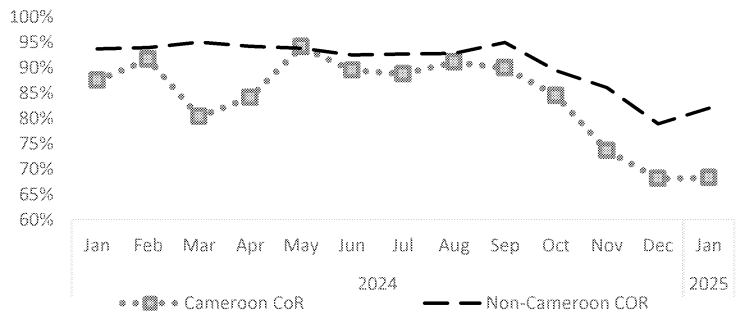


OPPB-DART has observed a significant reduction in the approval rates for FSW applications that have been finalized in recent months. As about 70% of Rest of Canada 2025 Francophone admissions need to come from FSW in order to hit the 8.5% target. This observed reduction is putting the objective at risk should it continue. As of February 4<sup>th</sup>, the Minister has still not signed the memo on CBS Categories and targets. Until the Minister does so, Department is not able to run French-proficiency Express Entry rounds (last round was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>). Once given the approval to run new rounds, increased round sizes will be needed to compensate for the delay and expected lower approval rate.

## Key Findings

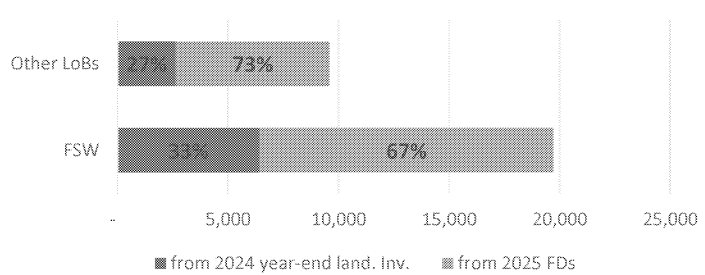
- **FSW Approval rates** dropped from 92-94% in Jan-Sep 2024, to as low as 74-75% in the past two months. For applicants from Cameroon, the approval rate has dropped by 22% since September 2024 (now at 68%). IRCC offices have identified a presence of fraudulent documents in this caseload, increasing volumes of verifications needed, and affecting processing times.



## 2025 intake will be key to meeting the Francophone target

- Only 33% of 2025 FSW Francophone admissions will be from clients currently in the landing inventory. The remaining 67% (13.6K) are expected to come from 2025 FDs. Of those, **75% come from 2025 intake, thus the further we delay the French-proficiency EE round, the higher the risk of missing the 8.5% Francophone admissions target**, due to longer landing lags from these clients mostly residing overseas.
- For other LOBs, 99% of admissions coming from 2025 FDs are files that we already have in the processing inventory.

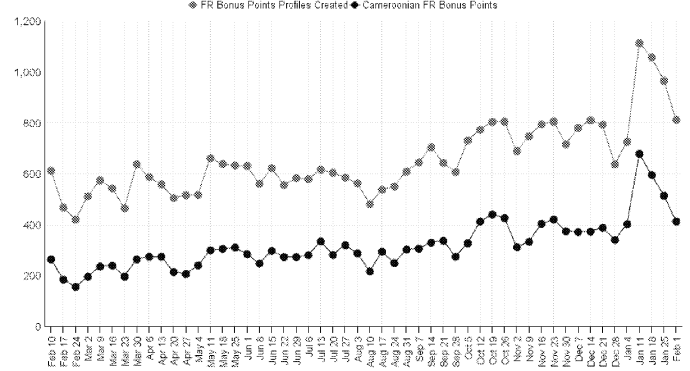
Composition of 2025 RoC Franco admissions



## Top Source Country: Cameroon

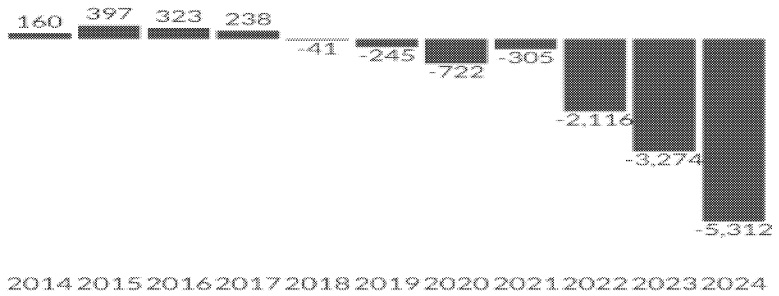
- **Cameroon is the largest source Country for francophone admissions** by far (52% of all FSW and CEC francophone admissions in 2024)
- There has been a recent increase in EE Profile Creation from Cameroon residents. This trend will be monitored going forward.
- Cameroon residents account for only 3.5% of the total EE pool, but they account for 50% of the candidates with French bonus points. Given the need to invite more francophones to meet the 8.5% target, Cameroonians are over-represented in ITAs relative to their composition in the pool.

Profile Creations with Franchi Bonus Points by Week



## Many Francophones intended to be destined outside Quebec are ultimately moving to Quebec

- IRCC continues inviting a high number of francophones out of the EE Pool to meet the 8.5% target, for which the goal is to strengthen francophone minority communities **outside Quebec**. However, in recent years we notice a significant increase in secondary migration.
- The migration of francophones from the Rest of Canada to Quebec is 5.3K clients thus far for 2024 admissions, compared to 3.3K in 2023.
- **26% of FSW admissions and 22% of Cameroonian admissions between 2023 and 2024 had a PR Card address in QC**



## Considerations and Recommendations

- To hit the RoC francophone admissions target IRCC must invite a significant number of francophones in EE rounds. Because of this, ITAs are not diversified and clients at lower CRS scores are selected: there is a high composition of Cameroonians with these rounds.
- We recommend that a French-proficiency round of 6.5K be performed as soon as the Minister signs the memo. Further delays in running these rounds will require further increases in round sizes. Uncertainties around approval rates will lead to uncertainty around Francophone target achievement. **s.21(1)(b)**

## Items for Discussion