

# 2011 National Household Survey - Bulletin #6

## Immigration and Cultural Diversity

### Introduction

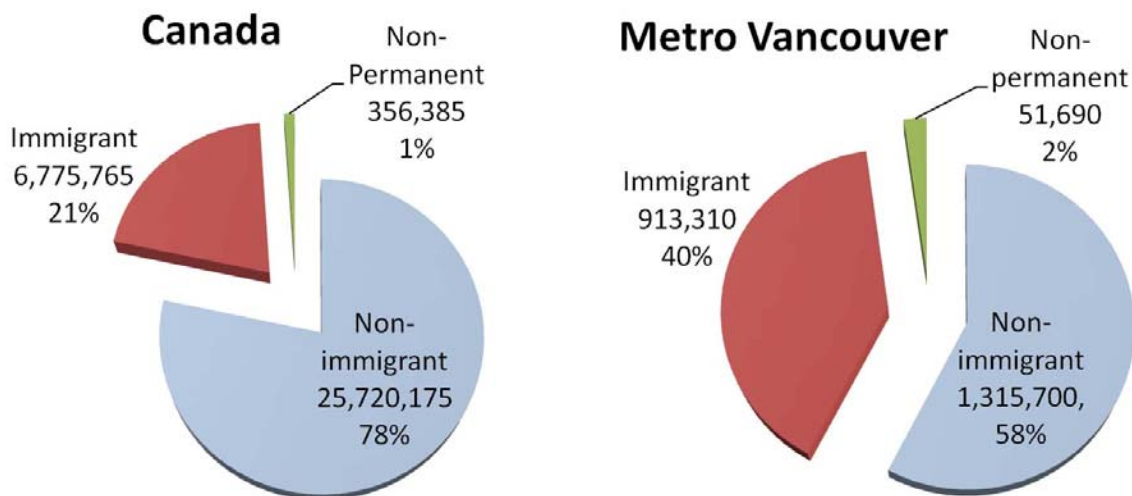
This bulletin provides an overview of the immigrant profile of Metro Vancouver based on data captured in the 2011 National Household Survey. Included in this bulletin is information on:

- ◆ Immigration and cultural diversity;
- ◆ Foreign born residents;
- ◆ Location of recent immigrants;
- ◆ Non-permanent residents;
- ◆ Immigrants place of birth; and,
- ◆ Comparisons with other large Canadian metropolitan centres.

### The Immigrant Profile of Metro Vancouver

According to the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) there were 913,310 foreign-born immigrants in the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), representing (40.0%) of the total population. Additionally, there were 1,315,695 (57.7%) Canadian-born (non-immigrants), and another 51,690 persons (2.3%) were non-permanent residents. In comparison, the proportion of the population of Canada who were immigrants was 20.6% (6,775,765);, 78.3% (25,720,175) were non-immigrants, and 0.8% (356,385) were non-permanent residents.

Figure 1. 2011 Census Population by Immigrant Status, Metro Vancouver and Canada.



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

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## Changes in the Number of Foreign Born Residents Over The Past 20 Years

Table 1 shows the change in the number of foreign born residents in Metro Vancouver over the period from 1991 to 2011. As shown in Table 1, the number of foreign born residents across Metro Vancouver increased from 29.7% in 1991 to 40.0% in 2011.

**Table 1: Immigrant Population in Metro Vancouver, 1991 – 2011**

	1991	2001	2011
Total Population	1,602,313	1,967,475	2,280,700
Immigrant Population	476,520	738,550	913,310
Immigrants as Proportion of Total Population	29.7%	37.5%	40.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991, 2001 Census & 2011 National Household Survey

## The Cultural Diversity of Metro Vancouver Compared to Other CMAs

Data published by Statistics Canada shows that 85% foreign born residents chose to live in one of three provinces - Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia and that 63% foreign born residents reside in Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver.

**Table 2: Immigrant Population by Period of Immigration for Select Metropolitan Areas, 2011**

Geographic Area	Immigrated before 1991		Immigrated between 1991 and 2000		Immigrated between 2001 and 2011 *	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3,081,720</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,539,055</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,154,990</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Vancouver CMA</b>	355,535	12%	264,905	17%	292,870	14%
<b>Toronto CMA</b>	1,080,075	35%	670,330	44%	787,005	37%
<b>Montreal CMA</b>	351,195	11%	172,410	11%	323,040	15%
<b>Calgary CMA</b>	115,545	4%	65,825	4%	132,510	6%
<b>Edmonton CMA</b>	100,855	3%	43,735	3%	87,605	4%
<b>Victoria CMA</b>	39,175	1%	9,490	1%	11,410	1%
<b>FVRD</b>	26,355	1%	12,090	1%	13,955	1%

\* 'Immigrants' includes immigrants who landed in Canada prior to May 10, 2011.

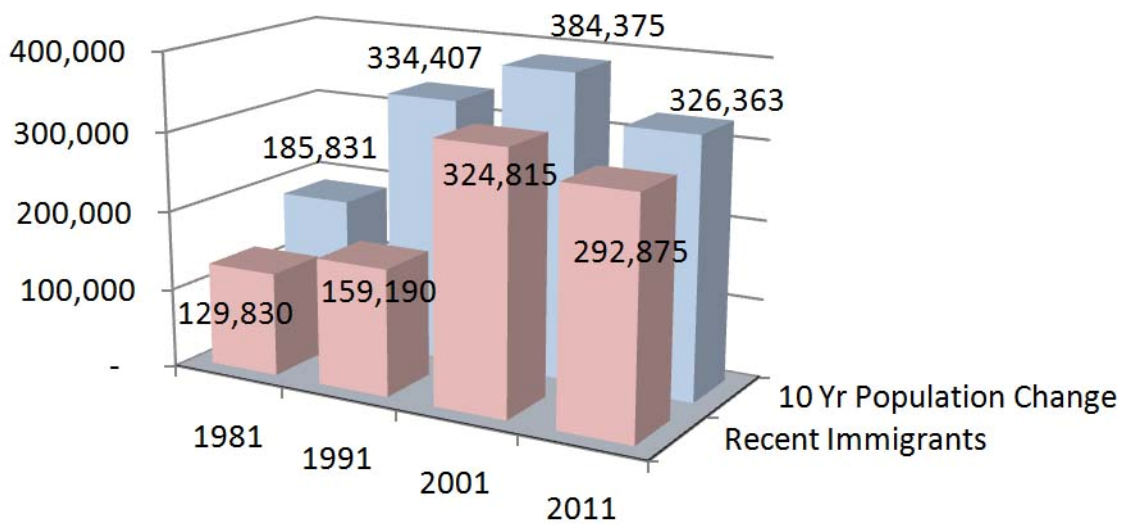
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

Table 2 shows the general settlement patterns across foreign born residents for the period from 1981 to 2011. As shown in Table 2, the Metropolitan Toronto area has consistently attracted the largest percentage of newcomers to Canada. Based on the data reported in Table 2, it appears that between 1981 and 2011 between 37% and 44% of all newcomers to Canada settled in the Metro Toronto area while between 13% and 17% of all new immigrants chose Metro Vancouver. Montreal was the third largest centre of immigrant growth, capturing between 11% and 15% of all newcomers to Canada. It is also interesting to note that while Metro Vancouver has generally ranked second after Metro Toronto in terms of new immigrant growth, in the period from 2001 to 2011 Montreal reported more recent immigrants than Metro Vancouver.

As set out in Table 2, Montreal attracted 15% (323,040 persons) of the new immigrant growth for the period from 2001 to 2011 while Metro Vancouver attracted 14% (292,870 persons) of the new immigrants.

Nearly one-third (32%) of Metro Vancouver's immigrant population arrived within the last decade. Figure 2 looks at net change in region's population at 10-year increments and graphs the net change as well as the recent immigrants totals reported for the Census year. The graph shows the change in population is increasingly tied to the number of new immigrants. The impact of immigration rose to 48% during the 1981-1991 period to 90% in the recent 2001-2011 period. While the net number of recent immigrants declined slightly between 2001 and 2011, the impact on the net population change continues to increase, up from 85% of the net change 1991-2001 period.

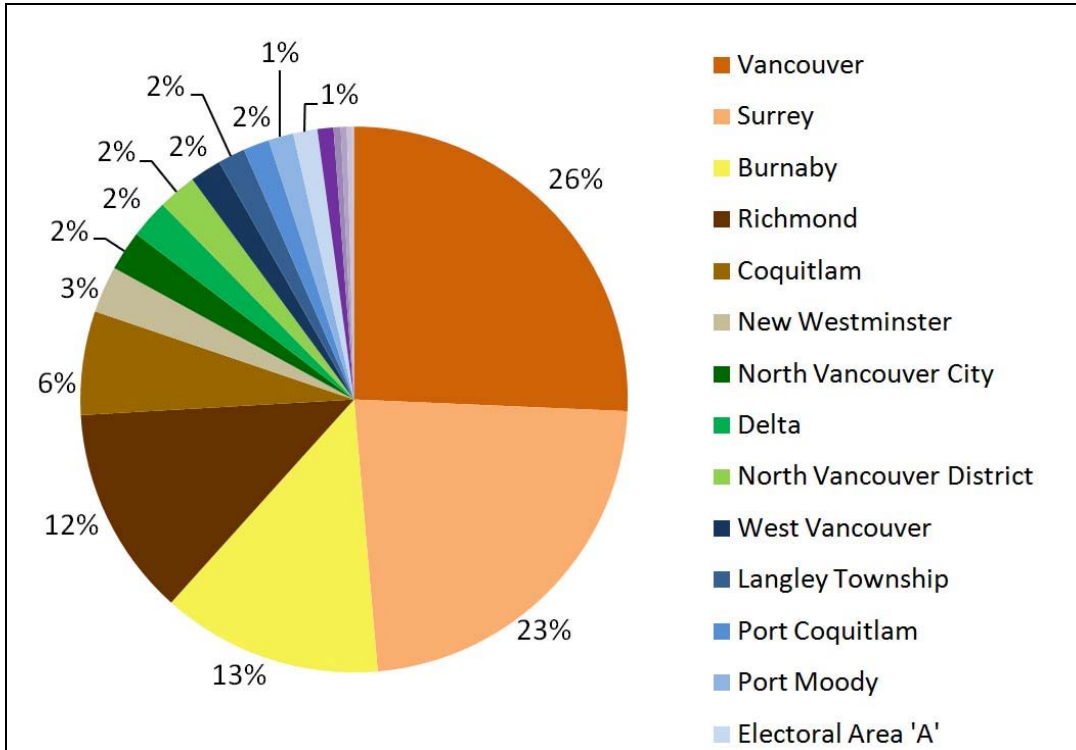
**Figure 2. Recent Immigrants Compared to the 10 Year Population Change in Metro Vancouver.**



## Where Recent Immigrants Are Choosing to Locate in Metro Vancouver

Figure 2 shows the choices made by recent immigrants ( 292,870 persons) in Metro Vancouver between 2001 and 2011. As shown in Figure 2, between 2001 and 2011, Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby, Richmond and Coquitlam tended to attract the largest percentage of newcomers to the region with 80% of all newcomers settling in these municipalities.

**Figure 2. Distribution of Recent Immigrants (2001 - 2011) by Municipality, Metro Vancouver**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

Note: Electoral Area A, White Rock, Pitt Meadows, Langley City, Lions Bay, Anmore and Belcarra each received less than 1 per cent of the region's total recent immigrant population.

## Number and Proportion of Foreign Born Residents in Metro Vancouver Municipalities

Table 3 shows the distribution of foreign born residents across Metro Vancouver. As shown in Table 3, foreign born residents represent a significant percentage of all residents living in Richmond (60%), Burnaby (50%) and the City of Vancouver (44%). They also represent a large percentage of the population in Coquitlam (42%), Surrey (41%), West Vancouver (41%), North Vancouver City (37%).

## Recent immigrants

**Table 3 – Total Immigrants as a Proportion of Municipal Population, 2011**

	Total population	Total Immigrants	%	Recent Immigrants, 2001 to 2011	%	Total population	%
<b>METRO VANCOUVER</b>	<b>2,280,695</b>	<b>913,310</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>292,870</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>2,280,695</b>	<b>100%</b>
Anmore	2,085	460	22%	115	6%	2,085	0%
Belcarra	645	125	19%	30	5%	645	0%
Burnaby	220,260	111,170	<b>50%</b>	38,040	17%	220,260	<b>10%</b>
Coquitlam	125,020	52,080	42%	17,945	14%	125,020	5%
Delta	98,745	28,520	29%	6,720	7%	98,745	4%
Electoral Area 'A'	12,385	6,245	<b>50%</b>	4,165	34%	12,385	1%
Langley City	24,485	3,805	16%	1,225	5%	24,485	1%
Langley Township	103,145	18,520	18%	4,735	5%	103,145	5%
Lions Bay	1,320	350	27%	50	4%	1,320	0%
Maple Ridge	75,140	12,935	17%	2,765	4%	75,140	3%
New Westminster	65,090	21,735	33%	8,085	12%	65,090	3%
North Vancouver City	47,685	17,760	37%	6,895	14%	47,685	2%
North Vancouver District	83,555	24,970	30%	6,620	8%	83,555	4%
Pitt Meadows	17,705	3,990	23%	1,030	6%	17,705	1%
Port Coquitlam	55,780	16,380	29%	4,480	8%	55,780	2%
Port Moody	32,875	10,390	32%	4,320	13%	32,875	1%
Richmond	189,305	112,875	<b>60%</b>	36,335	19%	189,305	<b>8%</b>
Surrey	463,335	187,845	41%	66,965	14%	463,335	<b>20%</b>
Vancouver	590,205	258,750	44%	74,980	13%	590,205	<b>26%</b>
West Vancouver	42,040	17,125	41%	5,425	13%	42,040	2%
White Rock	18,535	4,535	24%	1,050	6%	18,535	1%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

## Where Foreign Born Residents Come From

Table 4 shows the place of birth for foreign born residents living in Metro Vancouver and in Canada. For Metro Vancouver approximately 2 out of 3 foreign born residents living in Metro Vancouver were originally from Asia (including the Middle East) with another 19% having been born in Europe. Nationally, less than half of the total immigrant population was born in Asia.

China is the most common source of immigrants (8.1% of the total 6,773,550) in Canada, followed by India (also 8.1% of the total 6,773,550). In Metro Vancouver, China is the source of 17.4% of the total immigrant population, and India is the source of 12.2% of the total immigrant population. The Philippines is identified as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common source of immigrants in Metro Vancouver (9.6% of immigrants), followed by Hong Kong (7.9% of immigrants). Nationally, the Philippines is identified as the 4<sup>th</sup> most common source (6.7% of immigrants), while the United Kingdom is identified as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common source of immigrants nationally (7.9%).

**Table 4: Place of Birth of Total Immigrants to Metro Vancouver, 2011**

CANADA			METRO VANCOUVER		
Country of Origin (Top 20)	Total Immigrants No.	%	Country of Origin (Top 20)	Total Immigrants No.	%
<b>Born outside Canada</b>	<b>6,773,550</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Born outside Canada</b>	<b>913,055</b>	<b>100%</b>
India	547,890	8.1%	China	159,200	17.4%
China	545,535	8.1%	India	111,265	12.2%
United Kingdom	537,040	7.9%	Philippines	87,945	9.6%
Philippines	454,340	6.7%	Hong Kong (admin*)	72,230	7.9%
United States	263,470	3.9%	United Kingdom	61,255	6.7%
Italy	256,825	3.8%	Taiwan	40,725	4.5%
Hong Kong (admin*)	205,425	3.0%	South Korea	34,365	3.8%
Viet Nam	165,125	2.4%	Iran	28,470	3.1%
Pakistan	156,865	2.3%	United States	26,240	2.9%
Germany	152,345	2.2%	Viet Nam	22,930	2.5%
Poland	152,285	2.2%	Fiji	16,600	1.8%
Portugal	138,520	2.0%	Germany	14,210	1.6%
Sri Lanka	132,130	2.0%	Italy	10,995	1.2%
Jamaica	126,035	1.9%	Japan	10,295	1.1%
Iran	120,685	1.8%	Poland	10,010	1.1%
South Korea	112,400	1.7%	South Africa	8,030	0.9%
Netherlands	112,401	1.7%	Pakistan	8,031	0.9%
France	112,402	1.7%	Malaysia	8,032	0.9%
Guyana	112,403	1.7%	Netherlands	8,033	0.9%
Romania	112,404	1.7%	Russian Federation	8,034	0.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

Table 5 shows recent immigrants (immigrated between 2001 and 2011) as compared to the more established immigrants (those who came to Metro Vancouver prior to 2001). The table shows that China accounts for 25% of recent immigrants, whereas it accounts for 17.4% of the established immigrant population (immigrated prior to 2001). The Philippines are the source nation of 14.1% of recent immigrants and 7.5% of the immigrants who immigrated prior to 2001. India is the third most common source of recent immigrants (13.4%) and the second most common source of immigrants who immigrated prior to 2001 (11.6% of established immigrants).

**Table 5: Place of Birth of Recent (2001-2011) & Established\* Immigrants to Metro Vancouver**

Country of Origin (Top 20)	Recent Immigrants		Country of Origin (Top 20)	Established Immigrants *	
	No.	%		No.	%
<b>Born outside Canada</b>	<b>292,810</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Born outside Canada</b>	<b>620,245</b>	<b>100%</b>
China	73,600	25.1%	China	85,600	13.8%
Philippines	41,155	14.1%	India	72,145	11.6%
India	39,120	13.4%	Hong Kong (Admin*)	68,145	11.0%
South Korea	18,510	6.3%	United Kingdom	53,810	8.7%
Iran	13,135	4.5%	Philippines	46,790	7.5%
Taiwan	11,560	3.9%	Taiwan	29,165	4.7%
United States	8,790	3.0%	Viet Nam	20,155	3.2%
United Kingdom	7,445	2.5%	United States	17,450	2.8%
Russian Federation	4,175	1.4%	South Korea	15,855	2.6%
Hong Kong (Admin *)	4,085	1.4%	Iran	15,335	2.5%
Mexico	3,725	1.3%	Fiji	14,205	2.3%
Pakistan	3,665	1.3%	Germany	12,620	2.0%
Japan	3,430	1.2%	Italy	10,580	1.7%
Viet Nam	2,775	0.9%	Poland	9,175	1.5%
Romania	2,700	0.9%	Japan	6,865	1.1%
Fiji	2,395	0.8%	Netherlands	6,700	1.1%
Ukraine	2,050	0.7%	Malaysia	6,250	1.0%
South Africa	2,000	0.7%	South Africa	6,030	1.0%
Iraq	1,975	0.7%	Portugal	4,480	0.7%
Afghanistan	1,910	0.7%	El Salvador	4,365	0.7%

\* "Established Immigrants" are those who immigrated prior to 2001.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

## Conclusions and Observations

Immigration plays an important role in supporting economic growth within the region. Its relative contribution to Metro Vancouver's population growth and economic prosperity has accelerated in recent decades. As the regional workforce continues to age, immigration will continue to play a key role in providing a replacement workforce in the region.

The data captured in this bulletin reflects the rich cultural diversity of Metro Vancouver. This bulletin also shows that Metro Vancouver continues to be an important choice for newcomers to Canada along with other large urban centres including Toronto and Montreal. Between 2001 and 2011, the population of Metro Vancouver increased by 326,363 persons. The recent immigrant population of 292,810 accounts for nearly 90 per cent of that increase.

An interesting and important pattern which emerged in the most recent Statistics Canada is the fact that Metro Vancouver immigrants are sourced primarily to three countries: China, India, and the Philippines. Immigration levels to the region are expected to remain high for years to come. In the wake of these newcomers arrival, the region and its municipalities will continue to undergo a gradual cultural transform. The municipalities may look to local immigration sources to determine language and cultural changes within their communities.