21st Annual PANEL DISCUSSION



Charting a Sustainable Future for Language Education

Friday, November 6, 2026

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

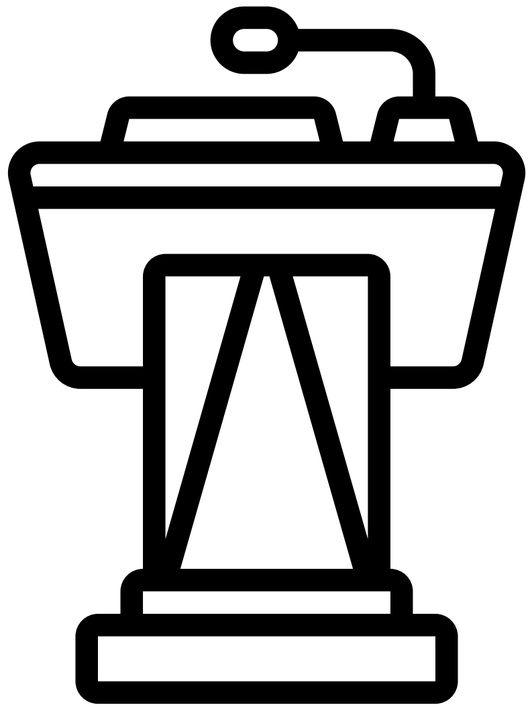
#TESL2026 RESILIENT. RELEVANT. READY.







Allison Keown



Executive Director,
TESL Ontario

TODAY'S PANELISTS

Christine Charbonneau
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

Yvonne Ferrer
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD)

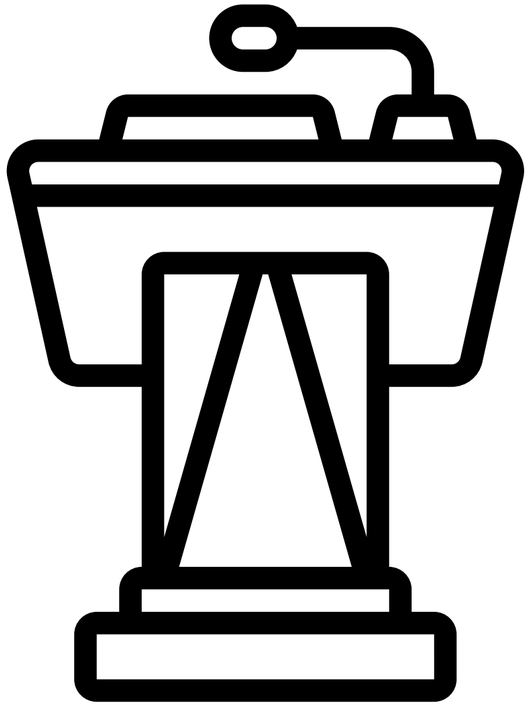
Daniel Denommé
Ministry of Education







Sharon Rajabi



Moderator

6





PANELIST



Christine Charbonneau

Director, Settlement and Resettlement Operations
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Government of Canada

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IRCC Language Programming in Ontario

TESL Ontario 2026 Conference: **Resilient. Relevant. Ready.**

21st Annual Panel Discussion
Charting a Sustainable Future for Language Education

Christine Charbonneau
Director Settlement and Resettlement Operations
Settlement and Citizens Sector, IRCC
November 6, 2026

Agenda

Settlement Program Funding Context

- Recent changes to language training and assessment
- Funding and programming impacts

Current State

- Demand, uptake and utilization trends

Settlement Program Funding Context

Federal fiscal measures resulted in reduced Settlement Program funding leading to:

- **Reduction** introduced through CFP 2024 and CER
- **Prioritization** of essential services and focus on foundational language skills (Stage 1).
- **Eligibility changes** to focus Settlement Program resources on newcomers with the greatest needs.
- **Program renewal** to strengthen service delivery and long-term alignment with funding realities

Current State

Changing demand patterns highlight the need to align service capacity with evolving learner needs:

- **Stabilizing** language training demand, with a notable decline in the number of eligible clients seeking language training.

- **Underutilized capacity** persists, in part due to a mismatch between where courses are offered and where learner demand exists, and challenges managing the course offerings effectively.

Changes to Language Training in CFP 2024

April 2025	September 2025	September 2026
Prioritize Stage 1 **Literacy and CLB Level 1 – 4**	**End of Stage 3** **CLB Level 7 and higher**	**End of Stage 2** **CLB Level 5 - 6**

CER and Changes to Language Training

Key changes:

- Focus on foundational levels
- Updated eligibility criteria for economic immigrants
- Addressing underutilized capacity (empty seats)

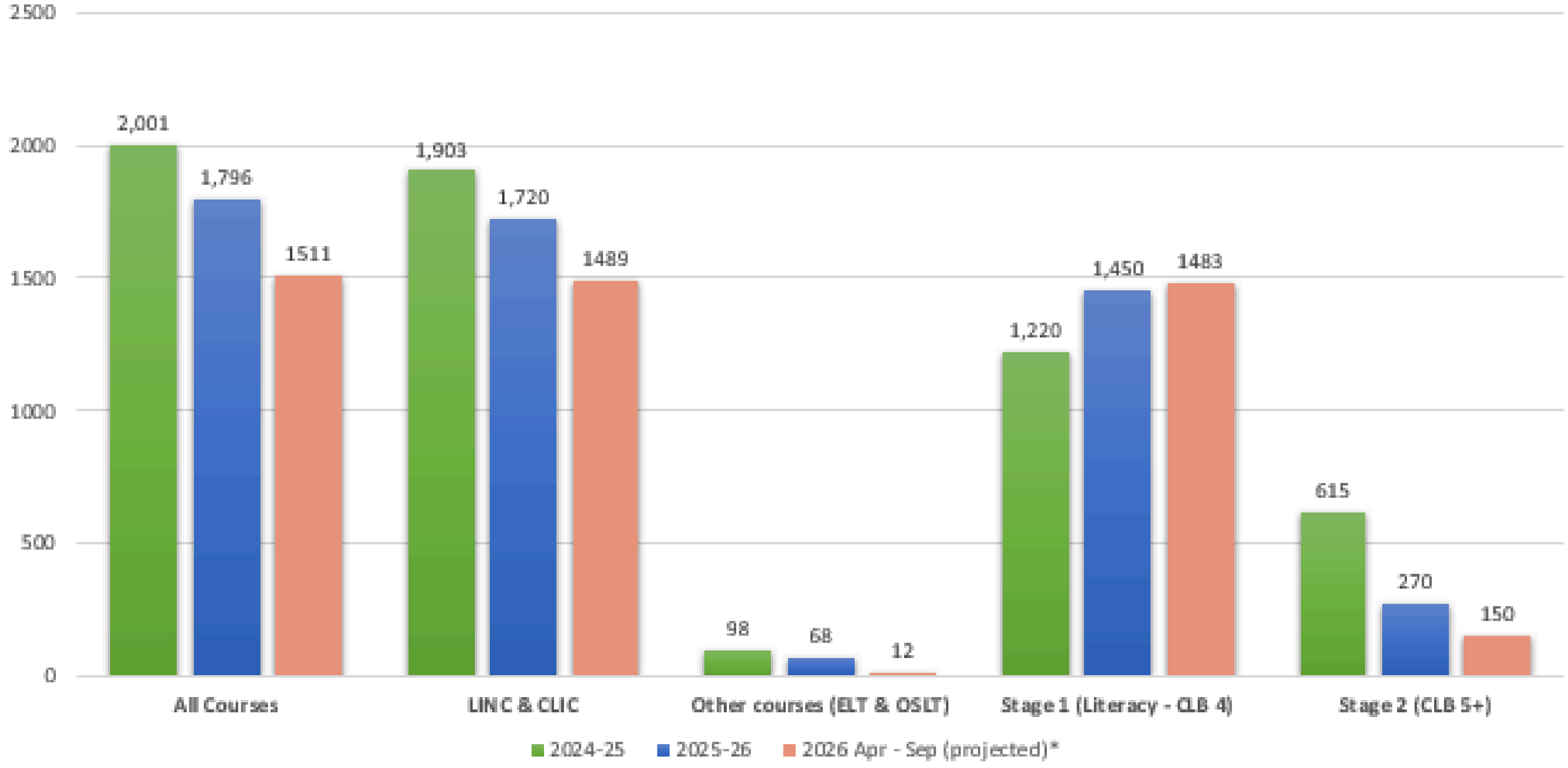
Results

- Overall reduction in language training, specifically Stage 2 and employment-focused language training
- Increase in courses offered at Stage 1 level

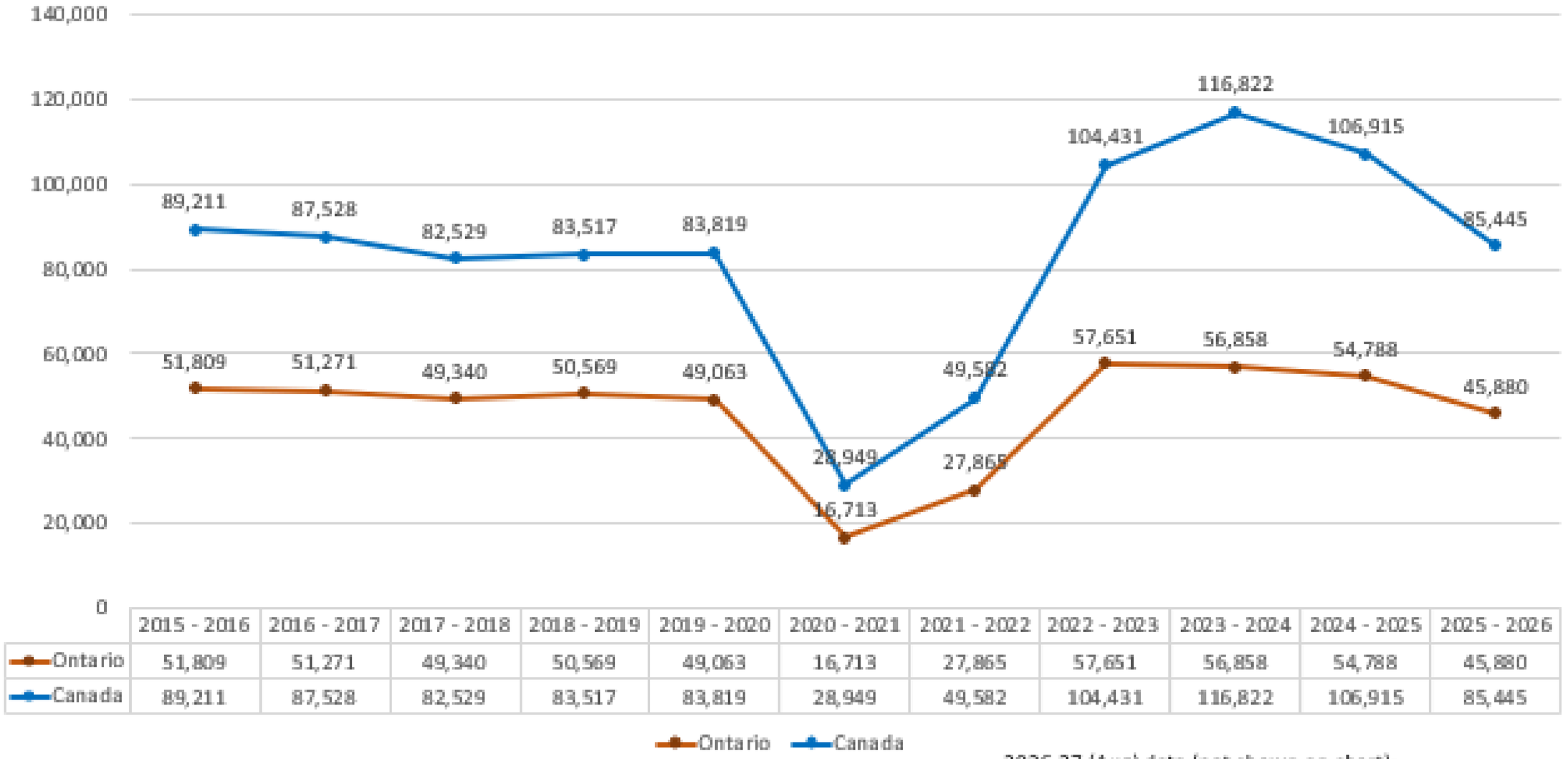
Funding Impact

Year-over-Year Reduction					
Services	**2024-2025**	**2025-2026**	**2026-2027**	**2027-2028**	**2028-2029**
Language Assessment	$ 10,175,455	-3%	1%	-11%	-11%
Language Training	$ 123,167,249	-18%	-5%	-13%	-13%
Support Services	$ 34,164,958	-28%	-7%	-14%	-3%

Program Impact



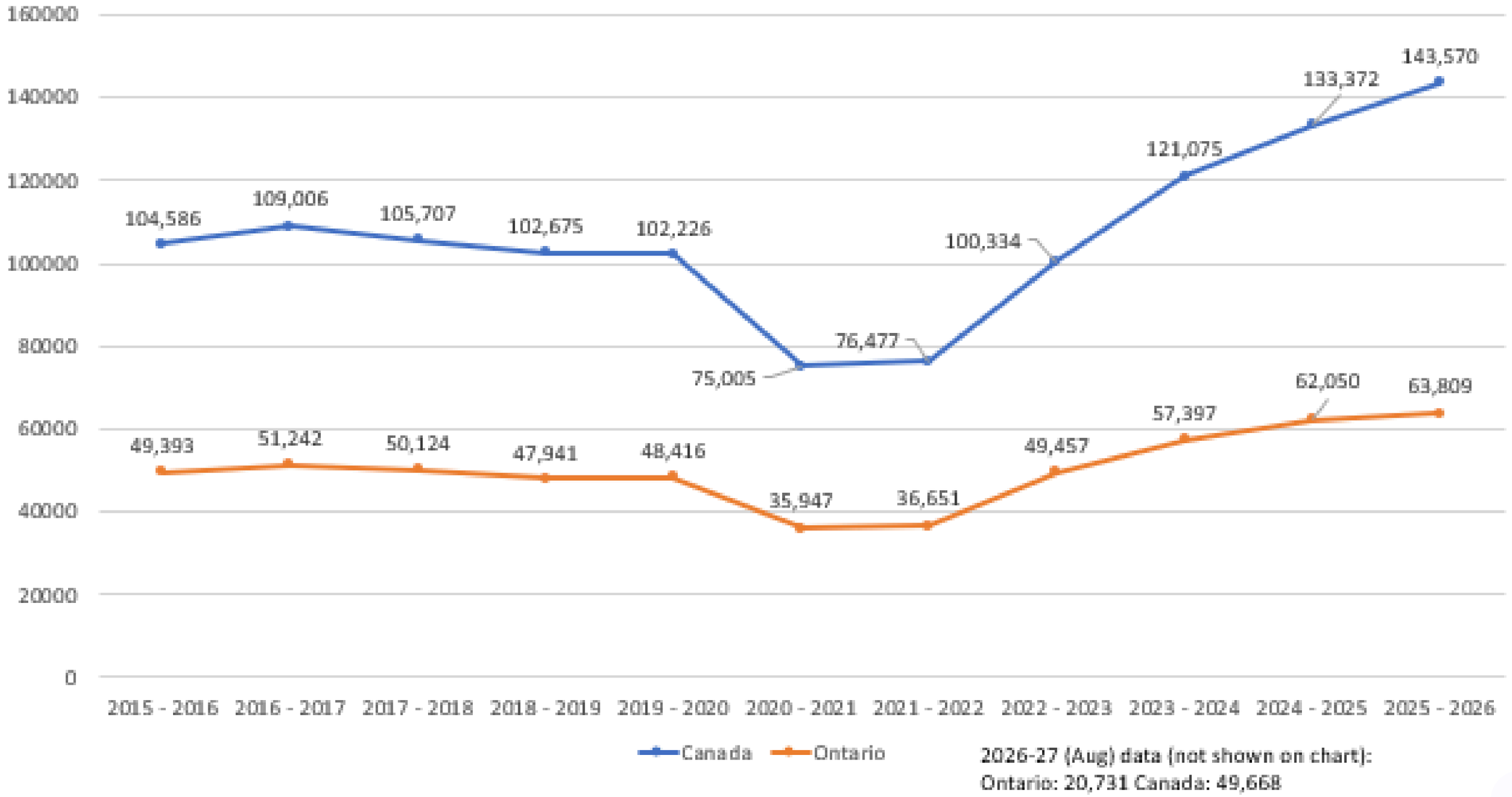
Language Assessment: Uptake Over 10 Years



	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026
Ontario	51,809	51,271	49,340	50,569	49,063	16,713	27,865	57,651	56,858	54,788	45,880
Canada	89,211	87,528	82,529	83,517	83,819	28,949	49,582	104,431	116,822	106,915	85,445

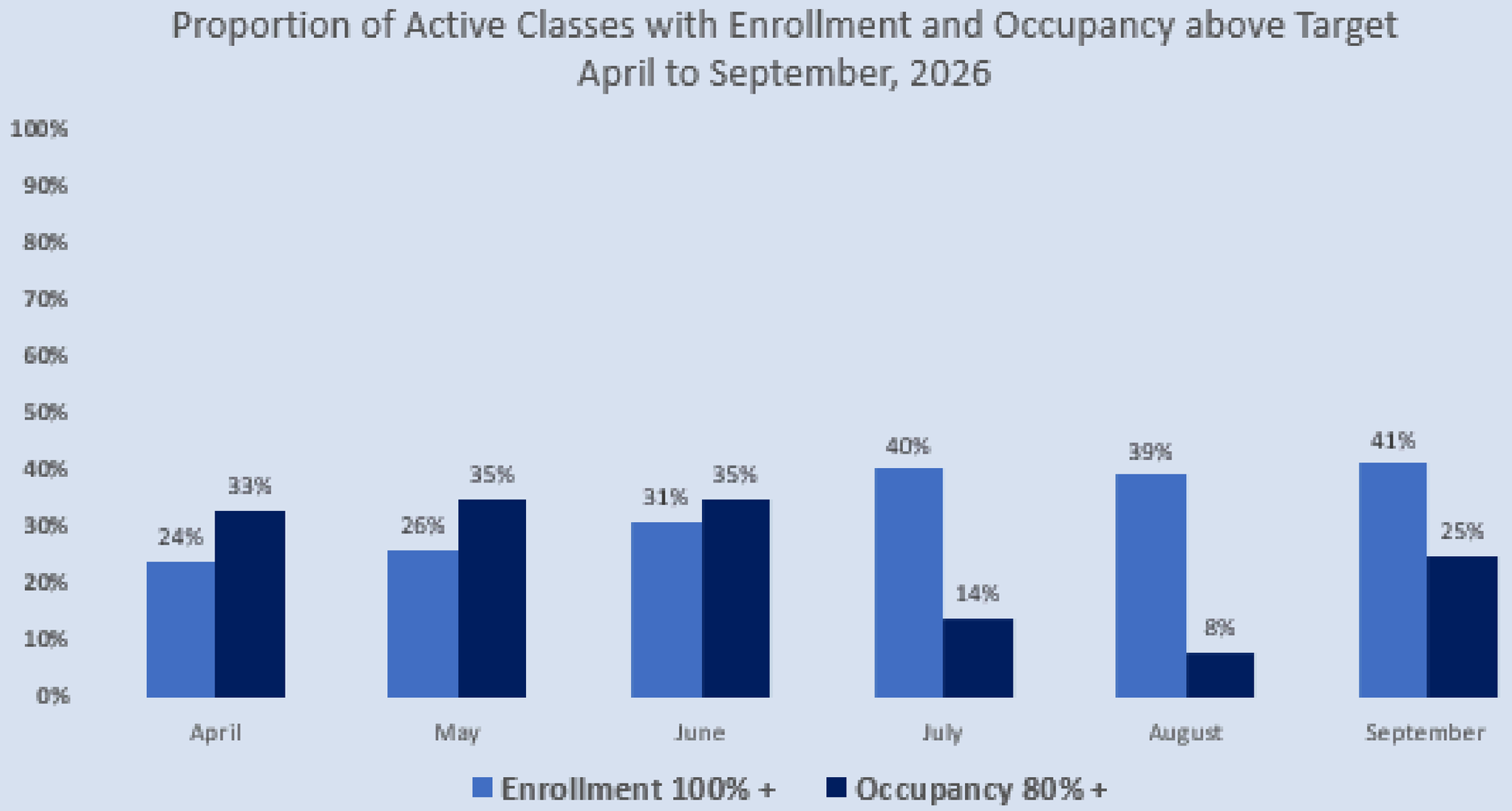
2026-27 (Aug) data (not shown on chart):
Ontario: 16,222 Canada: 30,467

Language Training: Uptake Over 10 Years



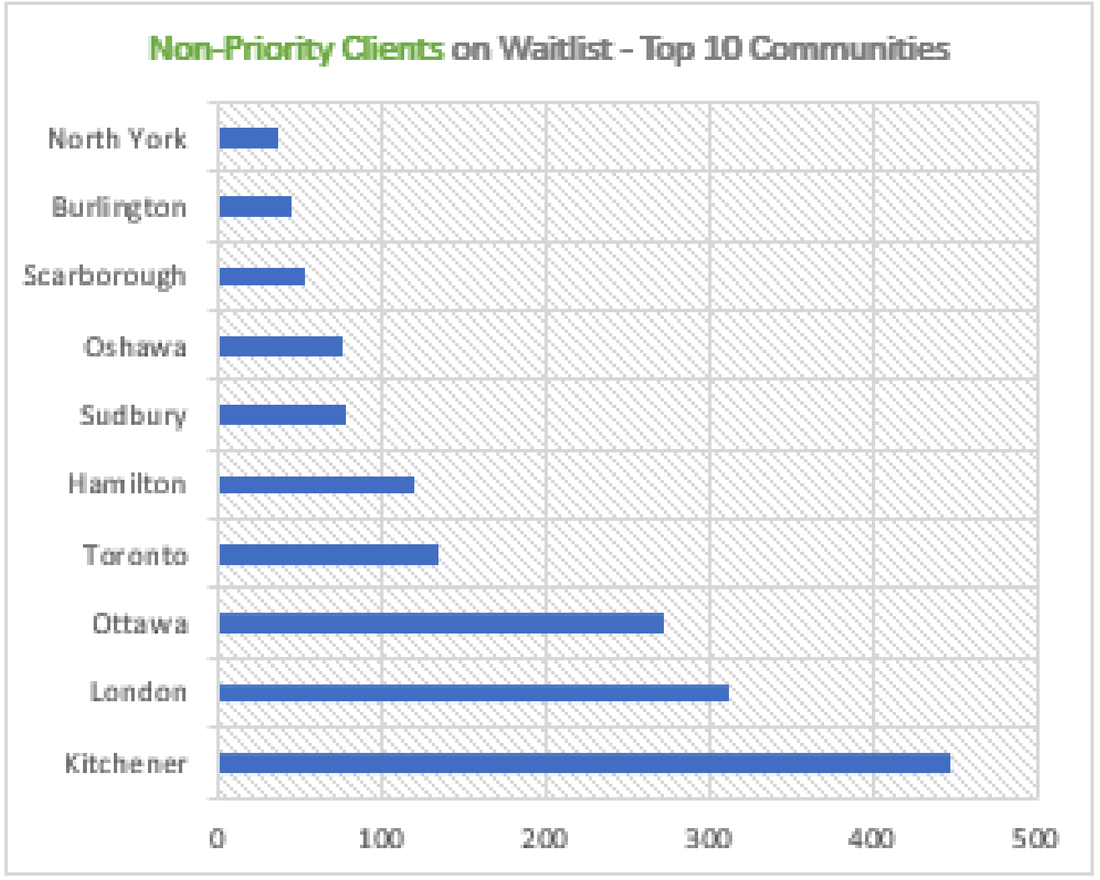
2026-27 (Aug) data (not shown on chart):
Ontario: 20,731 Canada: 49,668

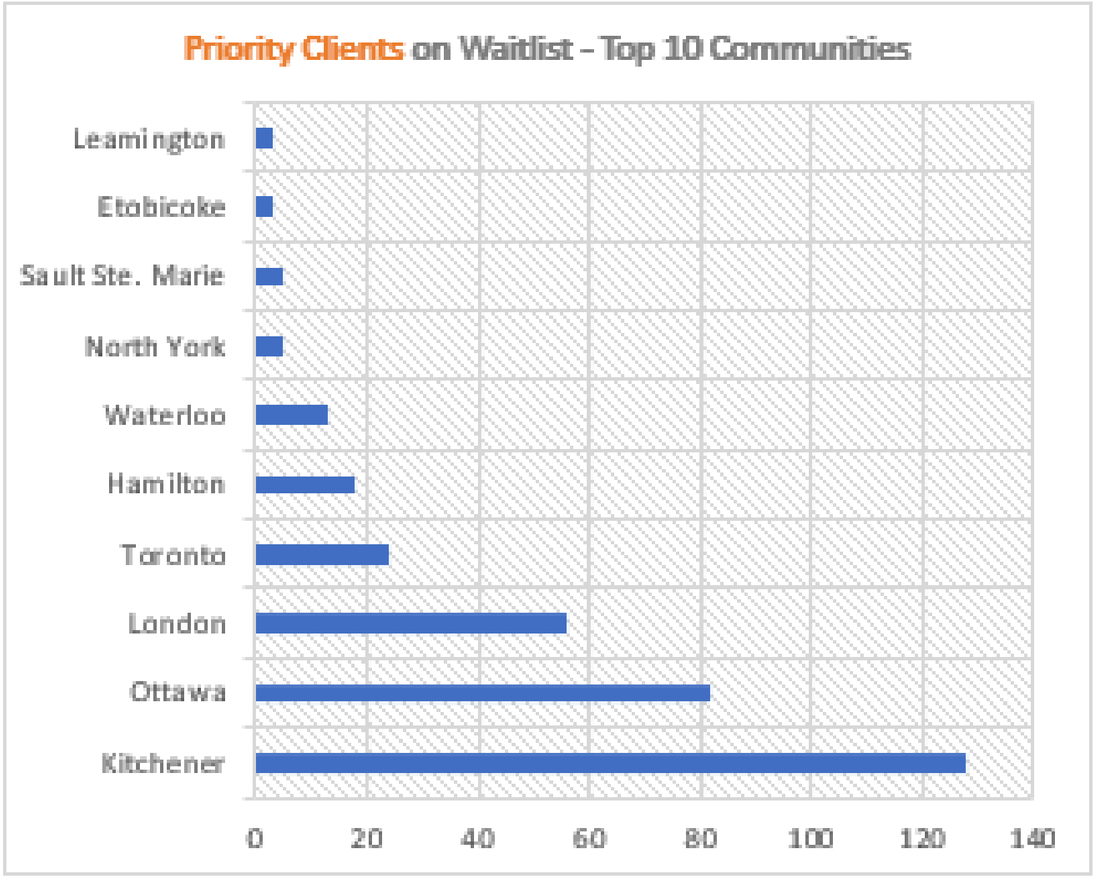
Utilization of Capacity in 2026-27



Language Training Waitlist

In September, 2,147 clients were placed on waitlists for language training, including 345 priority clients.





Permanent and Temporary Residents Admissions: 2027-2029

Permanent & Temporary Residents Admissions	2027	2028	2029
	Immigration Levels Plan		
Permanent Residents	380,000	380,000	380,000
Temporary Residents	370,000	370,000	370,000

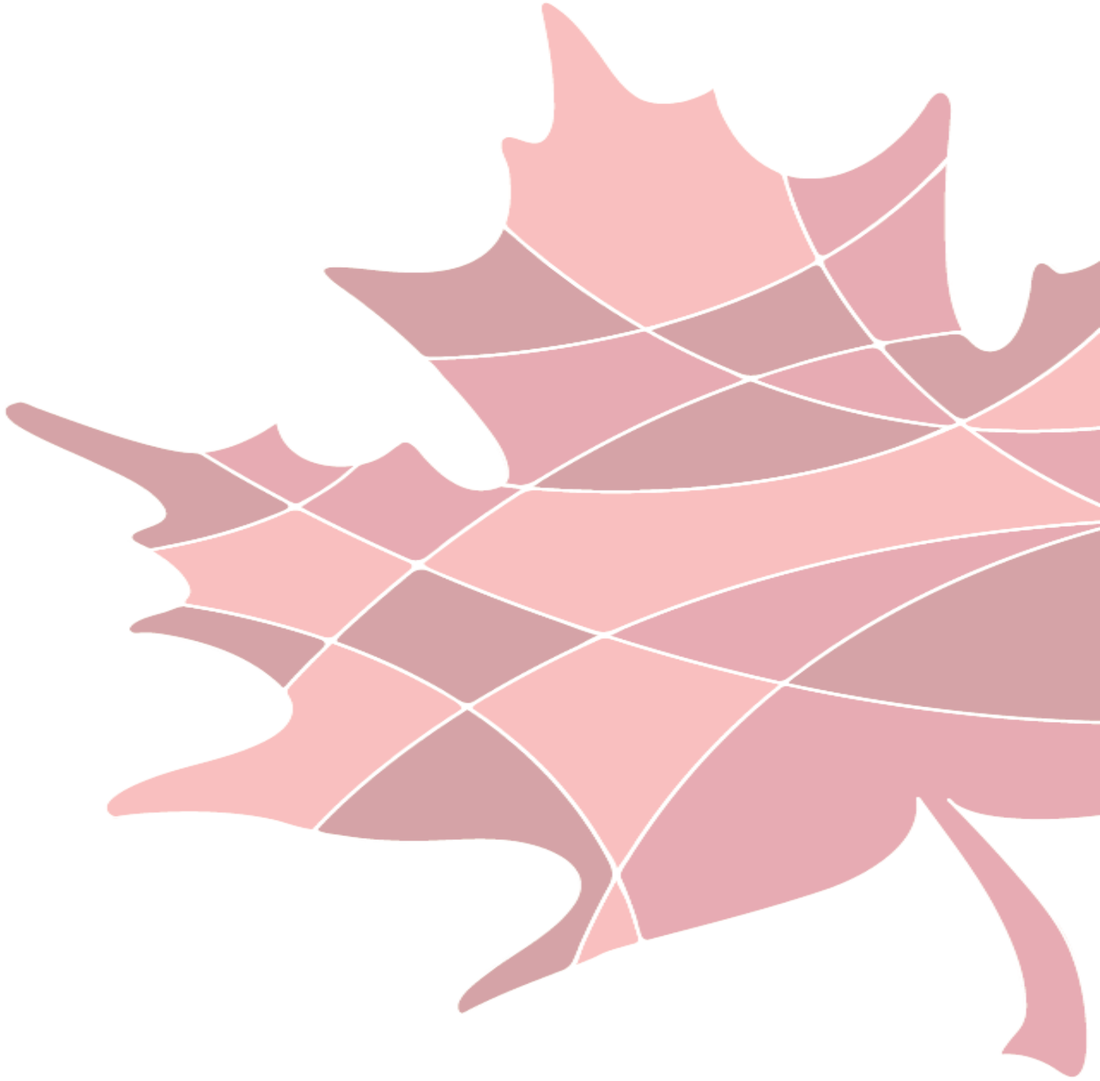
- The Plan is largely unchanged, providing stability and predictability.
- However, the composition of future arrivals, including the number of GARs are not released yet.
- Implications for Settlement and Resettlement Program funding allocations are still being assessed.

Looking Ahead

- As the Settlement Program continues to evolve, IRCC remains committed to working with providers, provincial partners and other key stakeholders.

- IRCC will work with providers and partners to continuously assess demand, optimize language training resources, and adjust program offerings to better align with current and emerging needs while complementing provincially funded programming.

Questions and Comments



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PANELIST



Yvonne Ferrer

Director, Settlement Services Branch; Global Talent and Settlement Services Division
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

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MLITSD Newcomer Settlement and Integration

Adult Language Training Program

TESL Ontario Conference

November 6, 2026

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

Ontario

Context

Newcomer integration programs **support key government priorities**, including strengthening economic growth and resilience, and **help newcomers overcome integration barriers.**

Newcomers play a critical role in the labour market, accounting for **34% of Ontario's workforce.**

Between 2020 and 2025, immigration was responsible for **83%** of labour force growth and **75%** of employment growth in the province.

Despite being highly educated, recent newcomers experience high rates of underemployment and overqualification.

In 2021, the **overqualification rate** of recent newcomers was **47.8%** compared to **32.7%** among Canadian-born workers with a university degree.

169,000+

Immigrants settled in Ontario in 2025, representing **43%** of national admissions

52,000

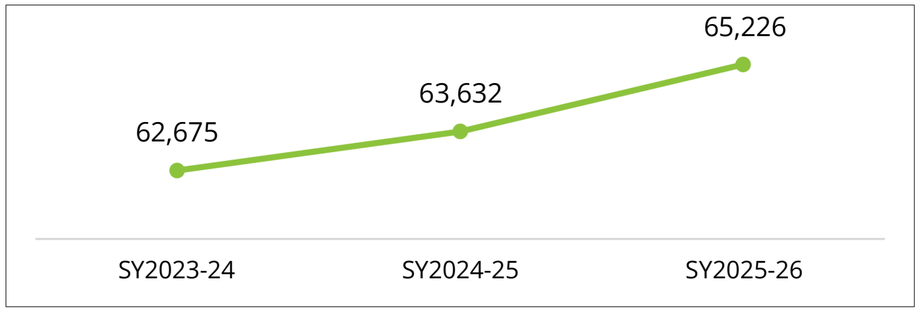
Asylum claims made in Ontario in 2025 (down from 89,435 in 2024)

380,000

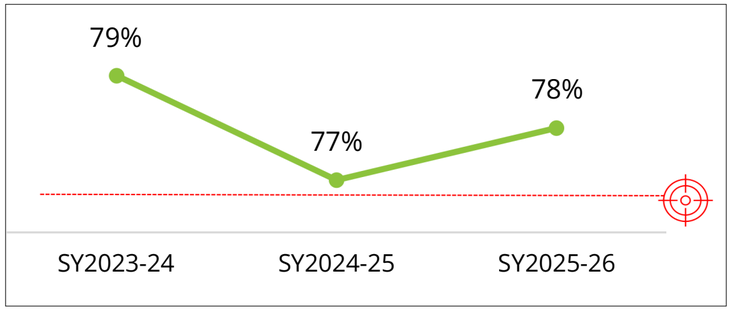
The federal target for permanent resident admissions for Canada in 2026

Adult Language Training Program Highlights

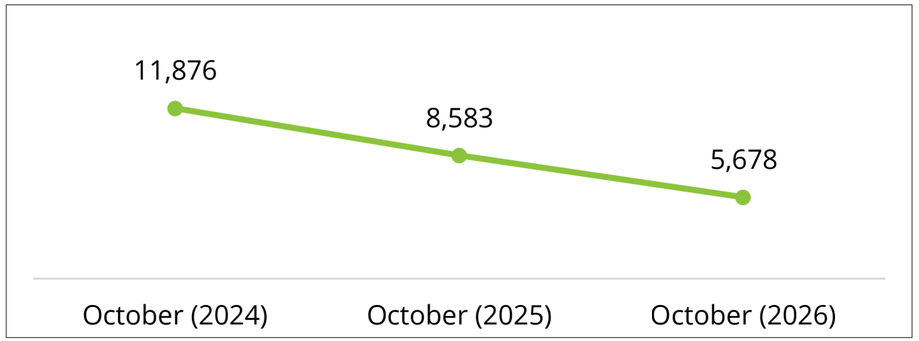
Clients Served



Learner Progression Rate



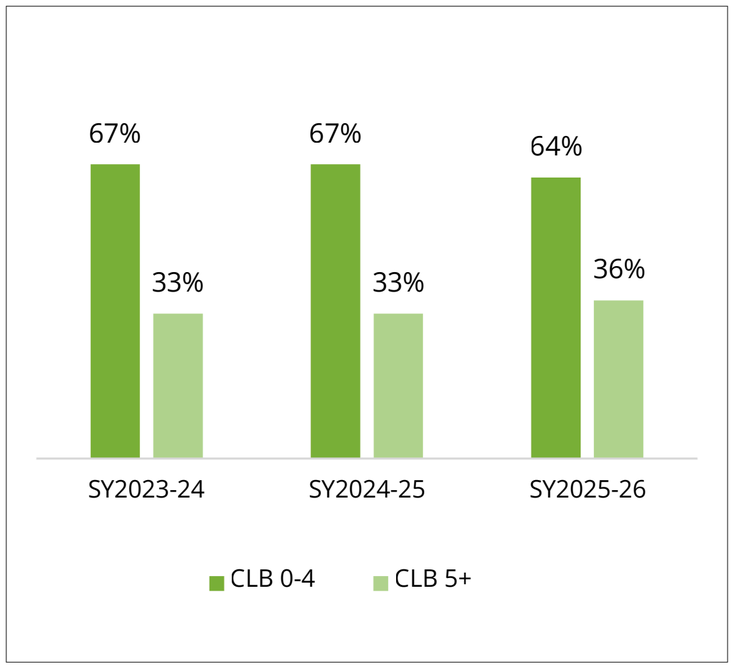
Language Training Wait List



Retention remains a challenge

Too many learners attend less than 200 hours of training, which is insufficient for meaningful progress.

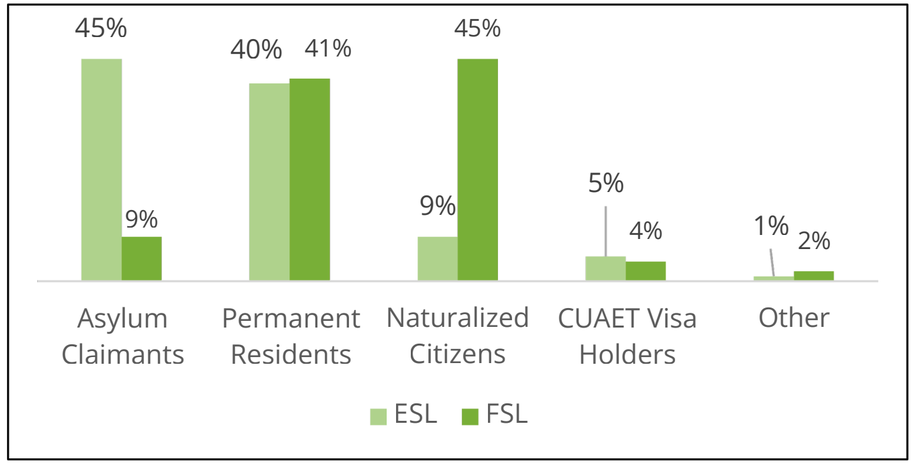
Learners CLB Levels



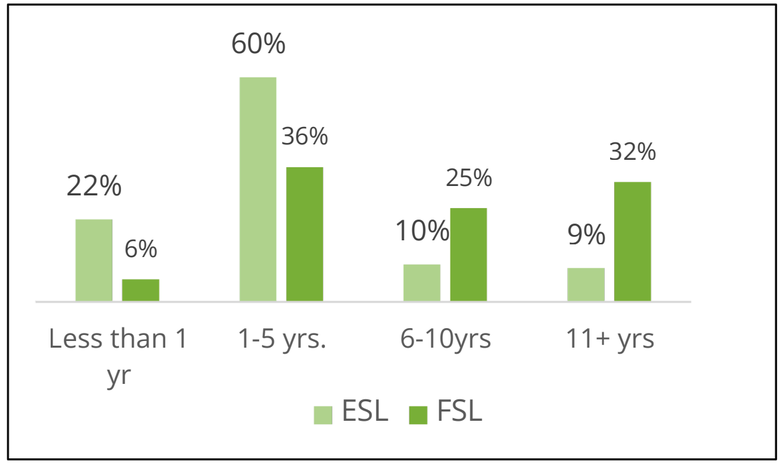
- Demand remains strong with over **65,000 leaners** served in SY 2025-26
- Greatest demand remains at basic levels, with **64% of learners assessed at CLB 0-4**
- Progression rates consistently exceed the **75% benchmark**
- The waitlist has declined from over **8,500 learners** in October 2025 to over **5,600** as of October 2026, largely driven by improved enrolment management, seat utilization, and class sizing

Language Training: 2025-26 Client Profile

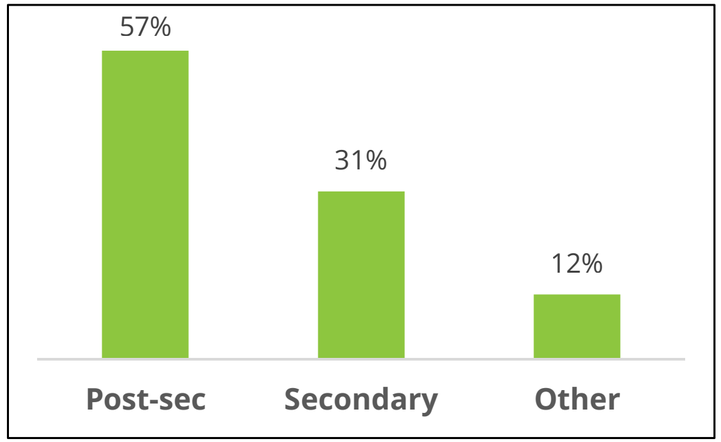
Immigration Status



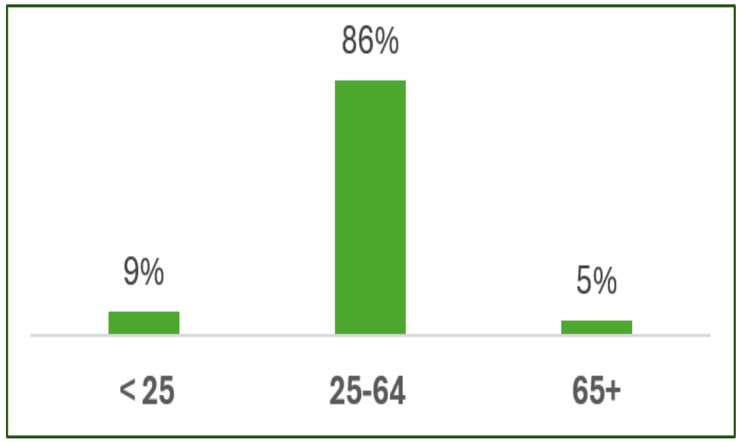
Length of Time in Canada



Education



Age Breakdown



42%

58%

Highlights

- **Majority of learners are working-age recent newcomers** who are not eligible for federally funded language training.
- Primary goal of many learners is to **secure employment or improve prospects.**
- High proportion of long-time residents / citizens participate in FSL.

New Employment-Focused Curriculum Resource

Initiative funded by MLITSD, led by Avenue Canada Solutions



Objectives

- **Improve access to quality resources** to support the consistent delivery of employment-related training content.
- **Create efficiencies for language providers** by reducing the need to search for employment related curricula independently or develop resources from scratch.

What is it?

Searchable curriculum inventory to meet the need of language training providers for readily accessible, CLB level-aligned, employment-focused and occupation-specific language training curriculum:

- ✓ Language training content by occupations and industry sectors
- ✓ Suitability of content for CLB levels
- ✓ Optimal delivery format (Online, In-Person, Hybrid)
- ✓ Compatibility with learning platforms

For more information or to contribute content, visit: https://avenue.ca/avenue-canada-launches-canada-wide-search-for-employment-focused-language-training-resources/

2026 Call for Proposals (CFP)

- The purpose of the CFP is to award funding for a new service delivery cycle for the ministry's suite of newcomer settlement and labour market integration programs:
  - ✓ Newcomer Settlement Program
  - ✓ Adult Language Training
  - ✓ Ontario Bridge Training
- Projects funded through the CFP will commence on August 1, 2027, and end by March 31, 2030.

Key Dates	Milestones
November 2, 2026	CFP Launched
November 17 to December 10, 2026	Information sessions
January 12, 2027	Application deadline
May-June 2027	Funding decisions
August 1, 2027	New projects begin

Overview of 2026 Call for Proposals

Newcomer Settlement | **Language Training** | **Bridge Training**





Program Streams

Settlement and Labour Market Orientation

Needs assessments and assistance to support newcomers in gaining knowledge and skills to help advance their integration journey and connect with community and employment resources.

Career Pathways for Skilled Newcomers

New program stream focused on supports and resources on foreign credential recognition and navigation assistance to accelerate pathways to accreditation and employment.

Language Assessments

Language proficiency assessments and referrals to appropriate courses.

ESL and FSL

Language instruction frombeginner to advanced levelsand employmentrelated language andcommunicationskills.

Workplace Language Training

Expansion of occupation-specific language training focused on priority occupations to support job readiness and connections to employment.

Getting a Job

Supports internationally trained professionals in obtaining commensurate employment in the regulated or non-regulated field in which they are trained.

Getting a License

Supports internationally trained professionals in achieving licensure or certification to practice in regulated occupations, and in obtaining employment in regulated occupations.



Newcomers gain skills, knowledge and support to contribute to their communities and the economy.

Successfully settled and integrated newcomers benefit Ontario.

Priorities

- **Call for Proposals:** Implement the CFP, including projects that support new activities and advance expansion priorities.
- **Service Continuity:** Extend existing funding agreements to July 31, 2027, to minimize service disruptions and ensure continuity while the CFP process is completed.
- **Collaboration:** Work with federal partners, other ministries, and service providers to monitor trends, respond to evolving needs, and strengthen pathways that support learners' labour market integration.

To access details about the 2026 Call for Proposals

- Visit https://www.ontario.ca/page/available-funding-opportunities-ontario-government.

- Look for '**2026 Newcomer Settlement, Adult Language Training, and Ontario Bridge Training Program Call for Proposals**' in the list of available funding opportunities.

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PANELIST



Daniel Denommé

Education Officer, Skills Development and Apprenticeship Branch; Student Achievement Division
Ministry of Education

Supporting Adult Learners in Ontario

Continuing Education and Other Programs

Daniel Denommé, Education Officer
Ministry of Education

Ontario

November 6, 2026

Continuing Education and Other Programs Allocation

Provides funding for programs ***primarily outside the regular day school program*** *to* ***support student achievement*** *and* ***address learning needs****.*

- **Adult Day School**
- **High-Credit Day School**
- Summer School
- **Continuing Education**
- **Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)**
- International and Indigenous Languages, Elementary (IILE)
- **Literacy and Math Outside the School Day**
- Summer Learning Program (SLP)

Flexible Adult Credit Delivery Options



- Continuous intake
- Semesters / Quadmesters
- Up to 6 terms per year (September – August)

- In-person
- Remote Learning
- Online Learning
- Self-Study / Correspondence
- Cooperative Education

The Ontario Curriculum
Grades 9 to 12

REVISED

English as a Second Language and English Literacy Development



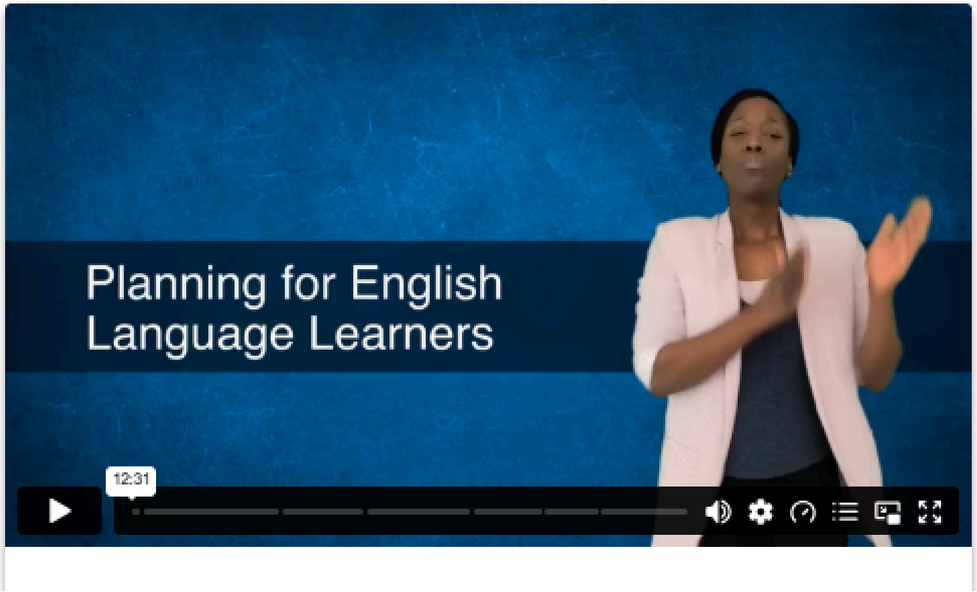
Considerations for program planning

Last revised in June 2024

Version history →



Planning for English Language Learners

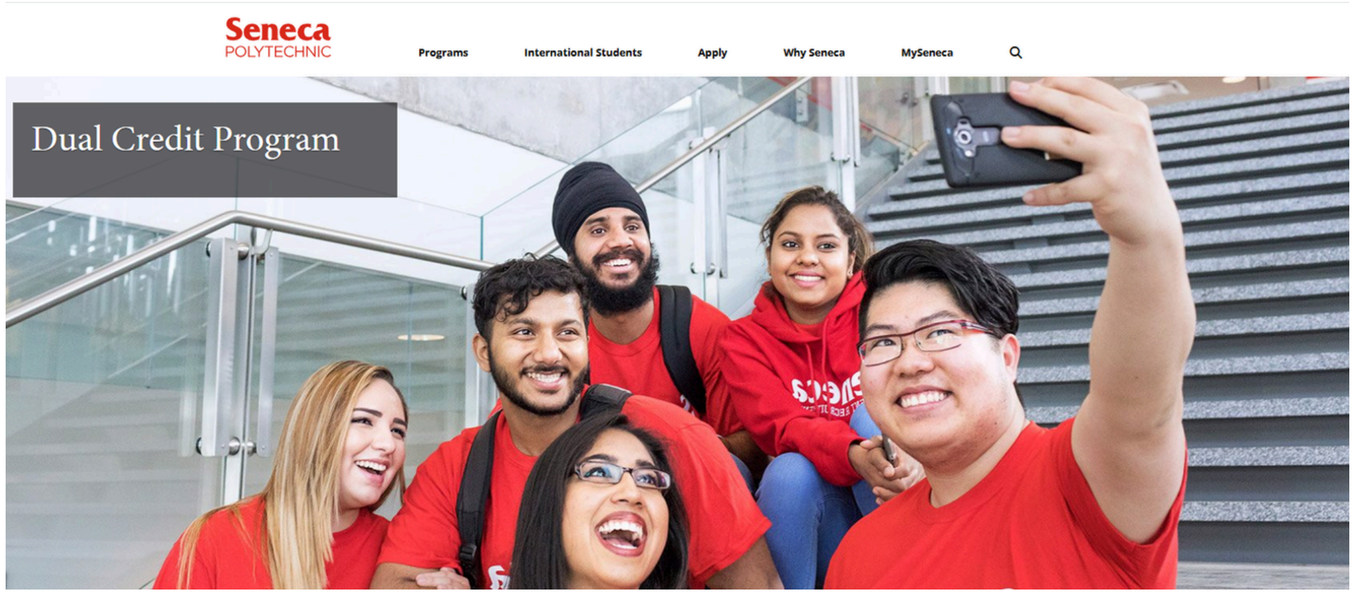


Ontario

Adult Dual Credit Programs

Dual credit programs allow eligible secondary students to take college and Indigenous Institute courses, or Level 1 apprenticeship training that count towards both:

- their **Ontario Secondary School Diploma** (OSSD)
- a **postsecondary certificate**, **diploma**, **degree** or a **Certificate of Apprenticeship**



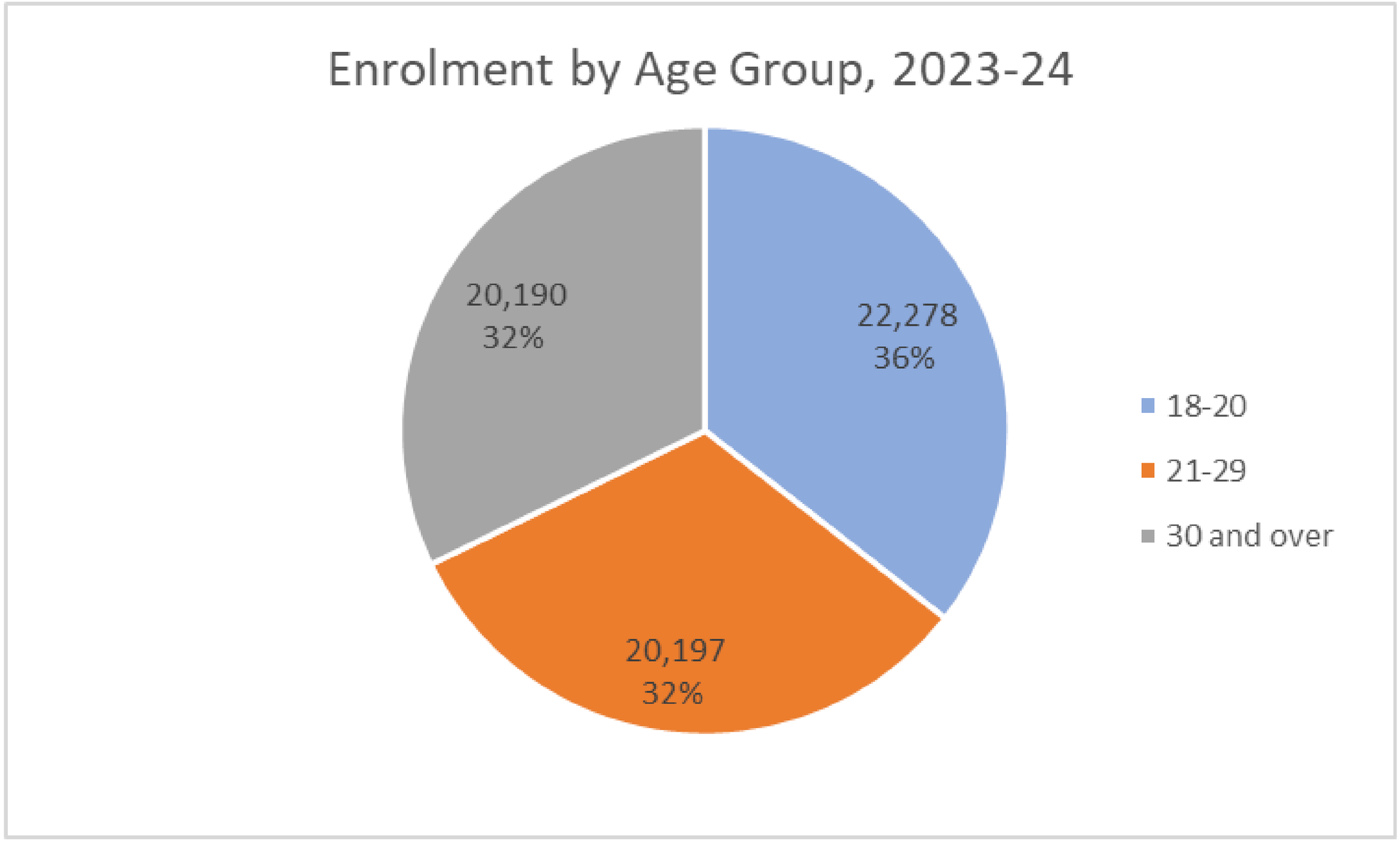
Ontario

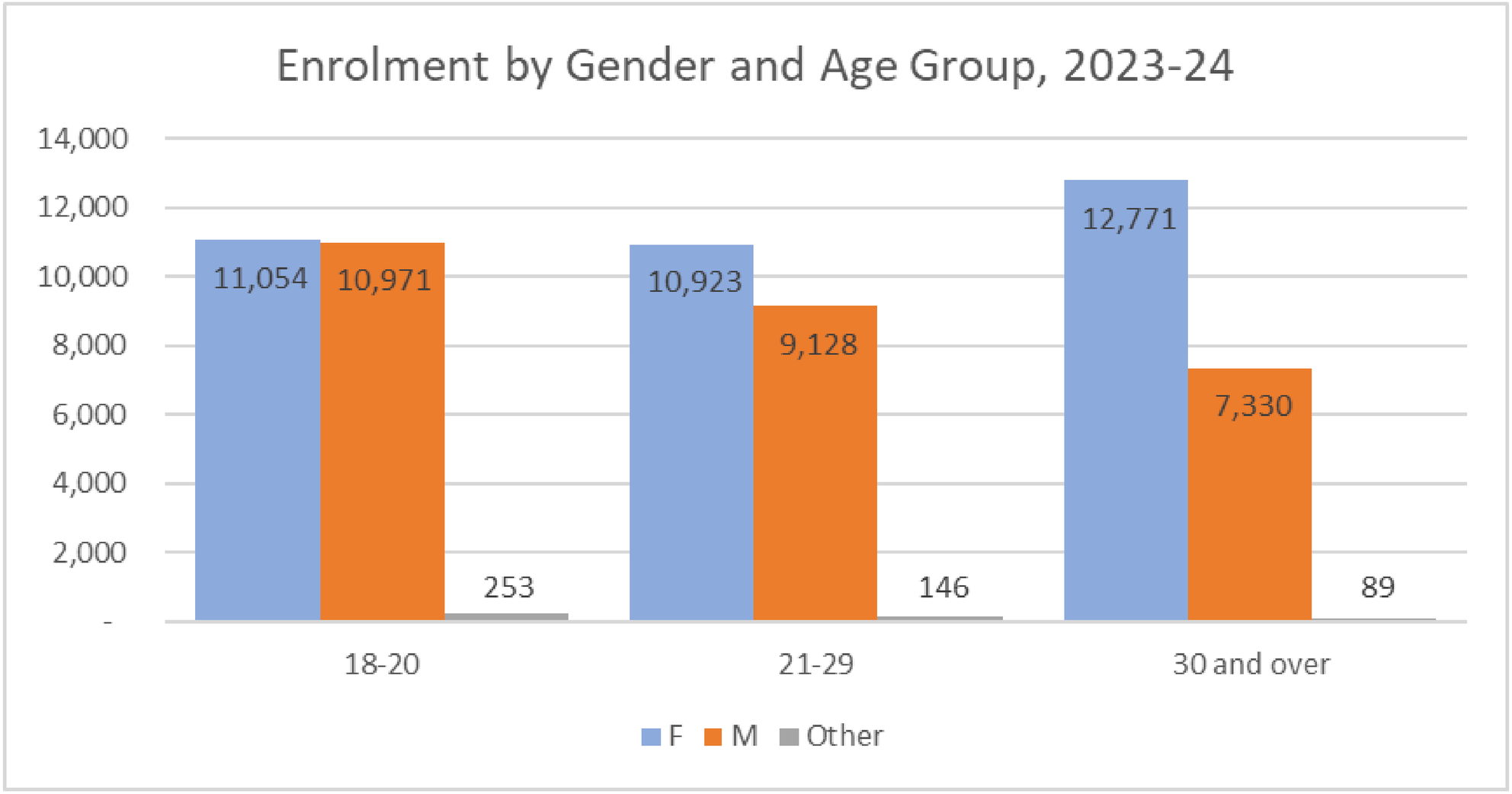
Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students – Revised Mandatory Requirements (2023)

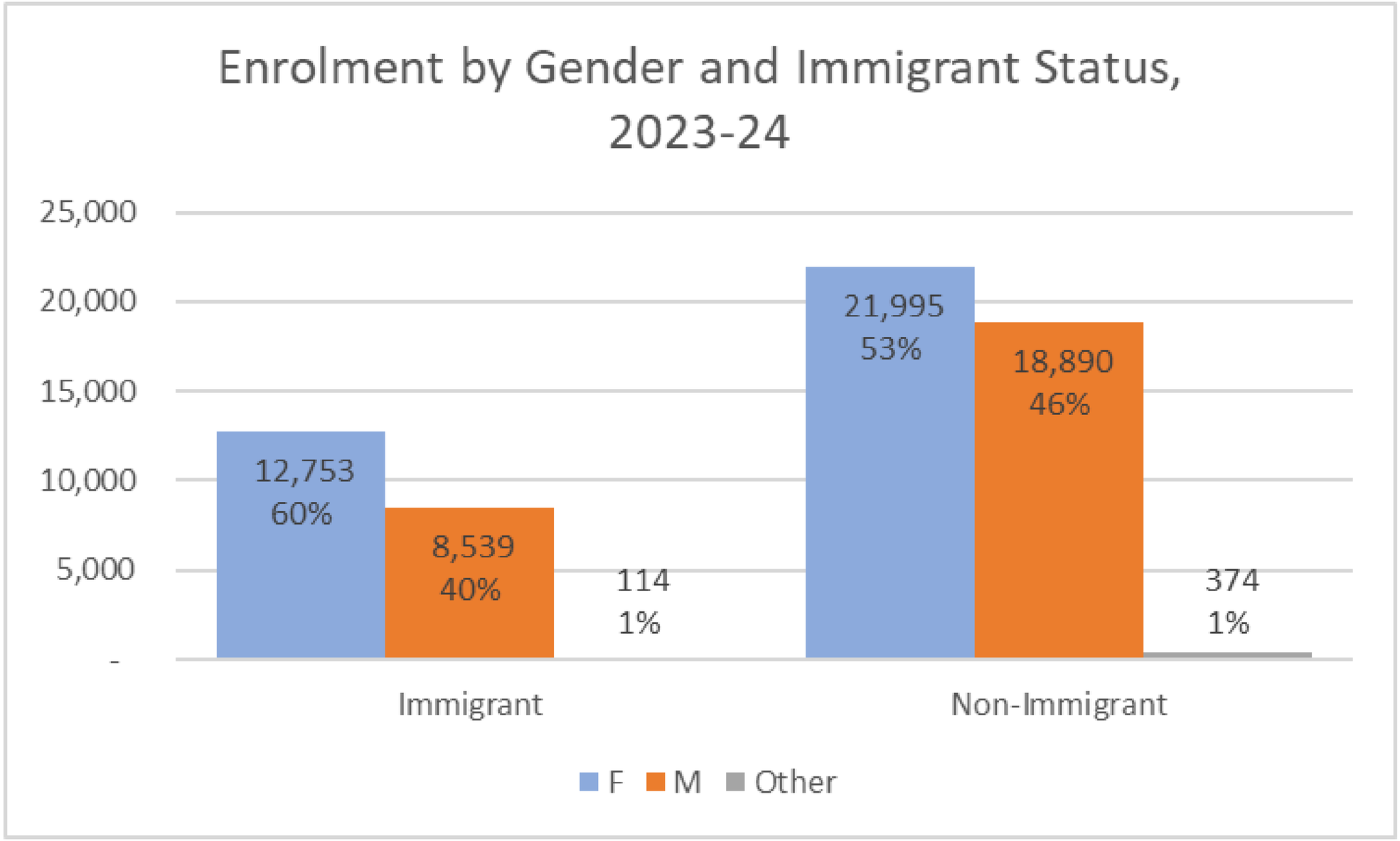







Enrolment by Age Group, 2023-24
20,190
32%
22,278
36%
20,197
32%
18-20
21-29
30 and over


Enrolment by Gender and Age Group, 2023-24
14,000
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
-
11,054
10,971
253
10,923
9,128
146
12,771
7,330
89
18-20
21-29
30 and over
F
M
Other


Enrolment by Gender and Immigrant Status, 2023-24
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
-
12,753
60%
8,539
40%
114
1%
21,995
53%
18,890
46%
374
1%
Immigrant
Non-Immigrant
F
M
Other

Questions ?

Daniel.Denomme@Ontario.ca

Ontario

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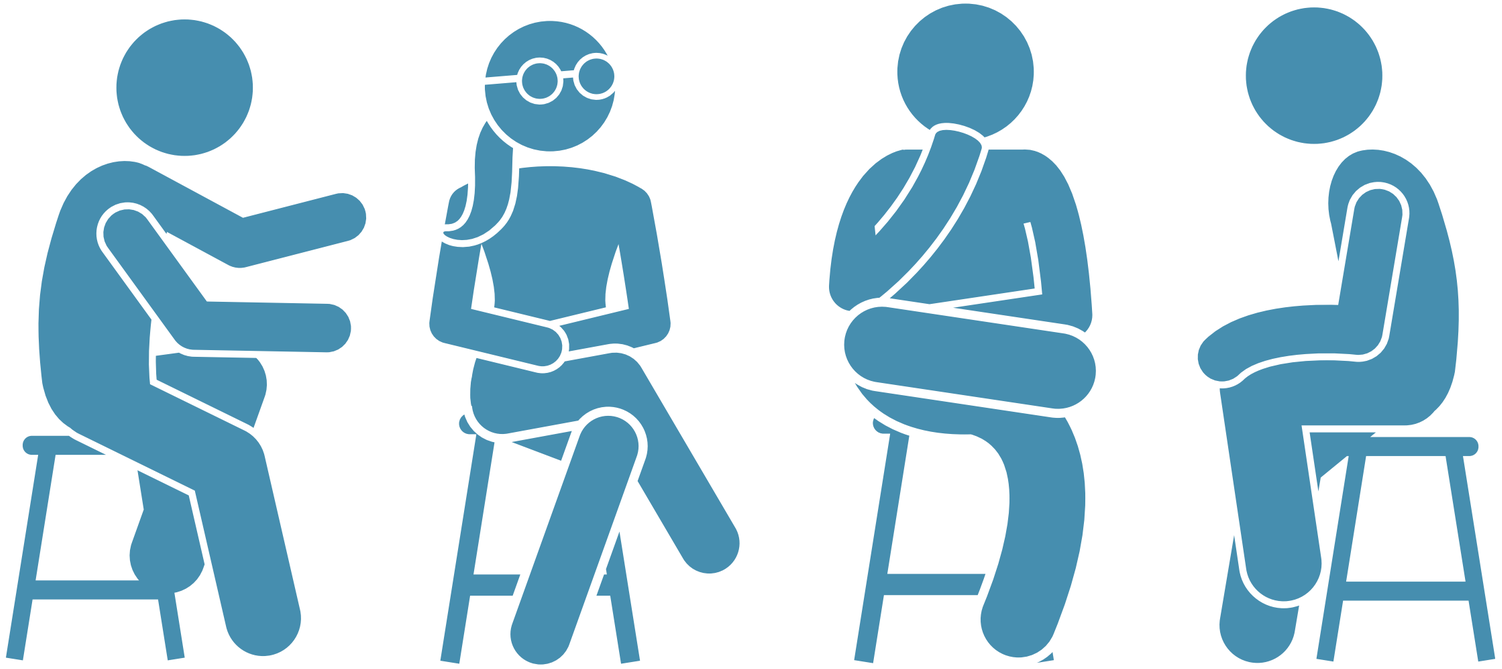
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DISCUSSION PERIOD





QUESTION & ANSWER



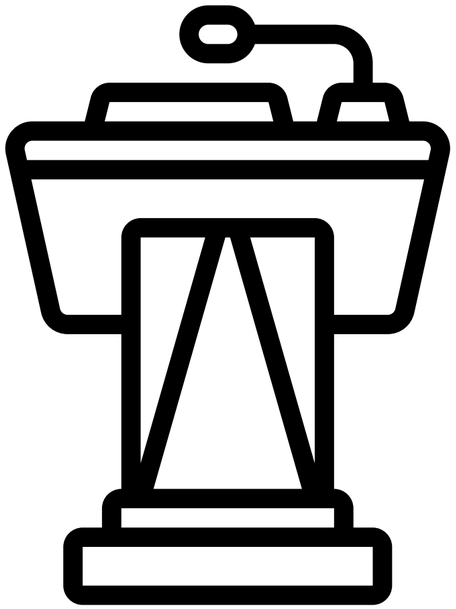








FINAL REMARKS



CODEQUEST CHALLENGE

21STPANEL







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THANK YOU

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