

How Young Immigrants To Canada Are Taking Canadian Entrepreneurship To The Next Level

If you're an immigrant looking to move to Canada or if you're already here and you have thought about starting your own business, then you're in luck.

Why?

Because you picked the right country.

The facts and figures are in: Immigrants are more likely to have a successful business in Canada than most countries.

Studies from Norway, Germany, Sweden, and the U.S. show that businesses started by immigrants have a shorter life span than natives to the countries... Meanwhile, it's the opposite in Canada. In fact, a study by Canada shows that 80% of immigrants to Canada who start businesses were still in business after two years. Also, a whopping 58% still had their business seven years later.

Immigrants to Canada are more likely to have an "entrepreneurial spirit" than natives of the country. Immigrants are naturally more drawn to starting their own businesses and becoming self-employed at a higher rate than those born and raised in Canada.

This is a huge advantage. Not just if you're looking to start a business for your own sake, but you are boosting the Canadian economy as well.

Knowing that as a new Canadian, you are making a difference for Canada is something you can take pride in. It's not easy moving to a foreign land as an outsider trying to fit in, trying to survive, and most of all, just trying to live a happy, peaceful life.

So to know that start-up businesses are a huge factor in relation to Canada's economic growth, you know that you will be making a big impact on your community locally and nationally. That is something to look forward to as an upcoming entrepreneur in Canada.

Statistics Canada goes on to show that Canada owes much of its entrepreneurial spirit and innovation to the incredible work ethic and discipline of immigrants. The immigrant nations with

the highest number of businesses started in Canada include Korea, Taiwan, Israel, India, and many more.

Immigrants to Canada are generally more likely to be entrepreneurs and this is a known concept for other nations as well, including the United States. Though discipline and work ethic may come out as the biggest contributing factor to why immigrant entrepreneurial endeavours come out with such high rates of success compared to Canadian-born business owners, **here are a few other reasons why immigrant entrepreneurs do so well:**

- 1) It is more of a struggle to find standard employment as an immigrant, so immigrants will often start a small business for survival and to contribute to the Canadian economy
- 2) There are many Canadian organizations and employment agencies that support immigrants to become entrepreneurs as they have higher chances of success with starting a business
- 3) The top immigrant entrepreneurial communities in Canada (Gujarati, Punjabi, Jewish) prefer self-employment over regular employment naturally
- 4) Certain immigrant communities have specific skill sets that were brought over from their homeland. For example, Korean entrepreneurs naturally seek local retail business opportunities as this is a national skill that they are able to easily transfer to the Canadian economy

Case Study: Immigrant From Pakistan

Saad Khan was born in Pakistan.

When he was 13 years old, he moved to Abudabi. In 2007, he immigrated to Canada to study as an international student at York University. He received a bachelor's degree in Marketing and went out into the world to create a life for himself.

Saad was lucky to come across Access Employment, a Canadian non-profit organization that offers employment programs and services free of charge. He got started in their Entrepreneurship Connections Program and quickly began learning and applying entrepreneurial techniques to ramp up his business skills in Canada. In regards to joining the program, Saad said, "It was one of the best decisions I ever made."

Saad Khan started his business, Parosi soon after. Parosi is a peer-to-peer (P2P) sharing platform business that allows neighbours in vertical urban neighbourhoods to borrow and lend from each other and to do so securely. He started the company because he wanted to build upon the successes of different companies booming in the new and upcoming, "sharing

economy". This industry had two major breakthroughs in the past ten years with car sharing and bike sharing becoming very popular. Saad wanted to build an extension of this sharing economy by building his own sharing business, Parosi. He named the company after the word "Neighbour" in Urdu (his native language in Pakistan). Parosi allows neighbours to interact easily together whenever they need to borrow a hammer, a lawn mower, or maybe even share a meal. His company allows urban communities to lend items to one another securely.

Saad realized that times have changed in the world. He realized the old sharing economy of "lending a cup of sugar" to your next door neighbour has been slowly dying for decades as people have become less social beings (especially with the influx of social media and mobile phones). So he decided to bridge the gap between the online world and the world next door by building Parosi.

For Saad, a strong community is vital to living an extraordinary life. "When I came I basically had one uncle here and no friends... and now I have a friend circle that I consider my family."

Saad has gone on to reach higher levels of success with his company, Parosi and wouldn't be able to imagine working for someone. For Saad, his only option was to build his own business after immigrating to Canada.

"It's really really rewarding to work on something and to build something of your own. I think there's that little taste that you get of being an entrepreneur and it just stays with you."

Case Study: Immigrant Family From Syria

The Syrian crisis of the past few years has created an extraordinary rift in the Middle East and internationally. Families have been separated, jobs have been forever lost, and Syrian people have been given no option but to find a new home. For many Syrian refugees, one of the most challenging parts has been seeking provision for their family through employment.

For the young Hadhad family, they have had their fair share of feeling out of place, and not knowing what their future would look like. After escaping Syria, the family spent three years in a refugee camp in Lebanon. Finally, without just a glimmer of hope, Assam Hadhad and his family were accepted into Canada to a town of 10,000 in Nova Scotia, called Antigonish.

The Hadhad family were thankful for their new home but still had many worries. For Assam, he didn't know any English. His son Tareq was scared that they wouldn't have a job when they got there. But they pressed on and worked hard to find a place to work.

Unfortunately, it was very difficult to find a job as a foreigner, especially with language barriers.

But... After trying to unsuccessfully reach employment to survive in their new country, the Hadhad family realized they had something incredibly valuable to offer.

Their passion was chocolate.

In fact, The Hadhads are amazing chocolatiers who make mouth-watering Syrian chocolate.

They had their idea, they realized their skill they could offer, so they went for it. They had already lost their country, and family back home, and this was all they really had left to offer the new home. They got enough money and saved up to buy a small shed near their home where they would start their new development.

Soon after, their shed-style chocolate factory started bringing in hundreds of people a week. They were amazed at how the city of Antigonish responded. The Nova Scotians couldn't get enough of the Hadhad family's chocolate. Within a few months, they had lineups out the door throughout the week. Business was booming. And things were finally turning around for Assam and his family

Soon, they realized that their small shed had a lot more potential than just the city of Anigonish. They made a website for their chocolate factory and made their chocolate available for online orders. Well, things really took off for them even more than they expected. The Hadhads began receiving thousands of online orders for their chocolate. People across all of Canada were now buying their delicious Syrian chocolate. It got so busy for them that they even had to shut down the shop and stop taking local customers. They immediately had to hire 10 employees to package the chocolate for their booming online business. Now, their plan is to hire other Syrian families across Canada to help with the distribution.

The Hadhad family is a perfect example of how an immigrant family is able to make a huge difference in Canada and build a life that wasn't available to them in their homeland. What started as a tragedy for the Hadhad family, in being forced out of Syria and living in limbo, not sure what would happen, turned out to be the best opportunity for them.

The Hadhad family became Canada's new favourite chocolate company in just a few years and they have carved the path of hope for future immigrants to start their own business ventures in Canada. The Hadhad family has even become an international treasure. They went on to meet Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who spoke highly of them at the United Nations to show the entire world what is possible as an immigrant to Canada.

The Opportunity Is Now...

Both Saad Khan and the Hadhad family are perfect examples of what kind of life an immigrant to Canada can achieve through entrepreneurship. You may be thinking, well they are lucky, or

they are naturally talented, but that's not what the statistics are showing. Statistics Canada has proven through their studies that immigrants who start businesses in Canada have a much higher success rate than other countries. They also prove that immigrants have better odds than native Canadians. The opportunities here are made available not only through various support and employment organizations for small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs but also in the local communities that surround the immigrants.

So if you're thinking about starting your own business as an immigrant in Canada, you know that there is no better time to venture into entrepreneurship than now. Best of all, you can rest easy knowing that the odds are for you.