

Evaluation of Grant to Quebec

Executive Summary

Research and Evaluation

Evaluation Division
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Executive summary

Purpose of the evaluation:

This report presents the findings of the evaluation of the Grant to Quebec. This evaluation was conducted as per the Treasury Board *Policy on Results* and as required under section 42.1 of the *Financial Administration Act*. It included fiscal years 2012-2013 to 2017-2018.

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the extent to which the settlement services supported by the Grant are available to all permanent residents in the province of Quebec and correspond to those available in the rest of Canada.

Overview of the Canada-Quebec Accord and the Grant

The evaluation focused on the administration of the Grant and the services it supports, not on the Canada-Quebec Accord. The Grant is strictly designed to cover the delivery and administration of reception and integration services provided by Quebec. As a result, Canada provides Quebec with funding in the form of a grant to offset the costs associated with the reception and integration services provided by the province. Under section 26 of the Accord, the Grant will be provided as long as the reception and integration services offered by Quebec:

- correspond, when considered in their entirety, to those offered by Canada in the rest of the country; and
- are provided without discrimination to all permanent residents in the province, whether or not they were selected by Quebec.

Conclusions and recommendations

Overall, the evaluation found that the reception and integration services provided to newcomers in Quebec generally met the Grant conditions during the period covered by the evaluation, particularly with regards to their:

- correspondence to services offered in the rest of Canada, and
- eligibility, i.e., permanent residents have access to the services whether or not they were selected by Quebec.

However, those conditions are not clearly defined, and there is a lack of common criteria and information needed for a more precise analysis of the extent to which the conditions have been met.

Comparison of services

In general, the evaluation found that the types of reception and integration services in Quebec are generally similar to those offered in the rest of Canada. In addition, the evaluation confirmed that these services are also available to permanent residents who were not selected by the province of Quebec. However, there are several important differences in the way these services are delivered, including the eligibility for services. In particular, the duration of eligibility is shorter in Quebec than in the rest of Canada, which could lead to inequality of access for newcomers who decide to reside in Quebec.

Comparative studies

Furthermore, although the comparative studies carried out by the Joint Committee meet the minimum requirements of the Accord, these requirements are not clearly defined. In addition, the information presented in the studies by the two governments is not consistent, and the information collected on the types of services offered lacks some essential elements, such as the language of services and the quality of the services provided.

This lack of consistency is due to the absence of a framework of common indicators allowing a clear and systematic comparison of services and the development of more rigorous conclusions. Improved indicators and data would allow for more in-depth analysis in the comparative studies, as well as the systematic evaluation of services provided in both jurisdictions in relation to requirements (a) and (b) of the Accord.

Recommendation: IRCC should explore a new methodological approach to make the collection of and access to data on the comparability of settlement services more rigorous, consistent and useful for the comparative studies