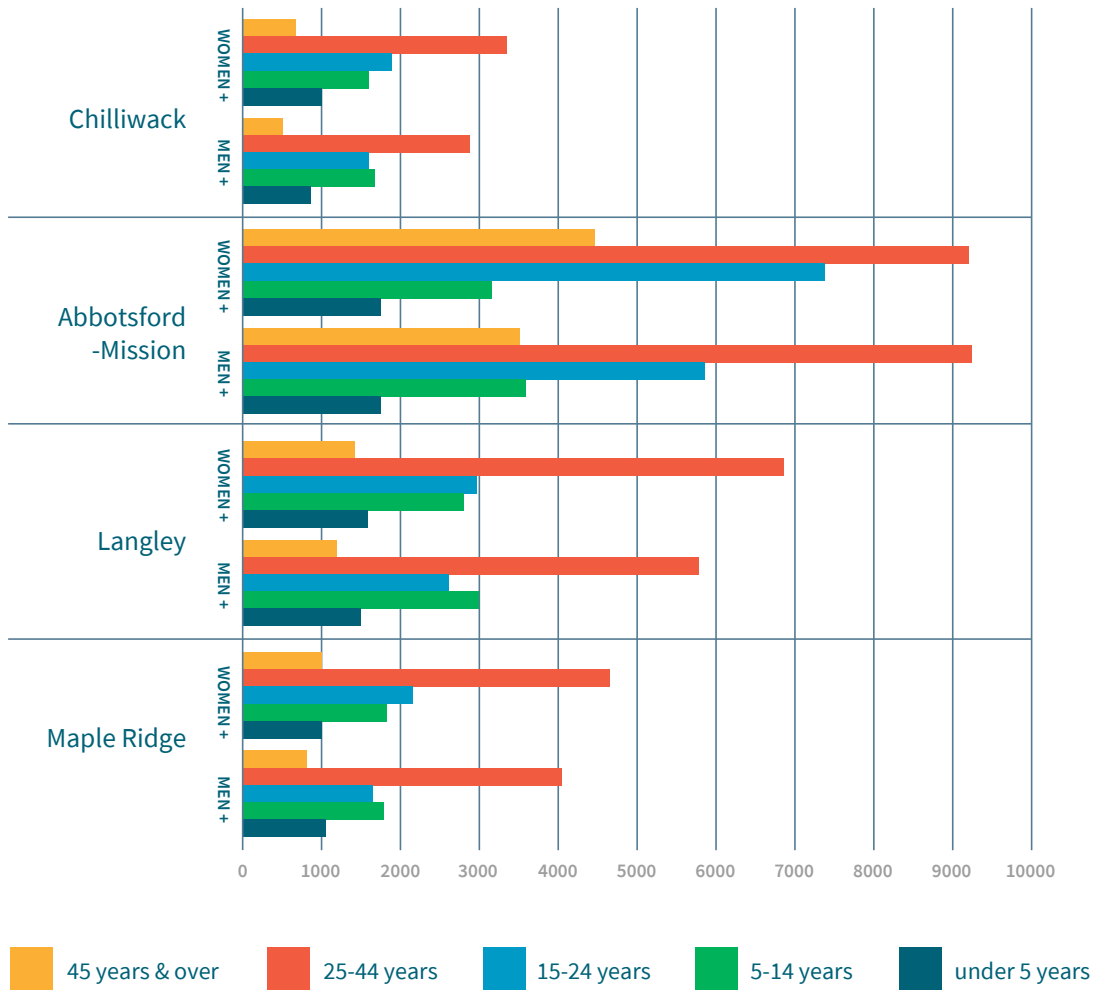
- Across all regions, the most common age range at immigration is 25 to 44 years—this is reflected in data for men and women.
- In most cases—across all age groups—data illustrates a slightly greater number of women immigrants. Where a greater percentage of men is reflected, it is typically in immigrants under the age of 15.
- While the North Region demonstrates greater variation than other regions, this may be explained by lower overall population sizes



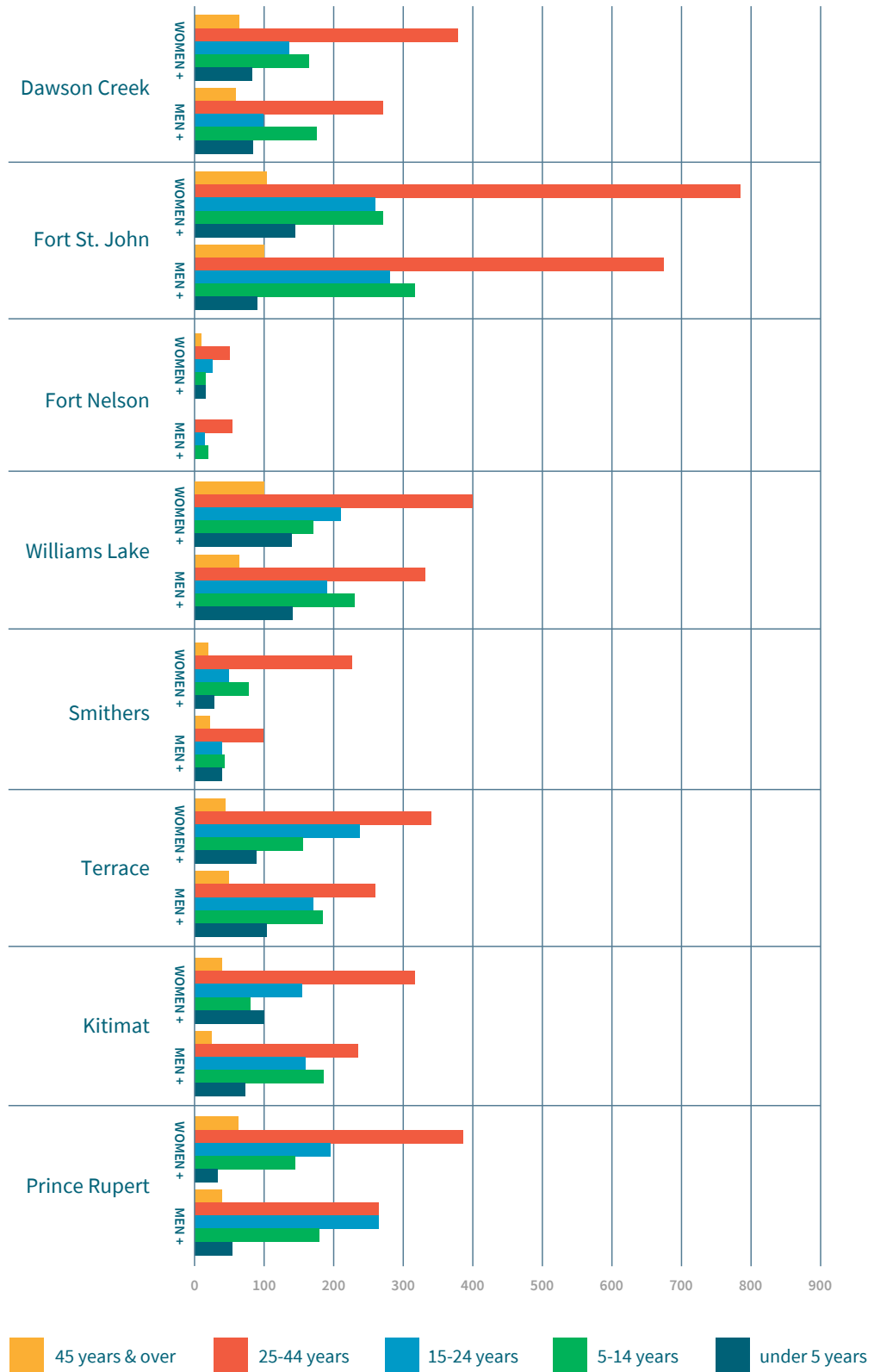
AGE AT IMMIGRATION - INTERIOR REGION



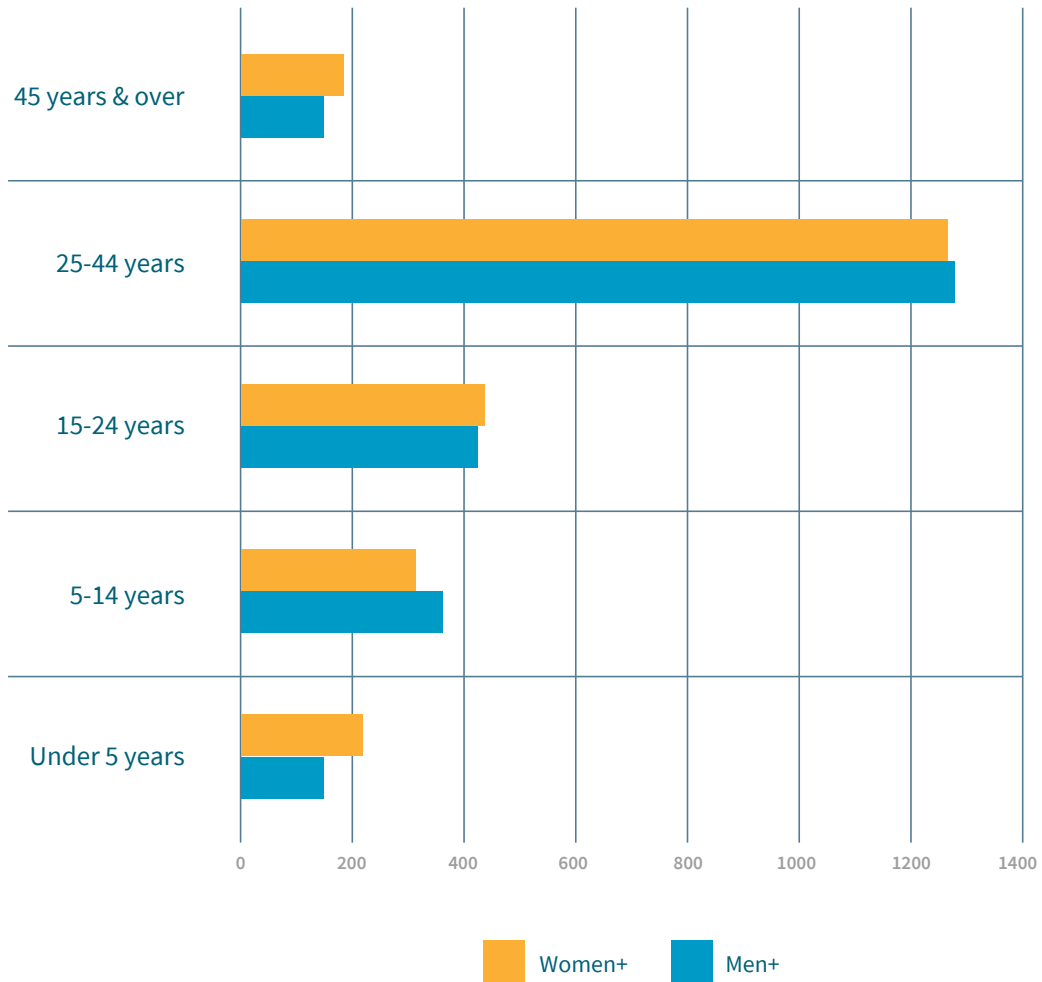
AGE AT IMMIGRATION - FRASER VALLEY REGION



AGE AT IMMIGRATION - NORTH REGION



AGE AT IMMIGRATION - SQUAMISH

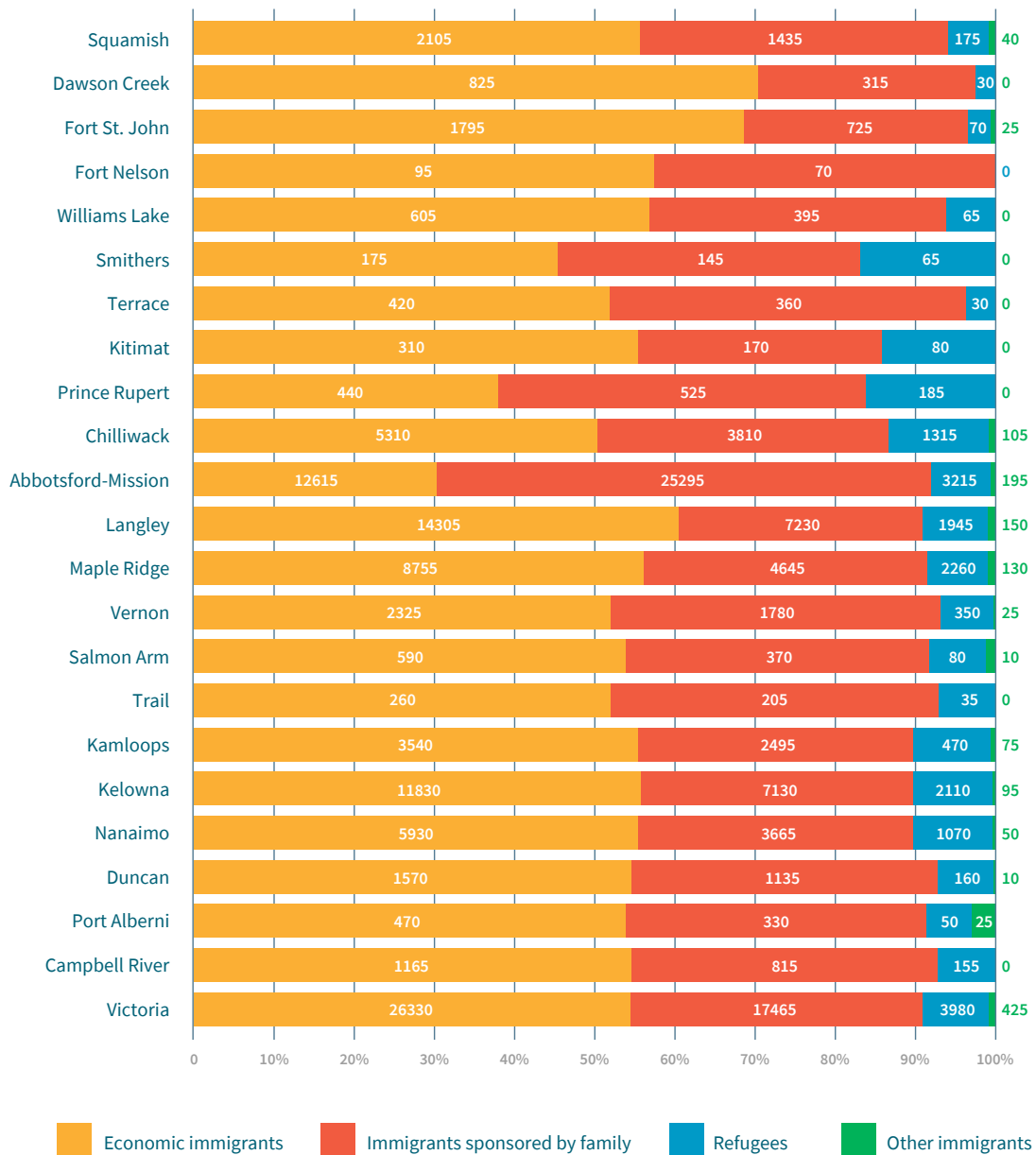


5: ADMISSION CATEGORY

Census data shows the proportion of immigrants arriving based on their admission category: economic immigrants, immigrants sponsored by family, refugees, and other immigrants.

- Economic immigrants make up more than 50% of the admission category/applicant type data in the majority of smaller centres. Smithers, Prince Rupert, and Abbotsford-Mission are notable exceptions—in these centres, immigrants sponsored by family are the main admission category/applicant type.
- Immigrants sponsored by family make up a key percentage of admission category/applicant types in every smaller centre, while refugees and other immigrant statuses comprise the smallest portion.

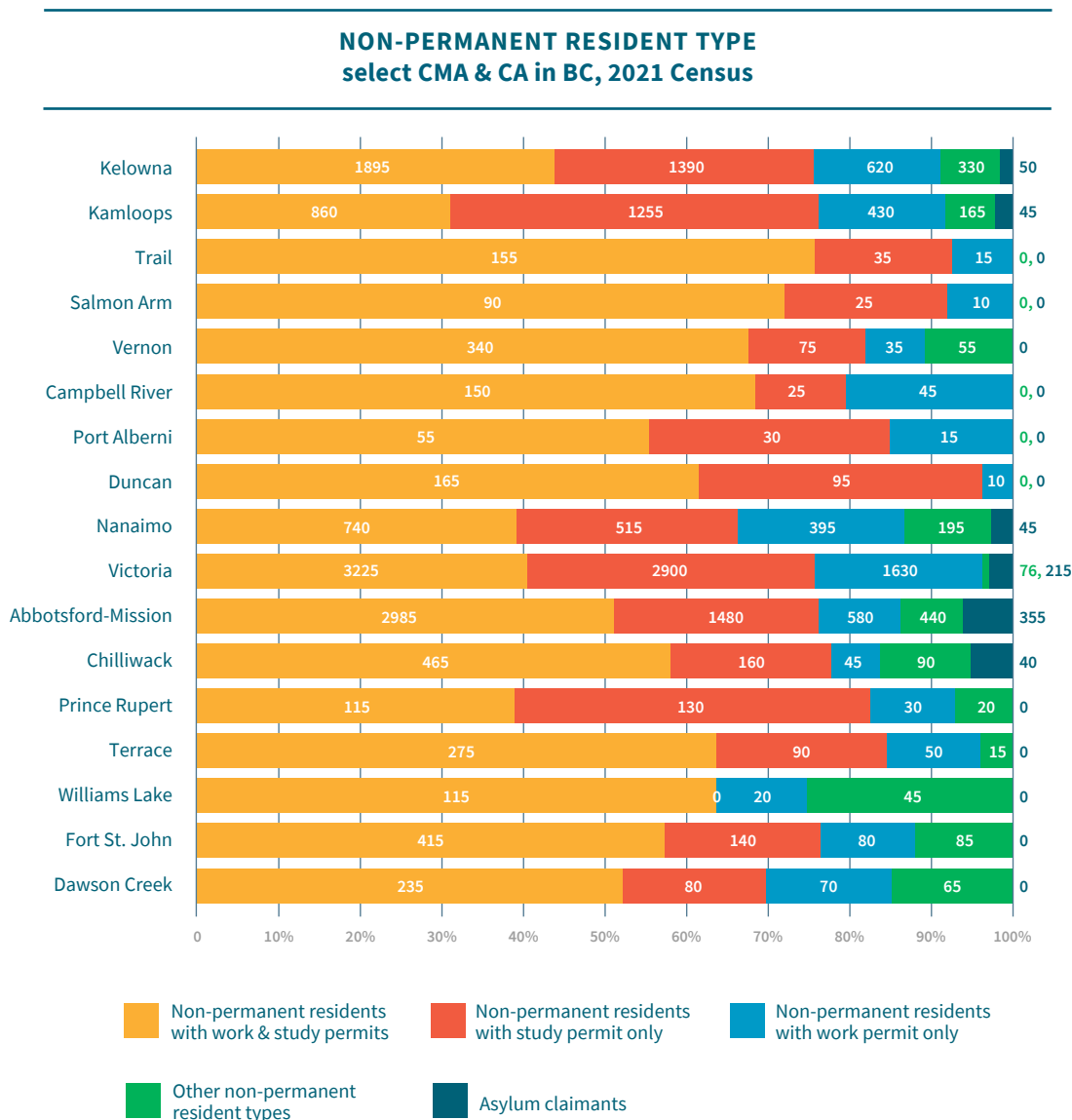
ADMISSION CATEGORY & APPLICANT TYPE FOR THE RECENT IMMIGRANT, select CMA & CA, BC, 2021 Census



6: NON-PERMANENT RESIDENT TYPE

Census data divides non-permanent residents into categories based on factors like whether they have a work or study permit, whether they are asylum claimants, or whether they are another non-permanent resident type.

- For every smaller centre except Kamloops, the largest category is non-permanent residents with a work permit only. In Kamloops, the largest category is non-permanent residents with a study permit only.
- For most smaller centres, non-permanent residents with a study permit only form the second most significant group. Exceptions include Campbell River and Williams Lake.
- Smaller centres with asylum claimants represented are Kelowna, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Victoria, Abbotsford-Mission, and Chilliwack.



*Data not available for Maple Ridge, Langley, Kitimat, Smithers, Fort Nelson

Section 3 - Relevant Reports

2023 Settlement Outcomes Report: Data-driven Insights for the Future of the Settlement Program - IRCC

Part 3 of the report, “Place-Based Programming in Regional Immigration” delves into place-based programming in regional immigration, focusing on the Atlantic Immigration Program (AIP) and the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP). These initiatives aim to address specific economic development needs by attracting immigrants to smaller, rural, and northern communities in Canada. The AIP, launched in 2017, targeted labor market shortages in Atlantic provinces, while the RNIP, initiated in 2019, addressed economic and demographic challenges in small, rural, and northern communities nationwide. Both pilots, explored at similar points of maturity, employed a place-based approach to immigration, emphasizing collaboration between federal and provincial authorities, settlement service providers, employers, and community actors.

Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Small-Centre Settlement Service Provider Organizations (SPOs) in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta - Dr. Jill Bucklaschuk, Amanda Carvalho, and Dr. Ray Silvius

Initiated in 2020, the research project documented the experiences of rural and remote newcomer service provider organizations (SPOs) in the Canadian prairie provinces during the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally focusing on challenges, economic impacts, and post-pandemic support, it shifted to supporting those aiding newcomers in small centres. Funded by IRCC, the report reflects collaborative efforts to strengthen the small-centre newcomer-serving sector.

National Small Centres Conference: Recommendation Brief Release August 2023: Trends, Successes and Challenges of Settlement in Small Centres - ARAISA

This report condenses recommendations from the National Small Centres Conference’s roundtables, emphasizing the need for a multifaceted approach in immigration. Key points include improved newcomer preparation, systemic approaches, community strengthening, and enhanced support for settlement professionals. In employment, addressing client needs and promoting equity is crucial. Children and youth programs should be inclusive, focusing on empowerment and cultural understanding. Health and wellness efforts should prioritize trust-building and address food insecurity. Anti-racism initiatives call for action-oriented approaches, mandatory training, and safe reporting spaces. Refugee settlement emphasizes empowerment, accurate pre-arrival information, and housing support. Language education seeks flexibility, equitable funding, and digital literacy. Enhancing operational capacity involves digitalization, funding flexibility, and client-focused outcomes. Housing and transportation solutions include collaboration, connections between retirees and newcomers, inclusive messaging, and incentives for ethical practices.

About AMSSA

AMSSA is a unique province-wide association that strengthens over 80 member agencies as well as hundreds of community stakeholder agencies who serve immigrants and newcomers, and build culturally inclusive communities, with the knowledge, resources and support they need to fulfill their mandates.

OUR VISION

A just and equitable society in which everyone benefits from social and economic inclusion.

OUR MISSION

AMSSA facilitates collaborative leadership, knowledge exchange, and stakeholder engagement to support member agencies that serve immigrants and build culturally inclusive communities.

OUR PURPOSE

AMSSA's purpose is to co-create the conditions of success for our members to build better lives for immigrants and newcomers to BC.

AMSSA's 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan is an impact-driven strategy focusing on four pillars:

- 1 SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS**
- 2 STRENGTHEN THE SECTOR**
- 3 DISRUPT SYSTEMS**
- 4 EXCEL AS AN ORGANIZATION**

WE VALUE

EQUITY and strive to be the catalyst for change which disrupts systems promoting racial and social injustice.

INCLUSIVENESS and work with our members and stakeholders to place voices that have been marginalized in positions of influence, creating space for all perspectives.

INTEGRITY, striving to always work to the highest standards, encouraging innovation, risk taking and leadership; we are always open to new thoughts and maintain accountability in our work.

DIVERSITY, recognizing our own individual biases and engaging members and stakeholders in meaningful ways that promotes inclusion of all voices and perspectives.

MUTUAL RESPECT by respecting what everyone has to offer within their own context of life experiences, opening our hearts and minds to always listening and learning.

COLLABORATION, engaging in equitable partnerships, mindfully exploring old and new ideas to advance the work of AMSSA and our members.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION, engaging in continuous individual and organizational reflection and collaboration.

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