CANADA PULSE INSIGHTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 29, 2025

Immigration Pressures Still Felt Across Calgary Despite Federal Entry Reductions: Few See System Improvements, Majority Want Newcomer Limits to Continue

A new public opinion poll by Canada Pulse Insights for Rogers CityNews finds that most Calgarians remain dissatisfied with federal immigration management, despite limits introduced in January of this year with the intention of slowing newcomer arrivals.

As a majority of Calgarians continue to associate immigration-related population pressures with local labour practices, youth unemployment, housing unaffordability, and hospital emergency room overcrowding, only one in four (25%) believe Ottawa is doing a better job than last year in managing immigration intake.

And of the two-thirds of residents who support continued immigration favour maintaining restrictions over the next year, as current conditions divide opinions on the contributions newcomers are making.

Nevertheless, only twenty-nine percent of Calgarians believe more federal government financial and other support mechanisms are required for their intake of newcomers into their municipality.

Federal Government Gets Poor Marks for Improvement on Immigration

Although limits on immigration may have reduced the pace of arrivals, confidence in the system's management remains low. Only 25 percent of Calgary residents believe Ottawa is doing a better job handling immigration than it did last year, half (49%) say they see no change, and 26 percent say it has worsened.

Local Pressures Impacting Community Attitudes toward Immigration

Despite adjustments made to immigration flows earlier this year, the survey results point to widespread concern that newcomer population pressures continue to intersect with affordability and service-delivery challenges across the city.

On the labour and employment front, a clear majority (81%) believe most companies rely on foreign workers to lower labour costs rather than to fill genuine labour shortages, and six in ten (59%) say high levels of foreign worker permits, not a weaker economy, are the main reason young people have difficulty finding jobs.

Further, two-thirds (64%) of residents say housing affordability problems are driven more by population pressures linked to immigration than by developers or landlords raising prices for profit, and most (52%) believe hospital overcrowding stems more from elevated immigration levels than from a shortage of doctors or medical personnel.

And while two-thirds (65%) of residents remain supportive of Canada continuing to accept newcomers, it's clear that perceptions of these types of local strain may be having an impact on attitudes: half (51%) of Calgarians say new immigrants in their city are having a positive impact while 49 percent disagree.

Municipal Funding and Local Support

When asked whether the federal government provides enough financial and other support mechanisms to their municipality for their intake of newcomers, Calgarians are split with twenty-nine percent wo say their city receives too little funding and support, 38 percent say the amount is about right, and 33 percent believe they are receiving too much.

Future Immigration Levels and Preferred Categories for Admission

Looking ahead, while a majority (65%) of Calgarians are open to bringing new immigrants into the country, 55 percent say the federal government should maintain the current reduced immigration levels over the next year, while another 10 percent would prefer to loosen restrictions. With a more emphatic tone, the remaining one-third (35%) say they would not let any newcomers into the country for the foreseeable future.

Among those who support continued immigration (65%), preferences for how many within the classifications of immigrants that are allowed into the country begin with 78 percent in favour of economic immigrants (skilled work/business), followed by 46 percent who are international students, 45 percent family-sponsored immigrants, 44 percent of refugees or protected persons, and 33 percent of temporary foreign workers.

About the Survey

This public opinion poll was undertaken for Rogers CityNews by Canada Pulse Insights. The online survey was administered by the sample and data collection experts at Sago from September 30 to October 6, 2025, among adult (aged 18+) residents of Calgary (n=410). The data has been weighted to represent the adult population based on the most recent census. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size has a margin of error of ±4.8 percentage points, 19

times out of 20. Any discrepancies between the text of this release and the data tables are due to rounding.

Canada Pulse Insights is an independent, Canadian owned public opinion research firm led by veteran pollster John Wright. The company adheres to the Canadian Research and Insights Council (CRIC) public opinion research standards and disclosure requirements. Sago, formerly the Schlesinger Group, is CRIC accredited and brings more than 55 years of experience in both qualitative and quantitative research methods.

–30–

For further information:

John Wright, CEO, Canada Pulse Insights
Email: johnwright@canadapulseinsights.com
Phone: 416-700-4218
Website: CanadaPulseInsights.com