 **Immigration to Canada**

**Past Immigrants**

* 50 years following Confederation, there was a major effort to populate the Prairie region;
* Agents went to Europe and the U.S. to lure settlers;
* Advertised as the “Last Best West”;
* More than 8 million came during the first century after Confederation;
* Strict laws restricted certain ethnicities from entering or people with disabilities.

**Immigration Today**

* Immigrants need to apply at a Canadian visa office outside of Canada;
* Skilled workers and professionals are wanted;
* Investors who can start a business are also preferred;
* Finally, family members sponsored by permanent residents of Canada.

**Patterns Since 1980**

* Economic immigrants are those accepted because of their skills, education, investments, or entrepreneurship;
* This class of immigrant has grown significantly since mid-1980s;
* Fewer economic immigrants are excepted when unemployment is high.

**Conclusion**

* Between 2001 and 2006, about 1.2 million people immigrated to Canada;
* Half of them came to Ontario and most of them stayed in the GTA;
* 85% of immigrants choose between BC, Ontario, and Quebec;
* Most of those immigrants stay in Vancouver, Toronto, or Montreal.