

**Canada**



# Building Social Cohesion: What do Canadians have to say?

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# The Environics Institute



# Environics Institute for Survey Research



- Non-profit research institute founded in 2006
- Mission: To promote relevant and original public opinion and social research on important issues of public policy and social change.
- Research focuses on Canada – using social science-based evidence to help organizations and citizens better understand Canada and Canadians - especially those we rarely, if ever, meet.
- Wholly separate entity from the commercial Environics companies
- All research is publicly released and open source access

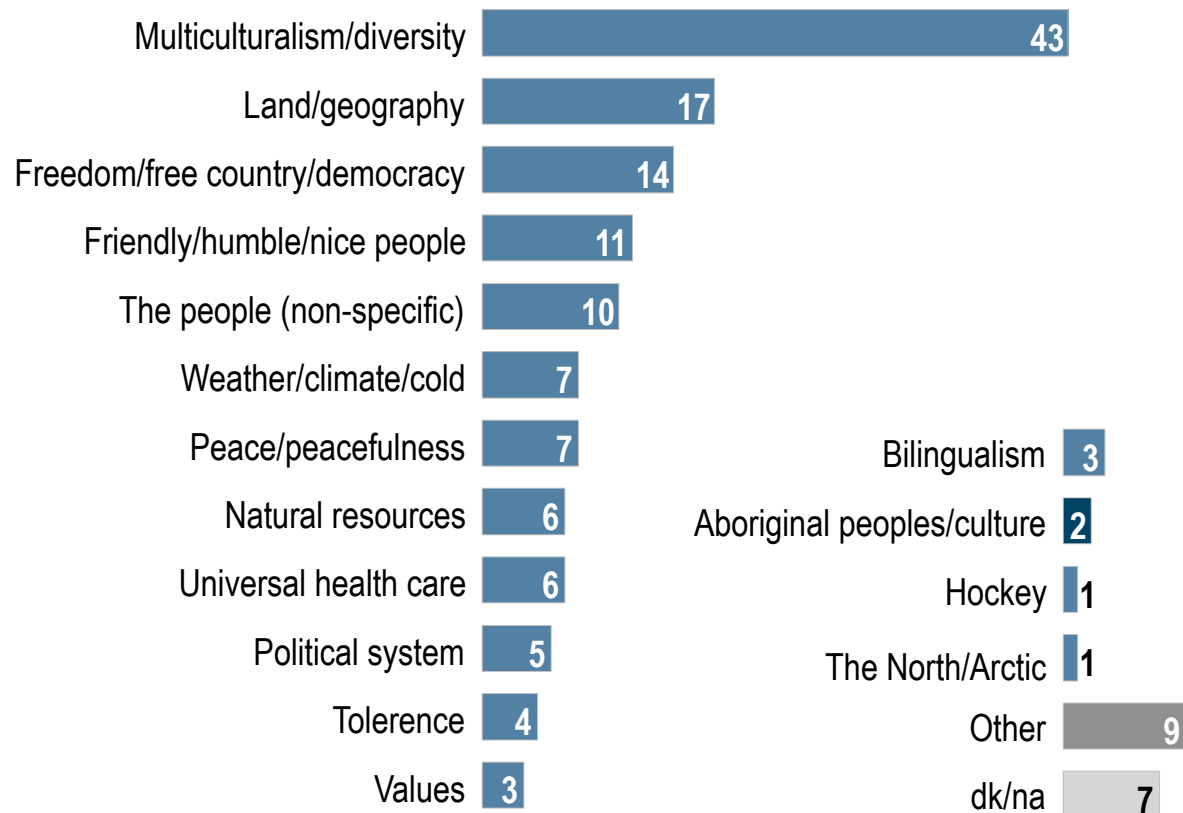
A large, red handprint is stamped on a light-colored, textured surface, possibly concrete or stone. The handprint is oriented with the fingers pointing towards the upper right. The red paint is thick and slightly uneven, with some areas appearing more saturated than others. The background surface has a fine, granular texture and some faint, darker lines or scratches.

**So what do Canadians have to say?**

# Multiculturalism and the accommodation of diversity are what Canadians think makes Canada unique

What makes Canada unique?

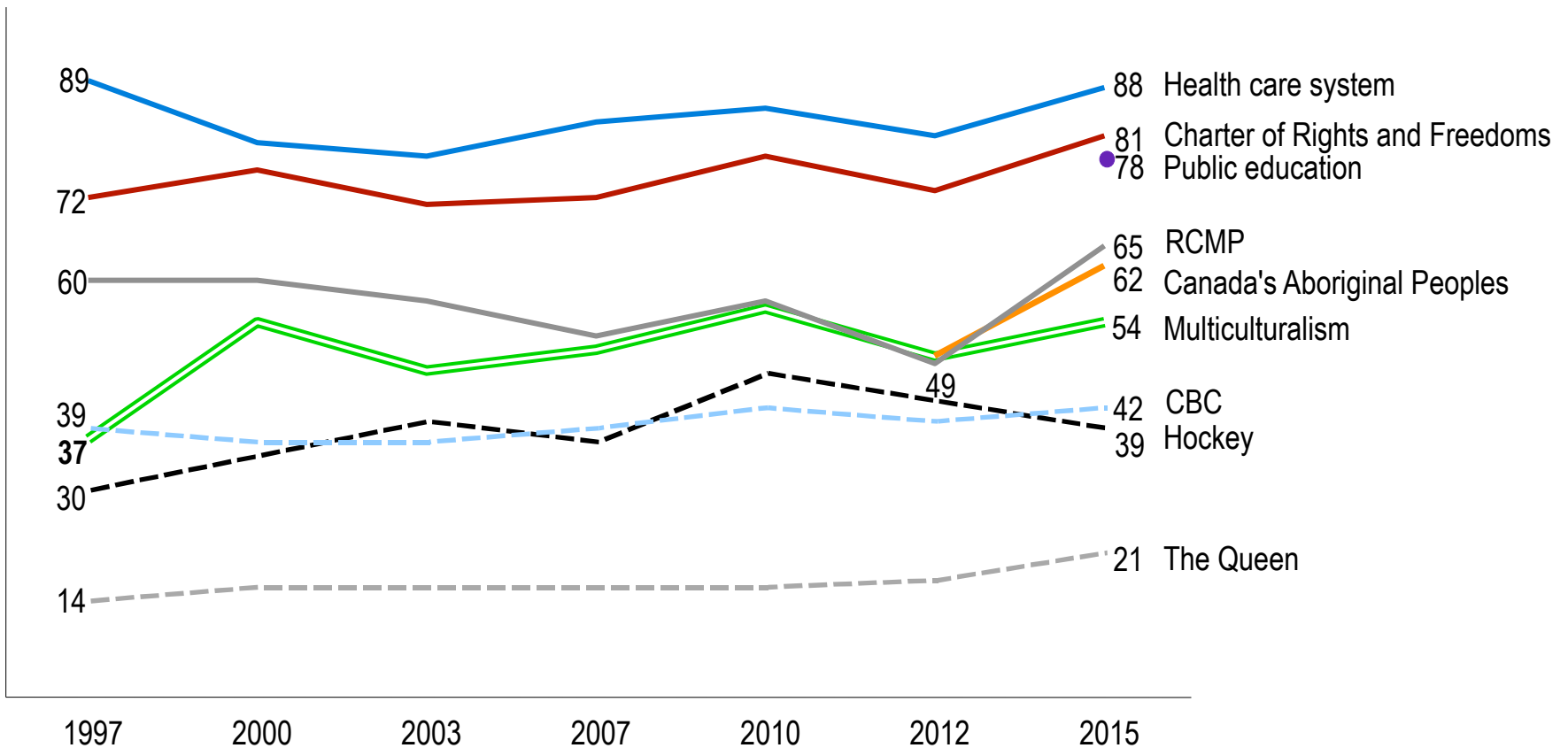
Unprompted mentions



# Health care, the Charter and public education top the list of the important symbols of Canadian identity, but our Aboriginal peoples and multiculturalism also get majority support

Very or somewhat important symbols of the Canadian identity

1997 - 2015

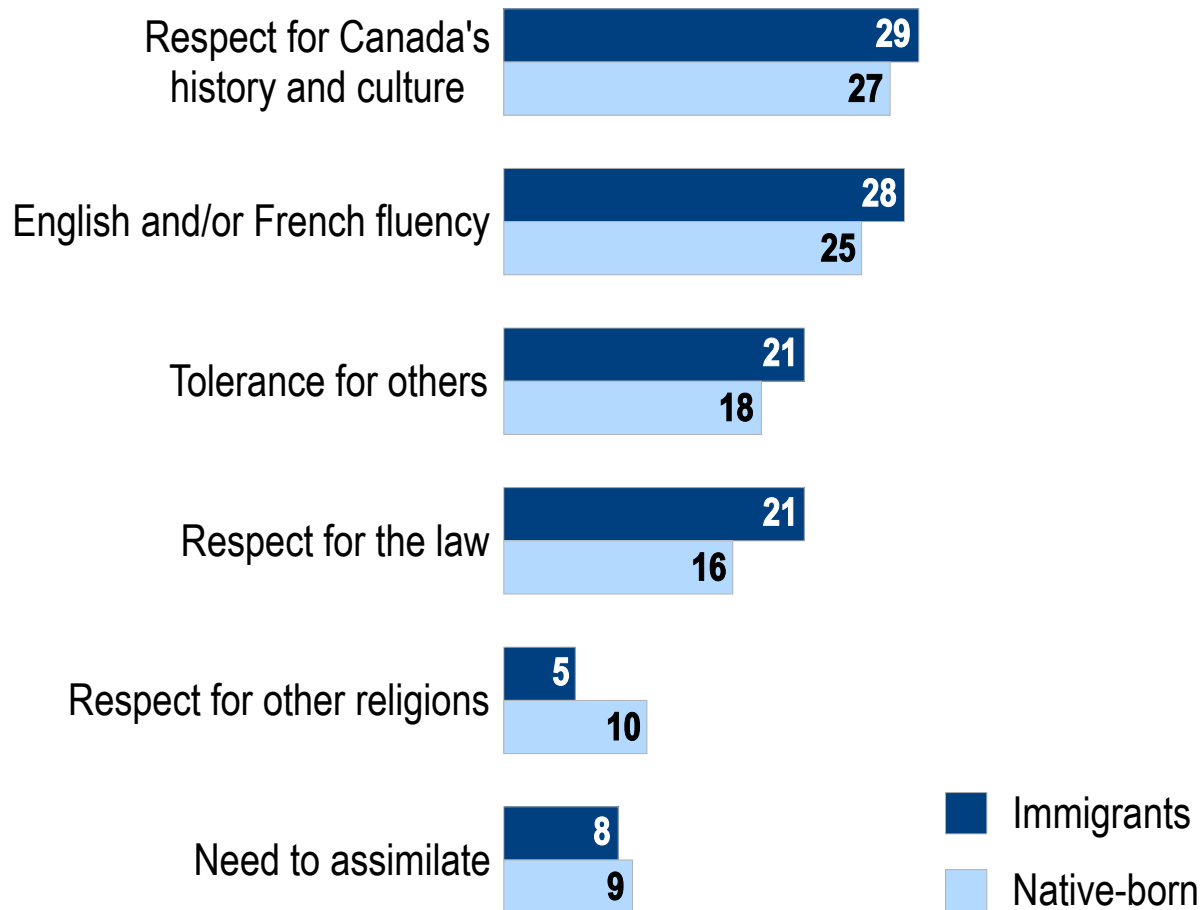


# Citizenship and Identity

Native-born Canadians and immigrants agree that respect for Canada's history and culture and fluency in our official languages are the most important values for immigrants to adopt...followed by tolerance and respect for the law

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2011 Top mentions (unprompted) By immigrants and native-born

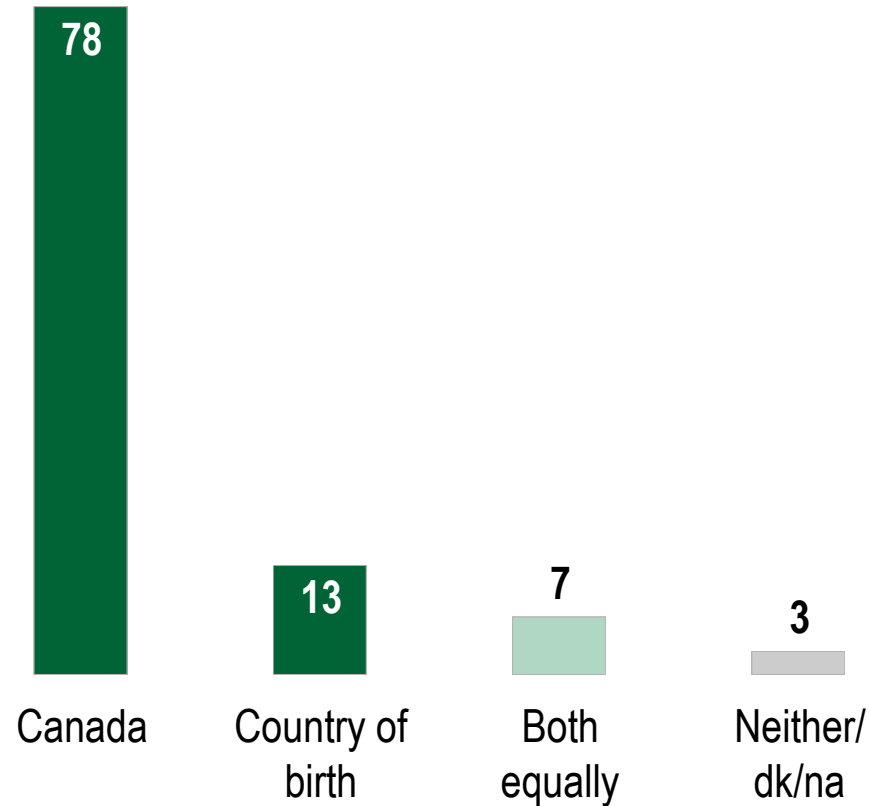




# Immigrants overwhelmingly identify most with Canada, not their country of birth

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2012 Canadians born abroad

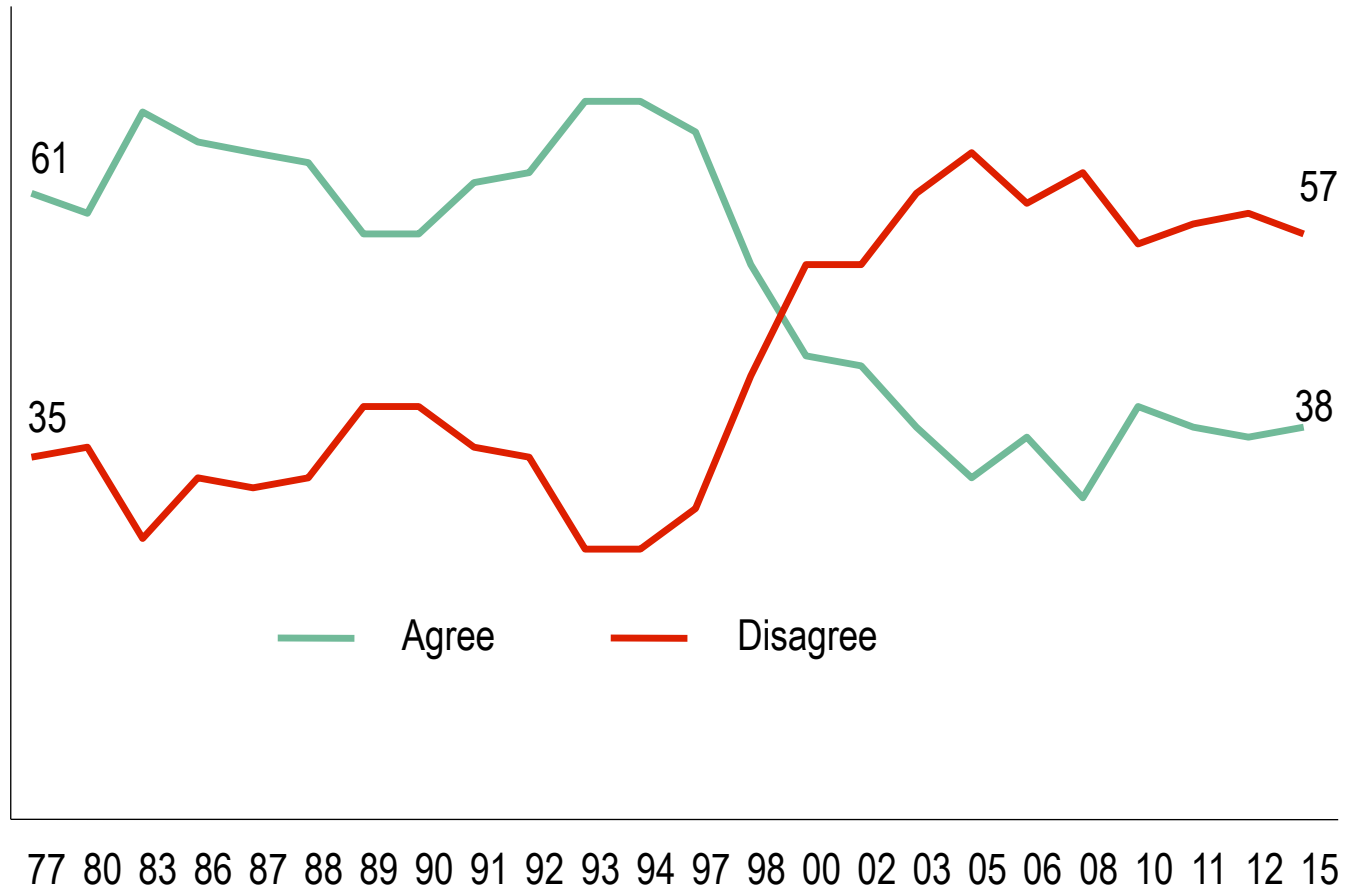


Acceptance of difference and diversity

# Majority continues to disagree that there is too much immigration despite anxieties about the economy and terrorism

Immigrant levels are too high

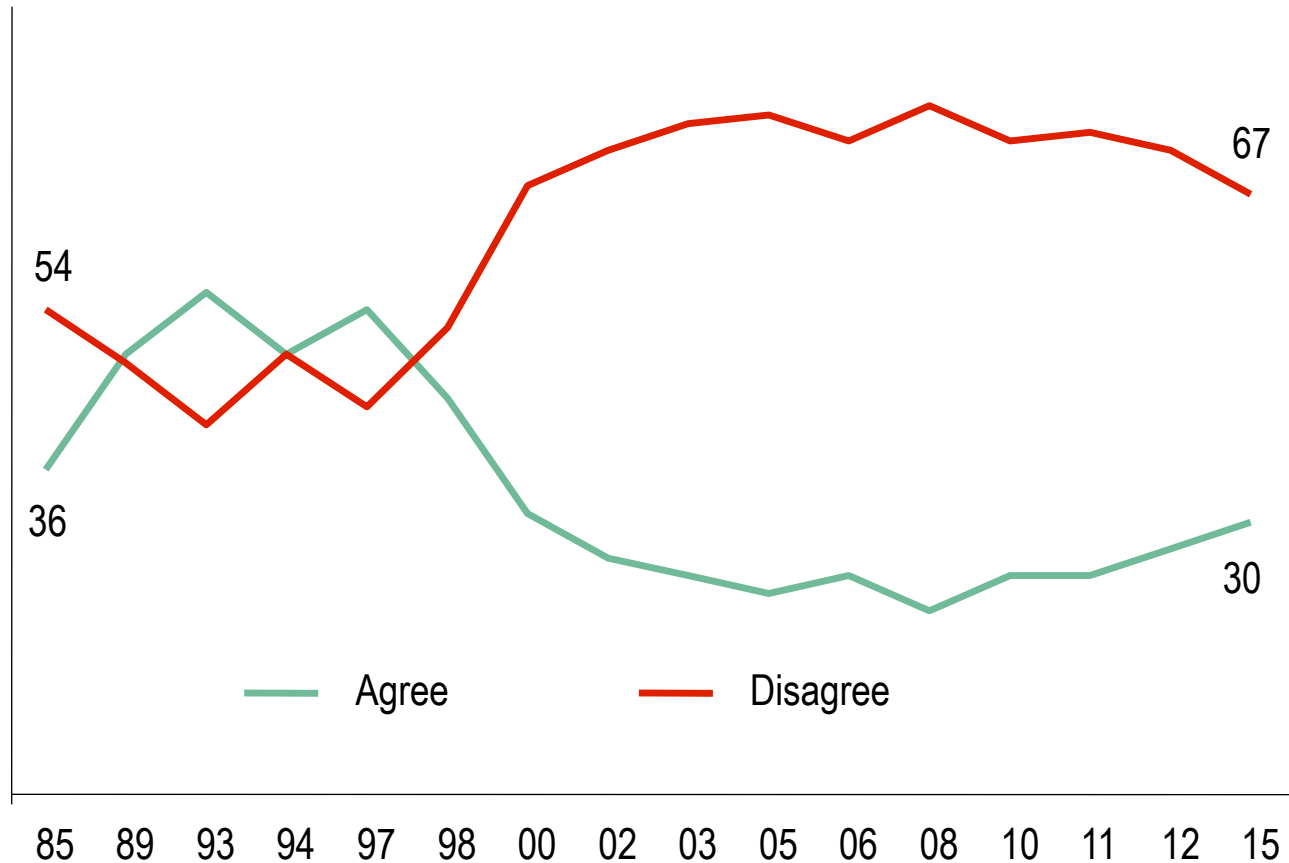
1977 - 2015



# Strong majority consistently reject the idea that immigrants take away jobs from other Canadians

Immigrants take away Canadian jobs

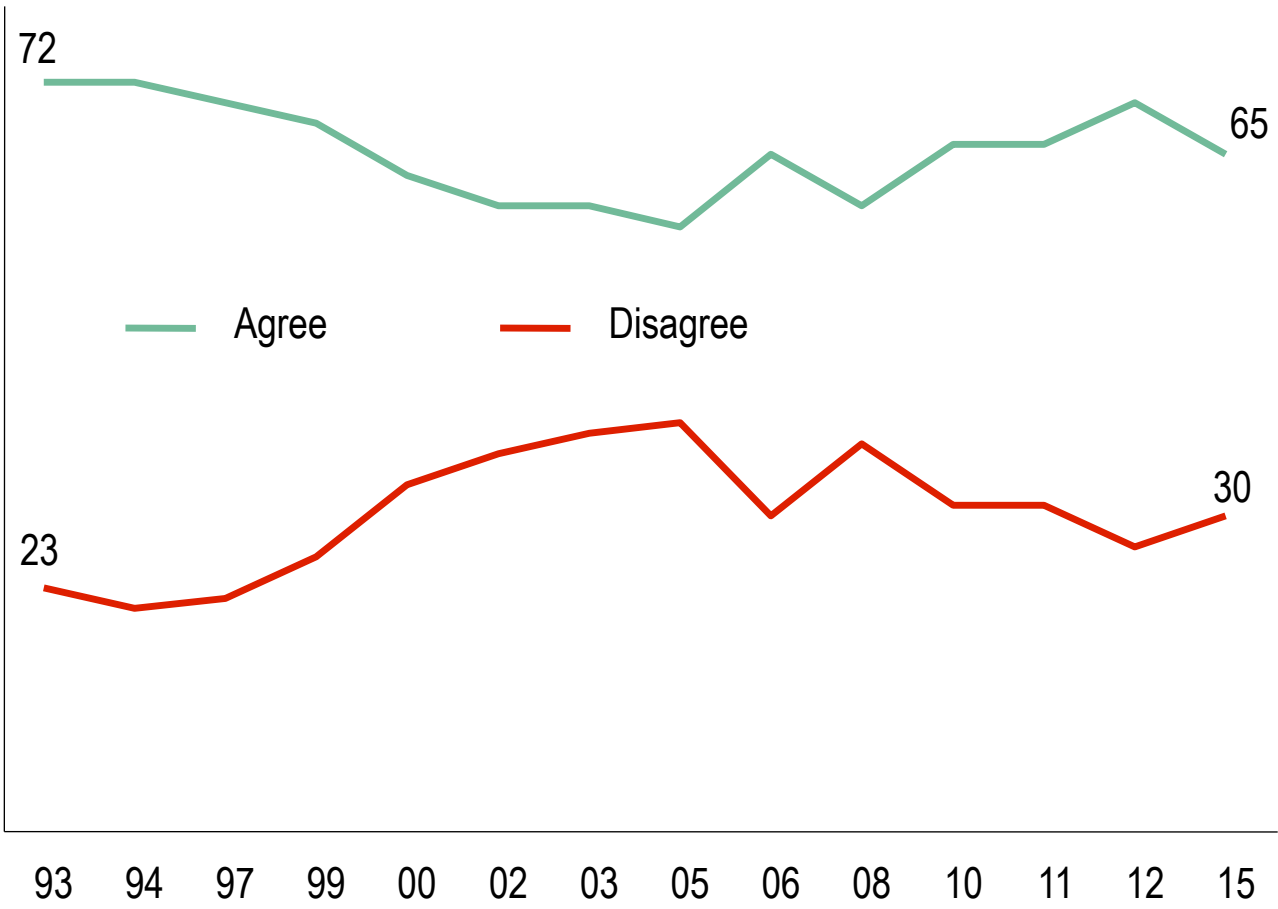
1985 - 2015



# However, two thirds continue to believe that too many immigrants do not adopt Canadian values

Too many immigrants do not adopt Canadian values

1993 - 2015



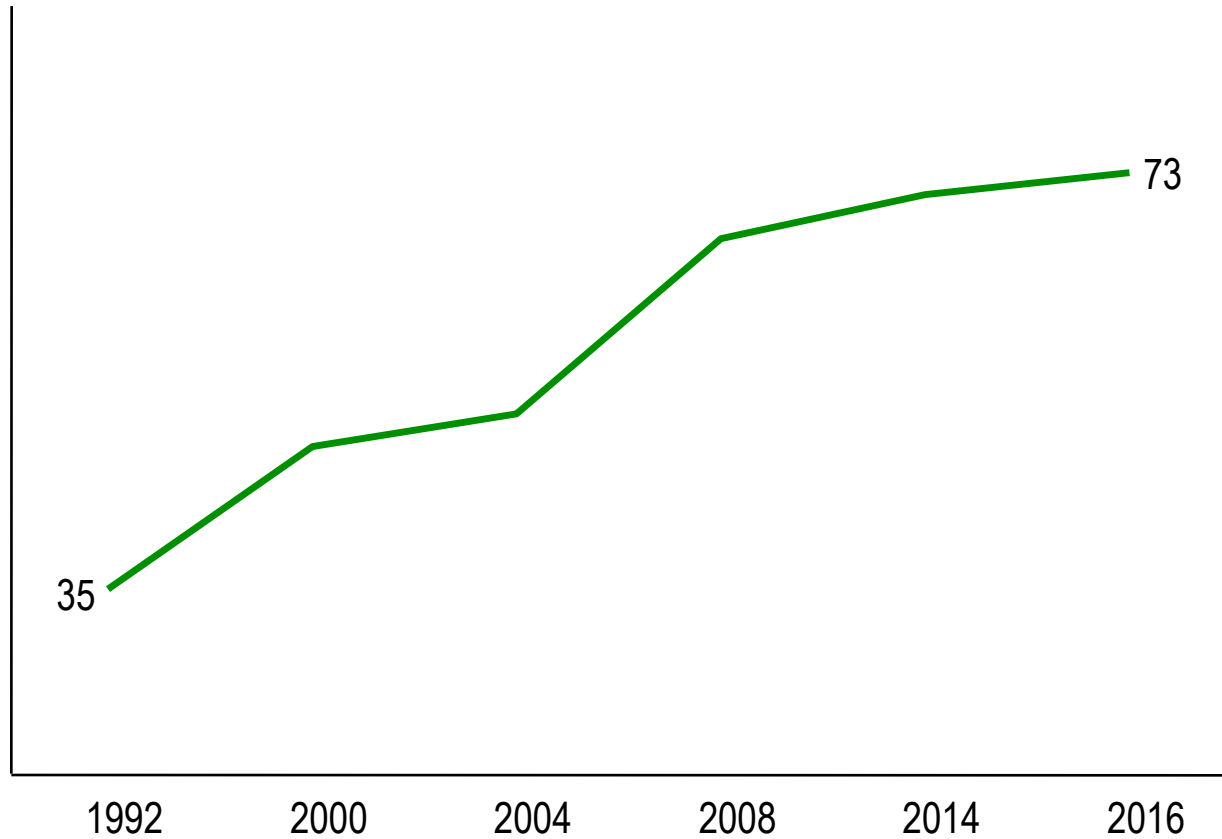
# The most remarkable change in Canadian social values over the past three decades is our attitude towards homosexuality

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Society should regard people of the same sex who live together as being the same as a married couple

Agree

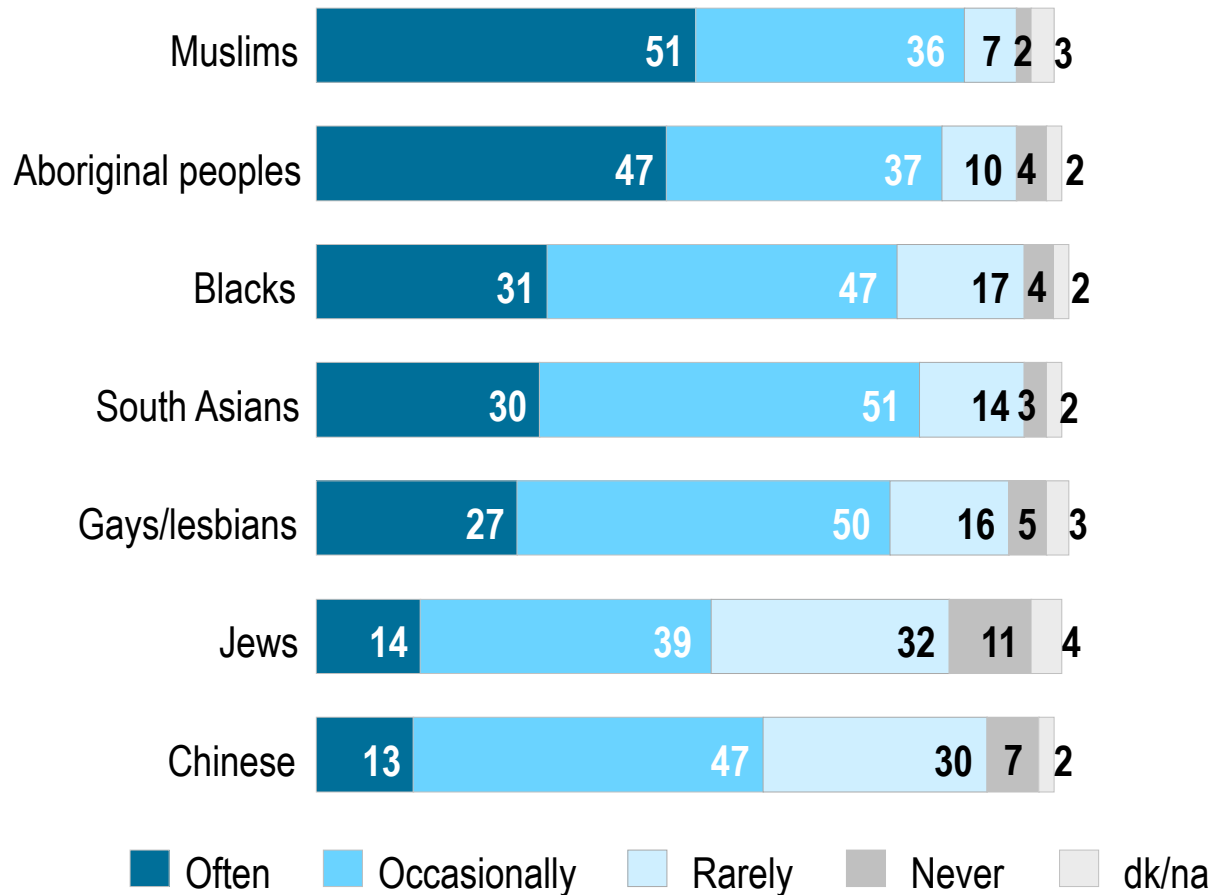
1992 - 2016



Public recognition of racism

# Muslims and Aboriginal peoples are the most likely to be seen as victims of discrimination

2015

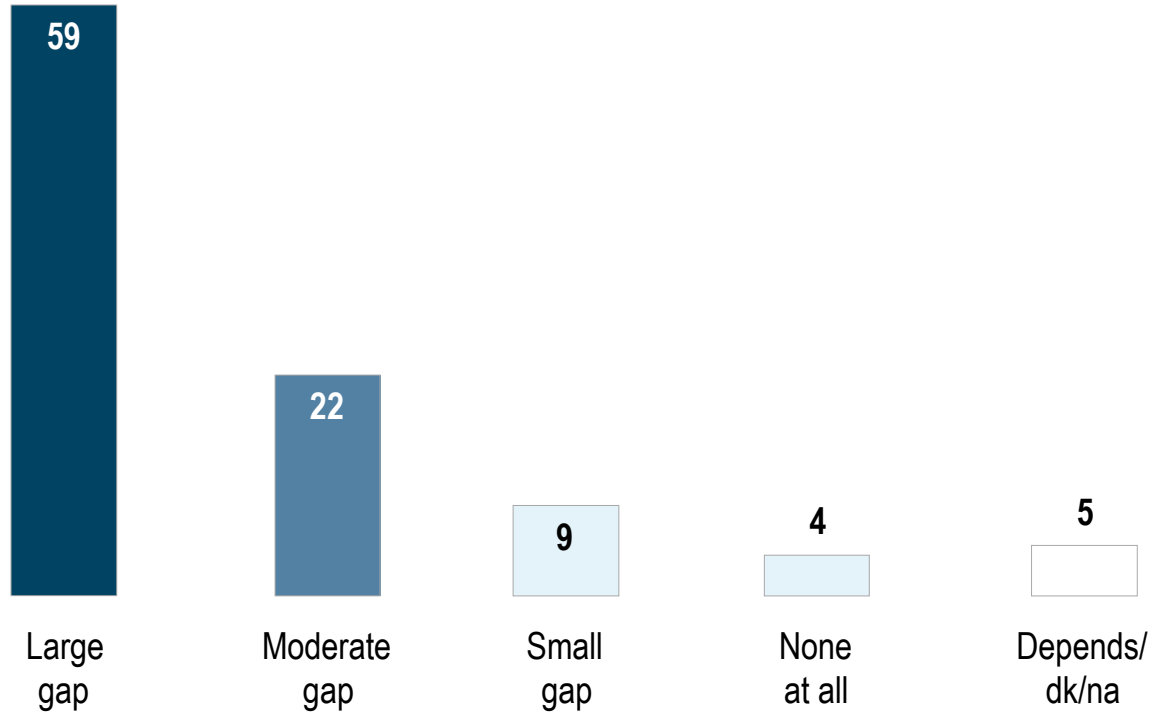




# The gap in standard of living between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people is seen as large

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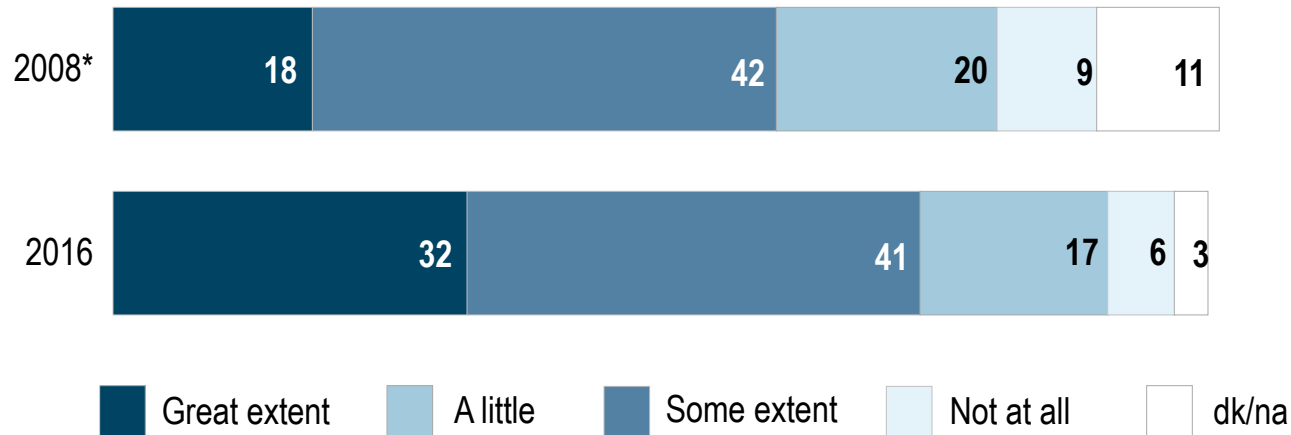
2016



# More Canadians are making the connection between residential schools and current challenges

Extent of connection between residential schools experience and current challenges facing Aboriginal communities

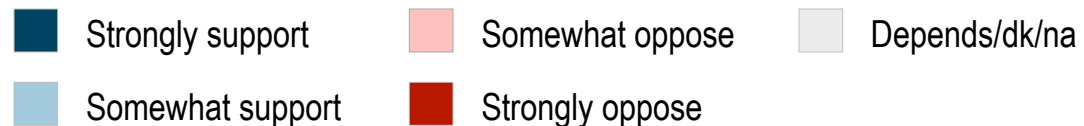
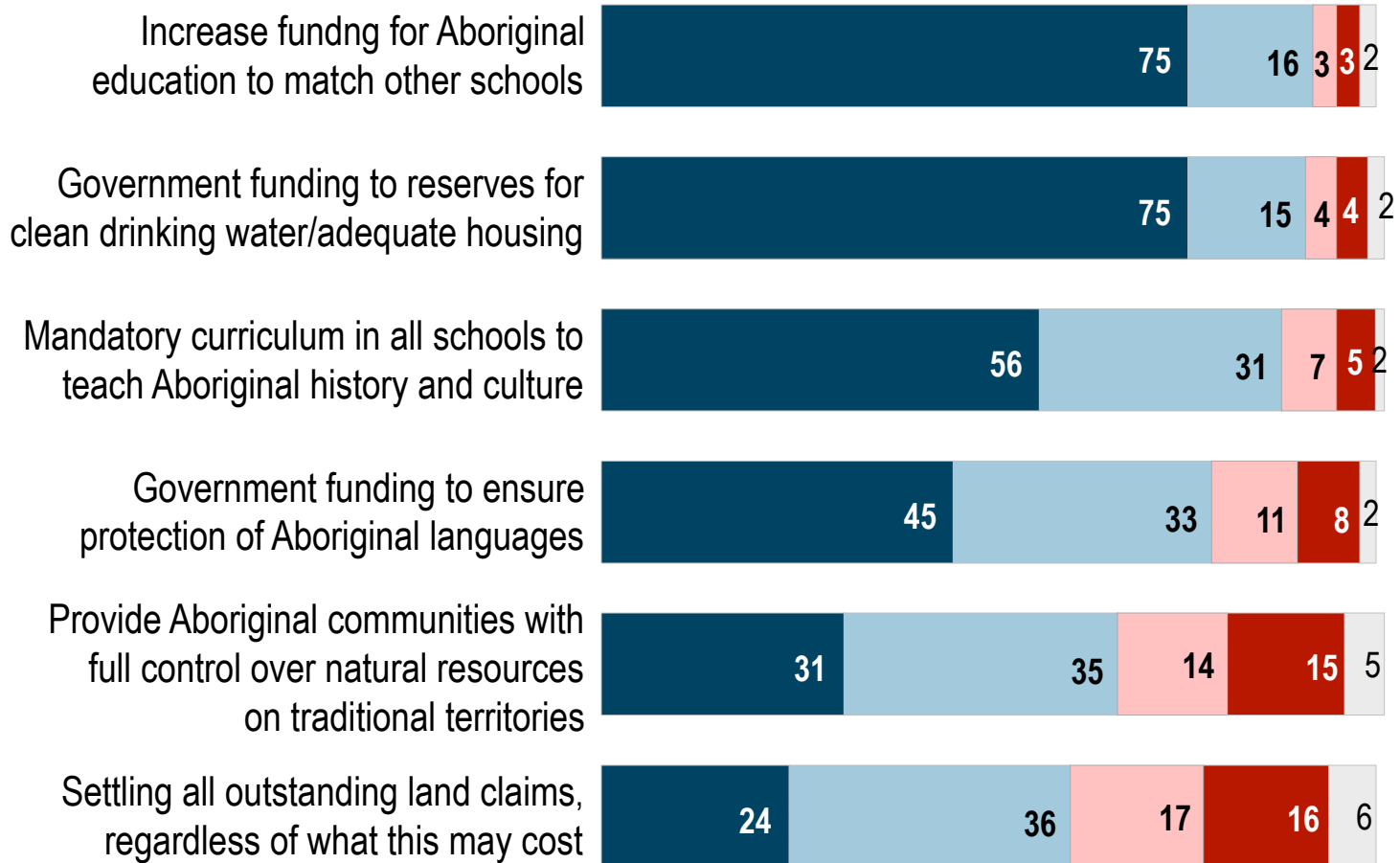
Those who have heard of residential schools



Source: 2008 National Benchmark Survey, IRSRC, 2008

# Better education and living conditions on reserve are top priorities

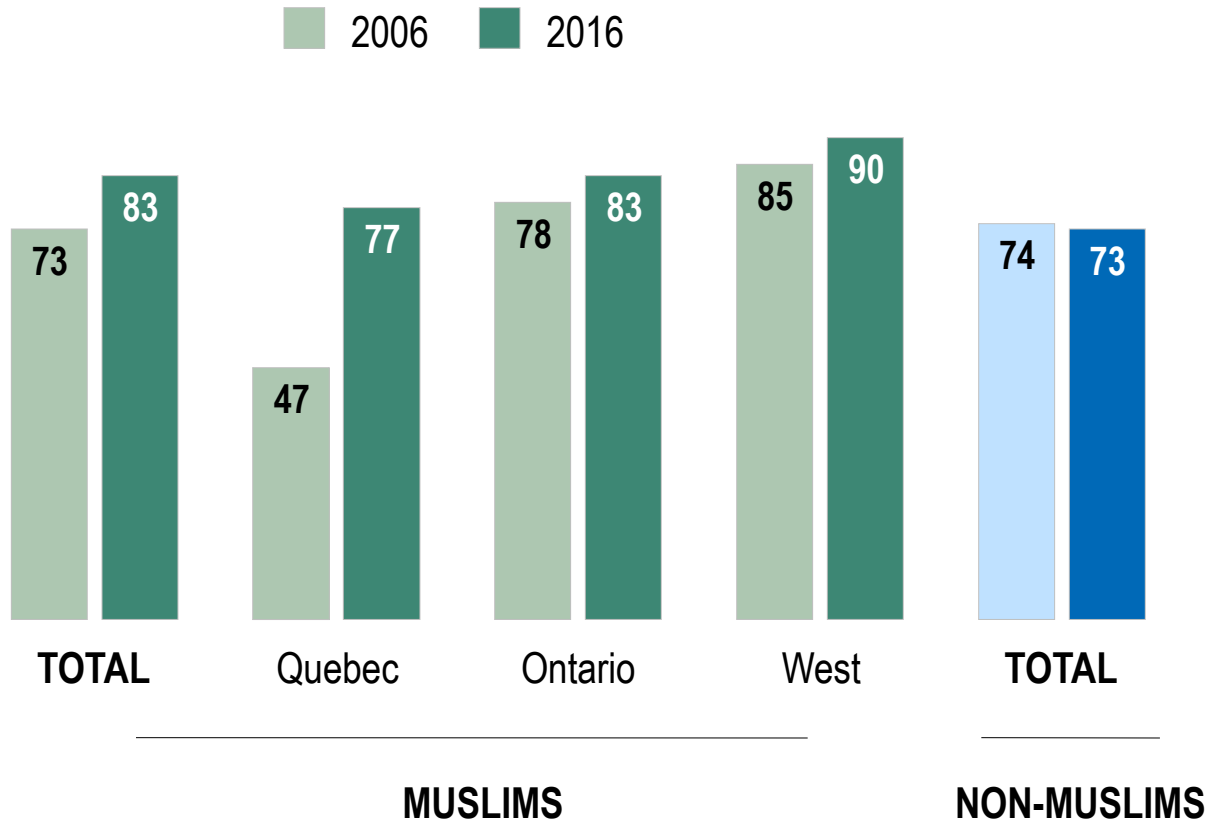
## Support for Aboriginal rights and reconciliation



# Being Muslim in Canada

# Muslim Canadians are increasingly proud to be Canadian, especially in Quebec, and are more proud to be Canadian than are other Canadians

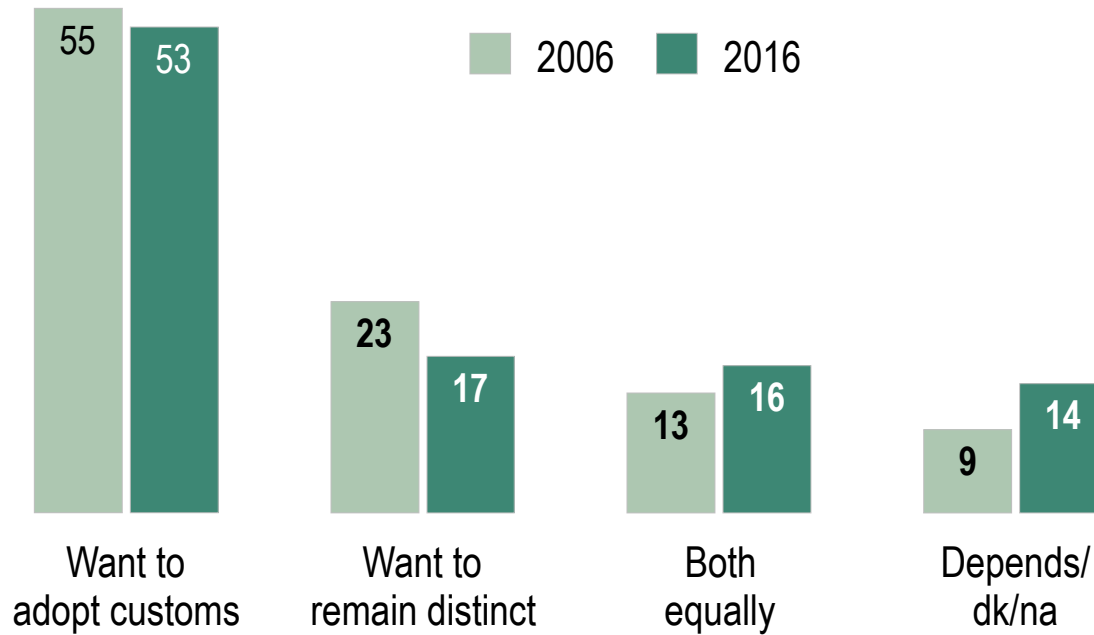
Pride in being Canadian



# Most Muslims think their co-religionists want to integrate rather than remain separate from Canadian society

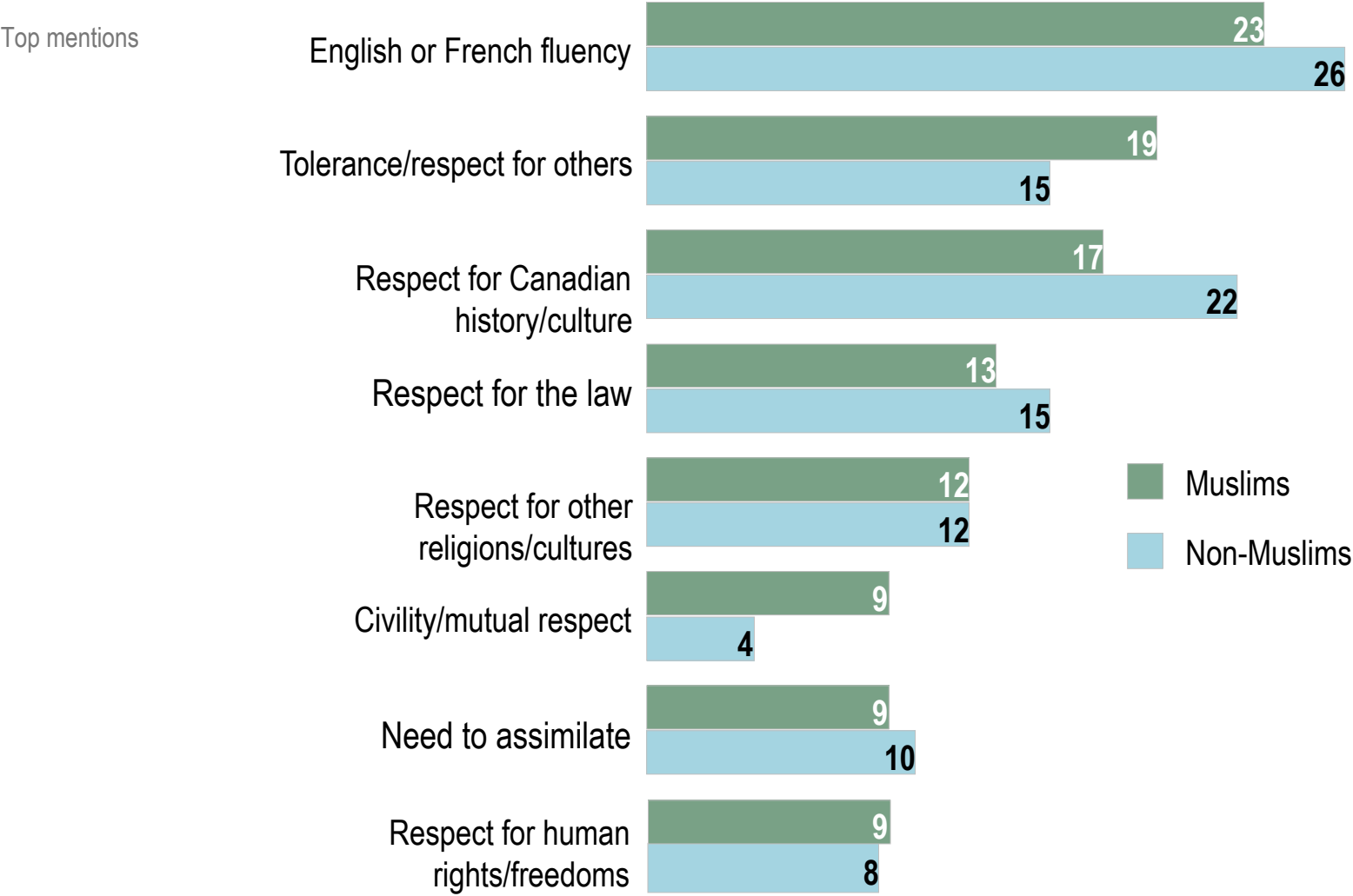
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Do Muslims want to adapt Canadian customs or remain distinct?



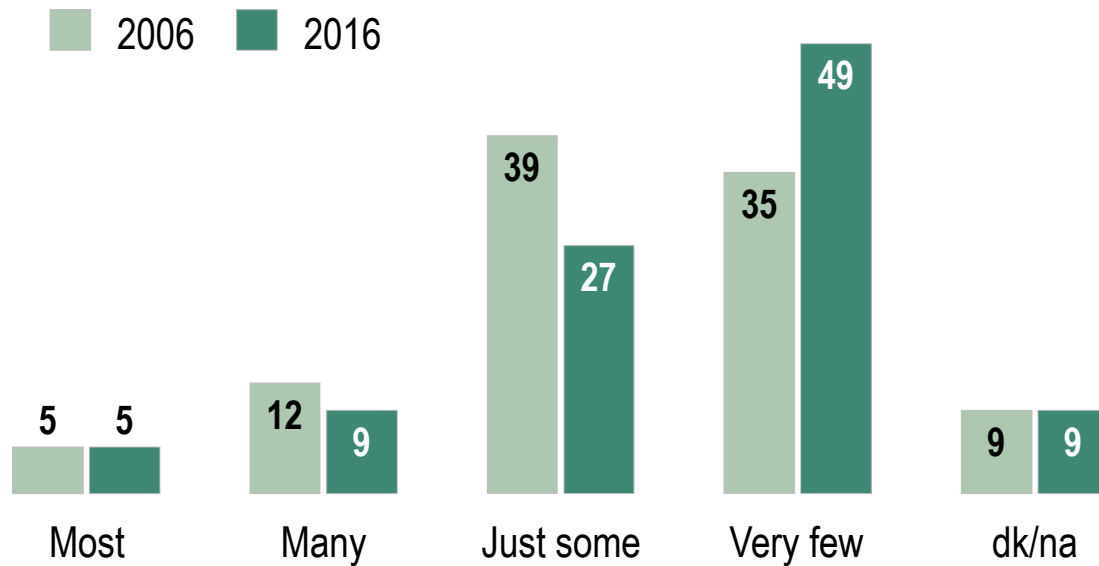
# Muslims and other Canadians agree on the values that immigrants should adopt to become good citizens

What values are most important for immigrants to adopt?



# Most Muslims think few other Canadians are hostile to Muslims...with a positive trend over the decade

Estimated number of Canadians hostile to Muslims

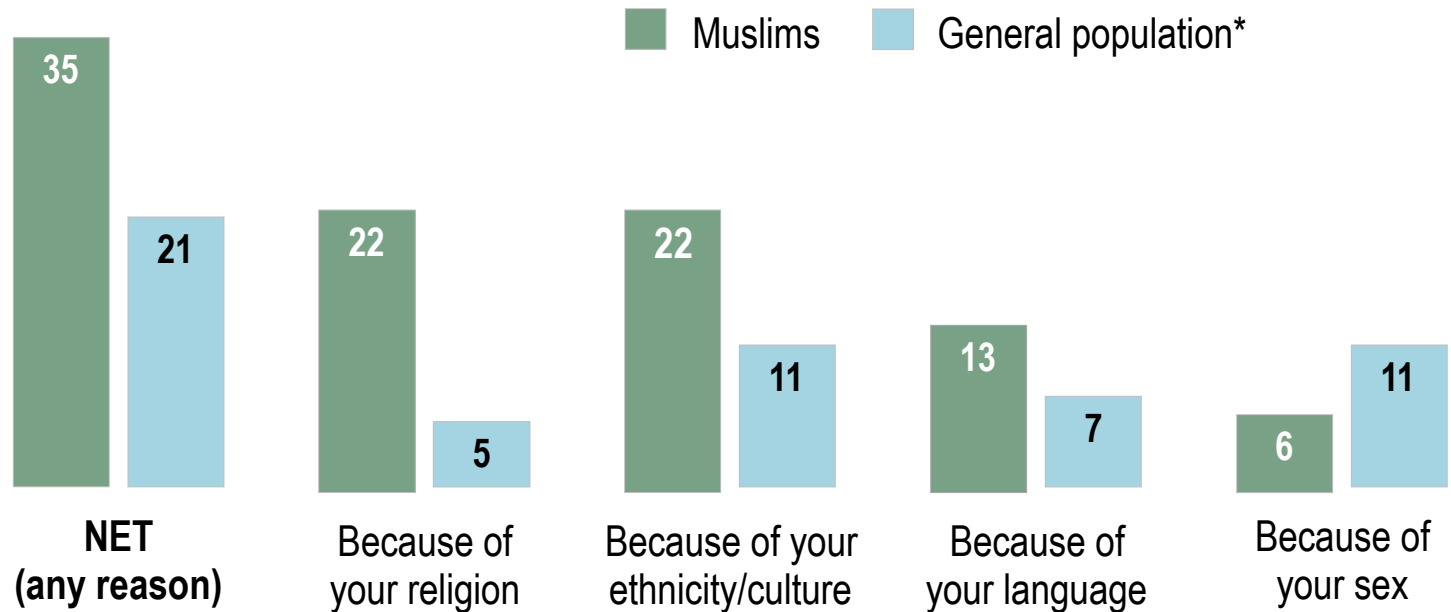




# A significant proportion have experienced discrimination...much worse than other Canadians

Experienced discrimination or unfair treatment by others in Canada

In past five years



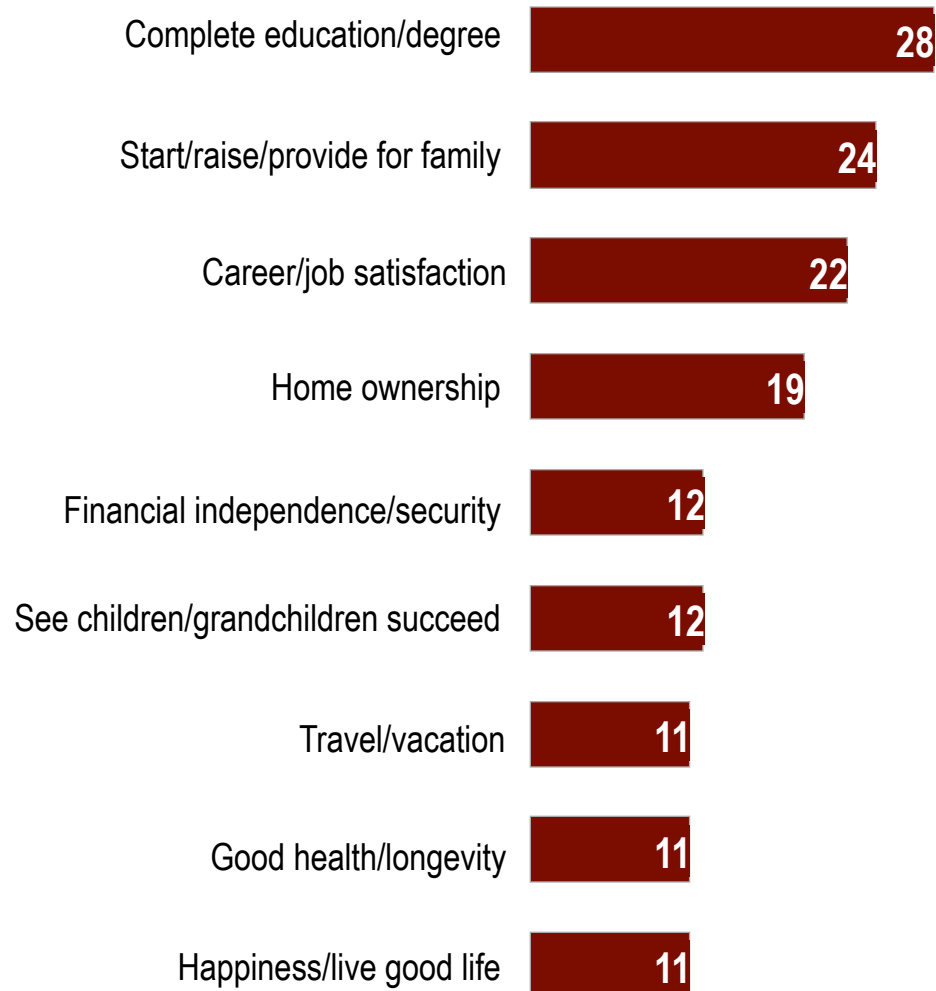
\* Source: Statistics Canada (2013 General Social Survey)

# Being an Urban Aboriginal Person

# First Nations, Métis and Inuit desire to be successful in mainstream ways.

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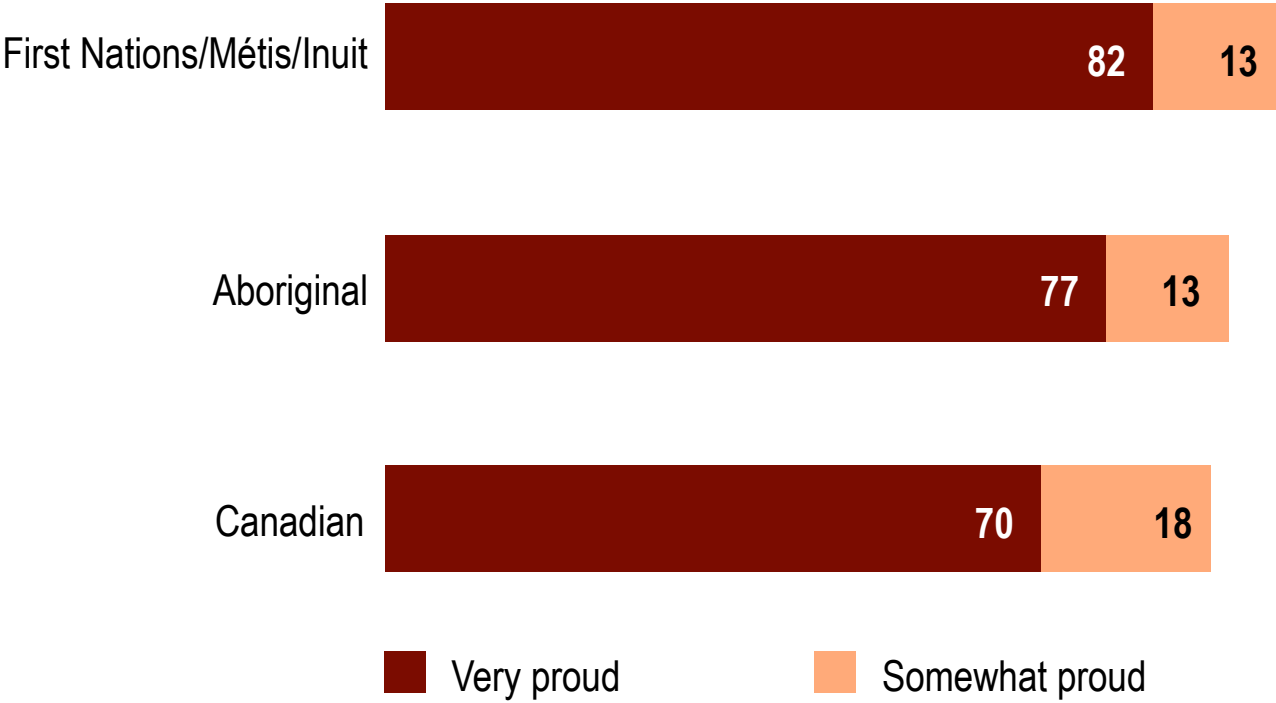
*What are the things you most want to achieve in your lifetime? (top mentions)*



# There is also strong indigenous pride...and pride in Canada.

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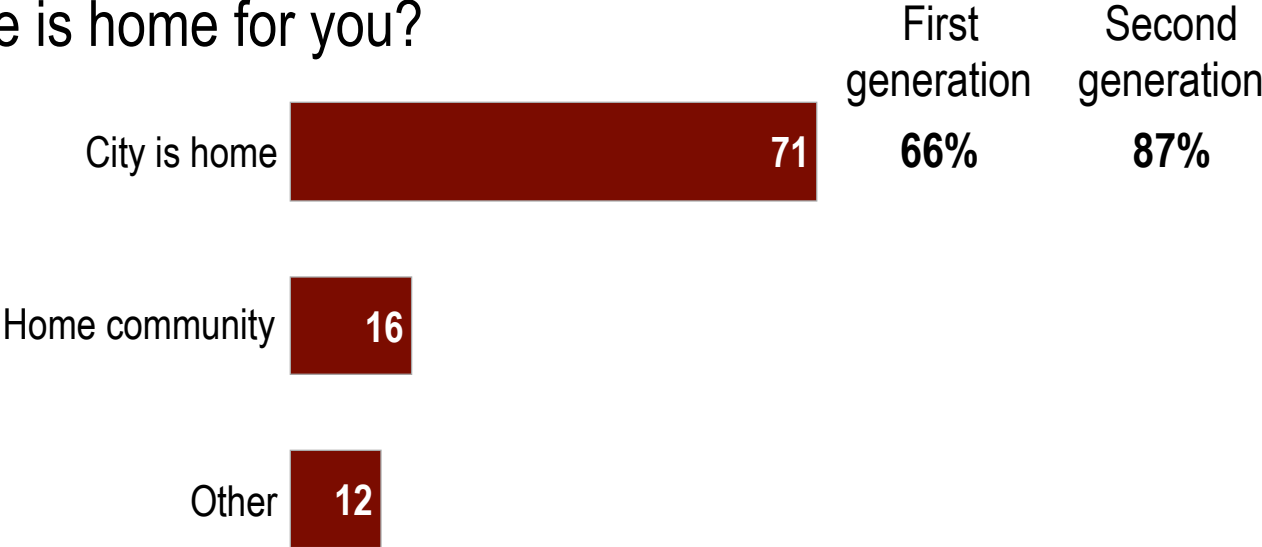
Would you say you are very, somewhat, not very or not at all proud to be...?



# Most feel their current city of residence is home...

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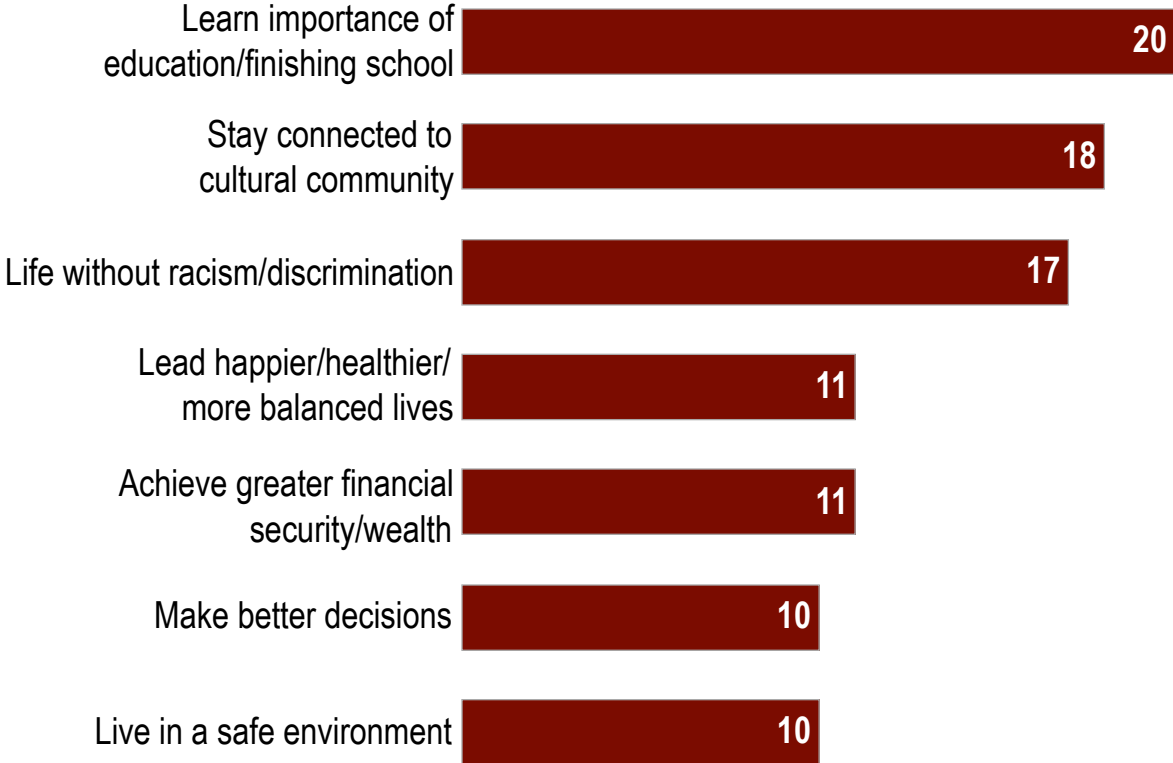
## Where is home for you?



# Education is their top priority for the next generation.

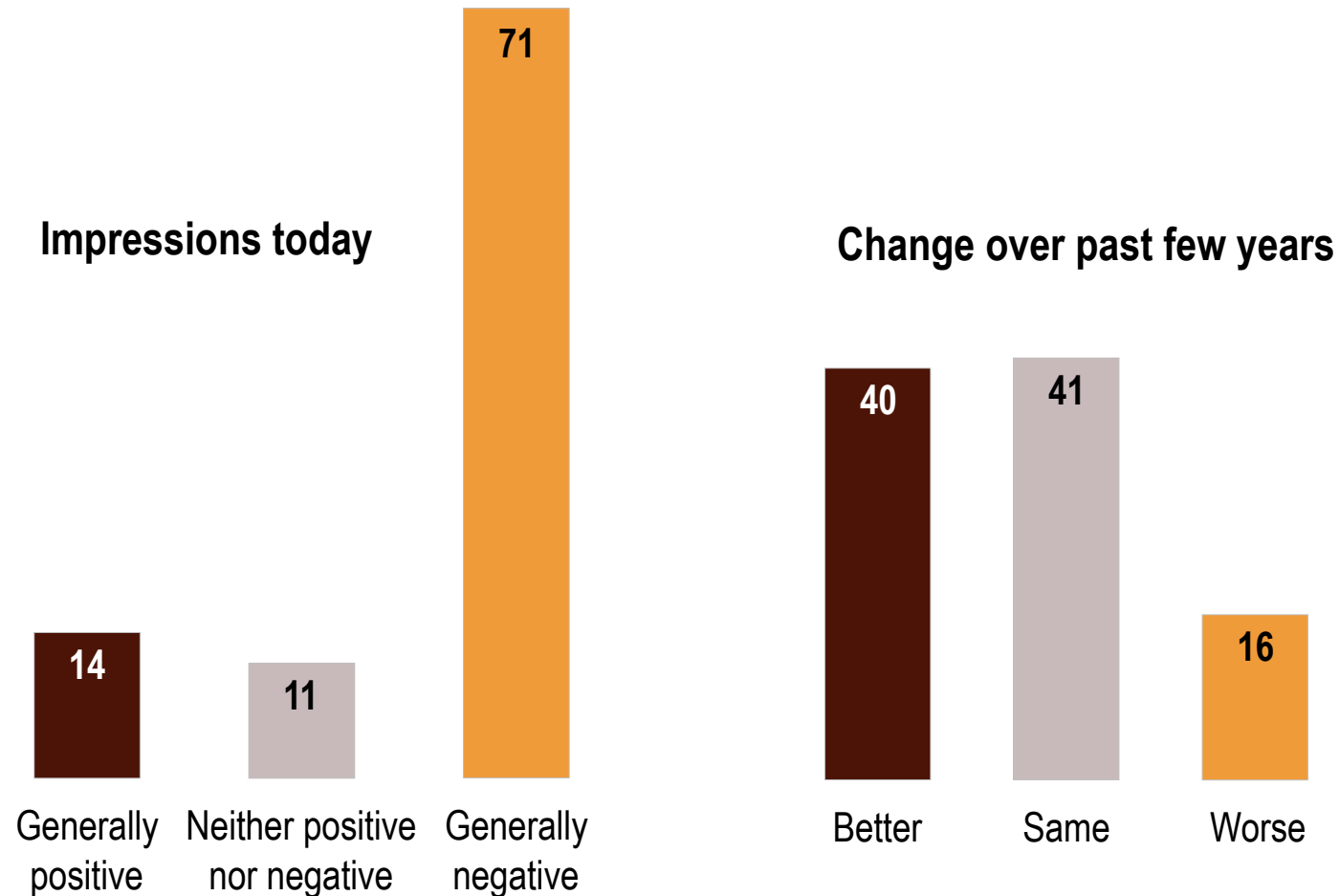
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Are there ways in which you hope your childrens' and grandchildrens' lives will be different from yours?



# Aboriginal Peoples believe they are seen negatively by non-Aboriginals

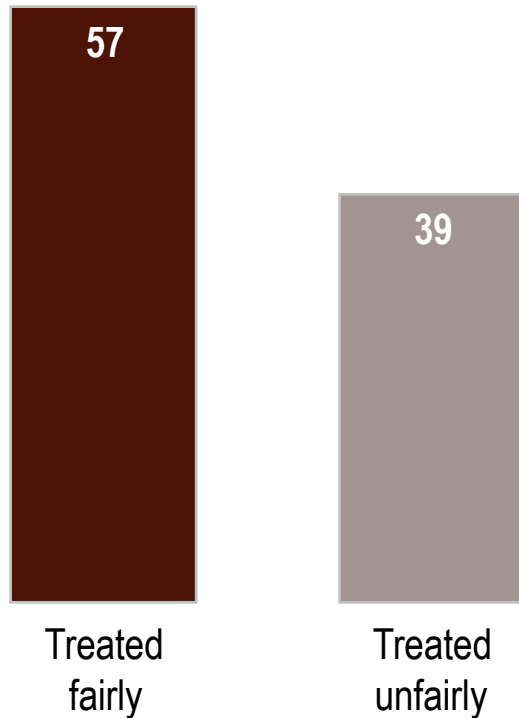
2009 – Urban Aboriginal Peoples



# ...with many feeling they have been treated unfairly by the country's justice system ...

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2009 – Urban Aboriginal Peoples



*Thinking now about your experiences with the justice system, would you say you were generally treated fairly or unfairly?\**

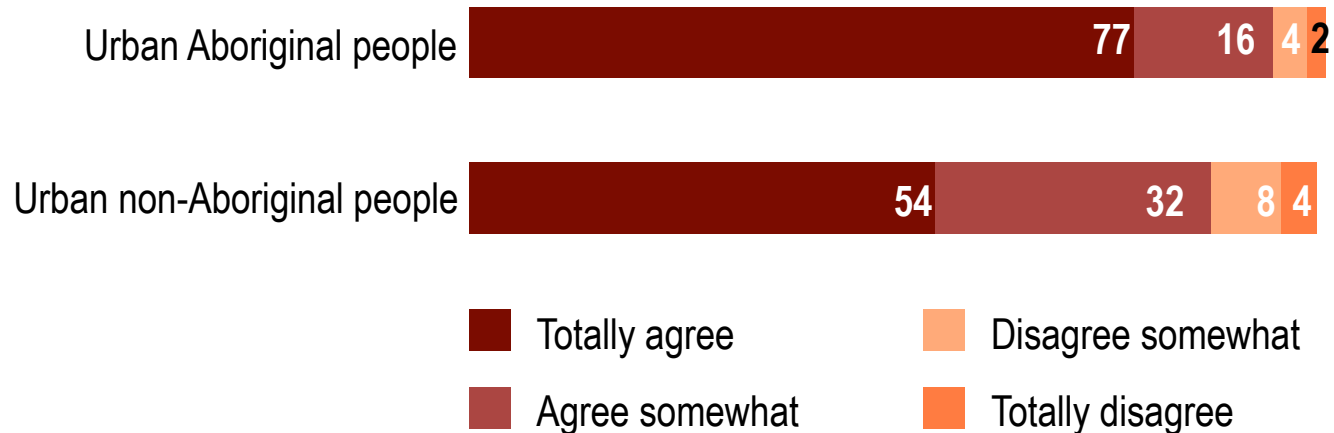
\* Of the 52% of the total who have had serious involvement in the justice system as witness or victim of a crime or arrested and/or charged



# Yet, urban Aboriginal people embrace pluralism...even more so than non-Aboriginal Canadians

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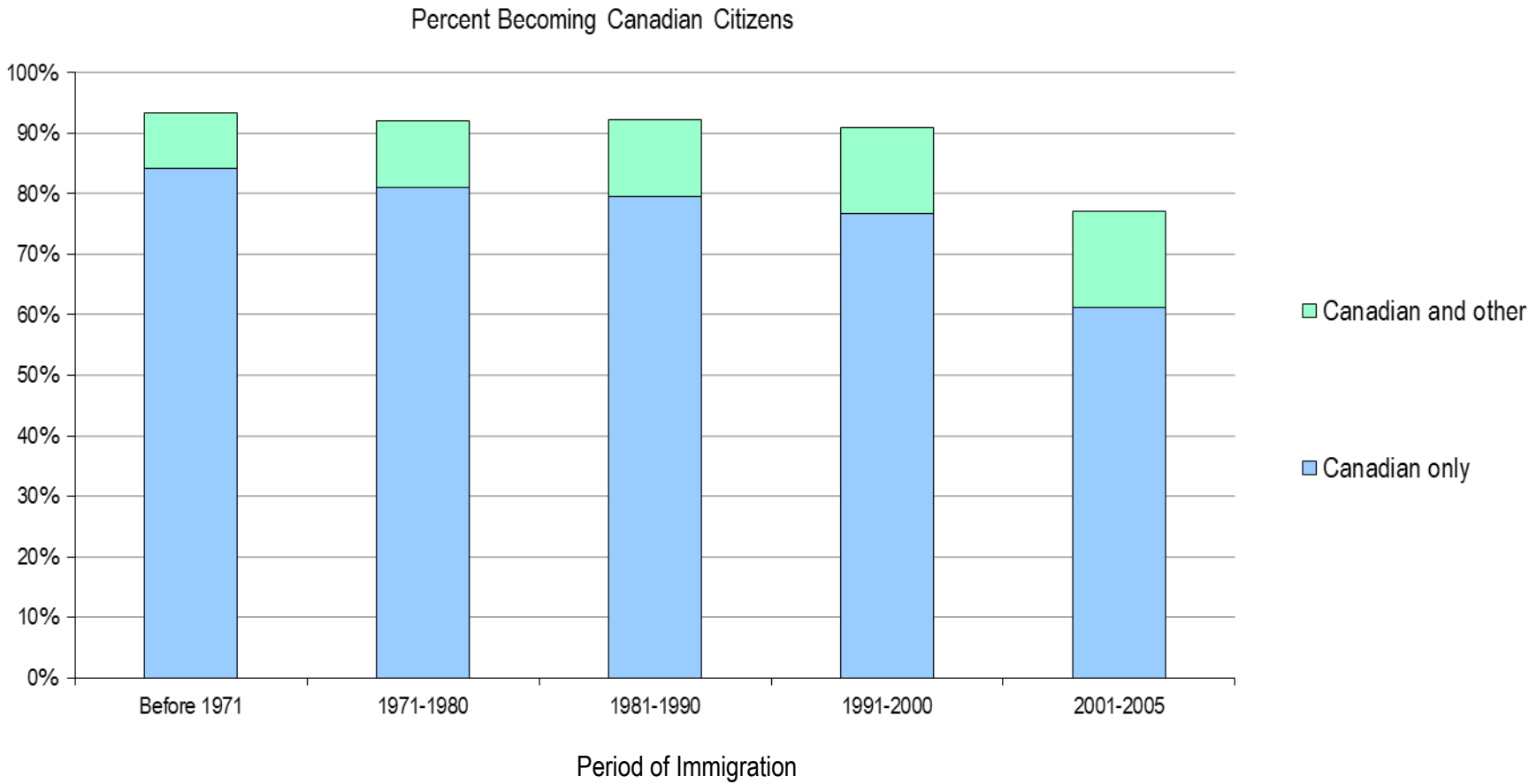
“There is room for a variety of languages and cultures in this country”



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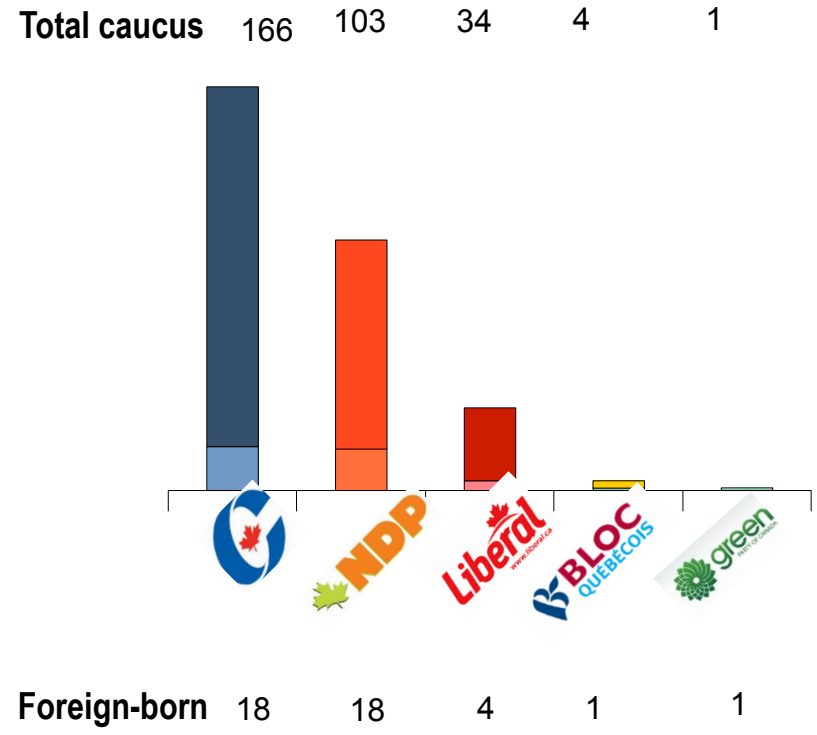
# Political representation

# Most immigrants become Canadian citizens

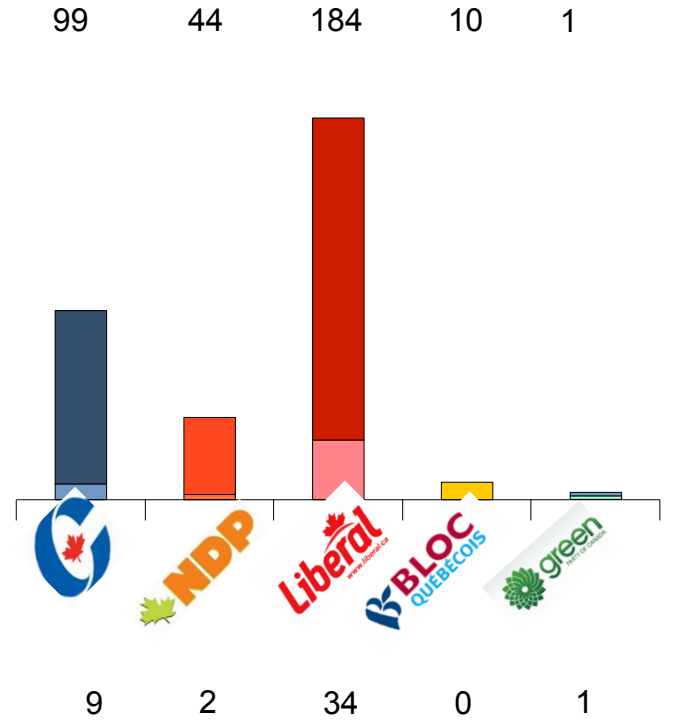


# In 2015, Canadians elected 46 foreign-born MPs, up from 42 in 2011

2011

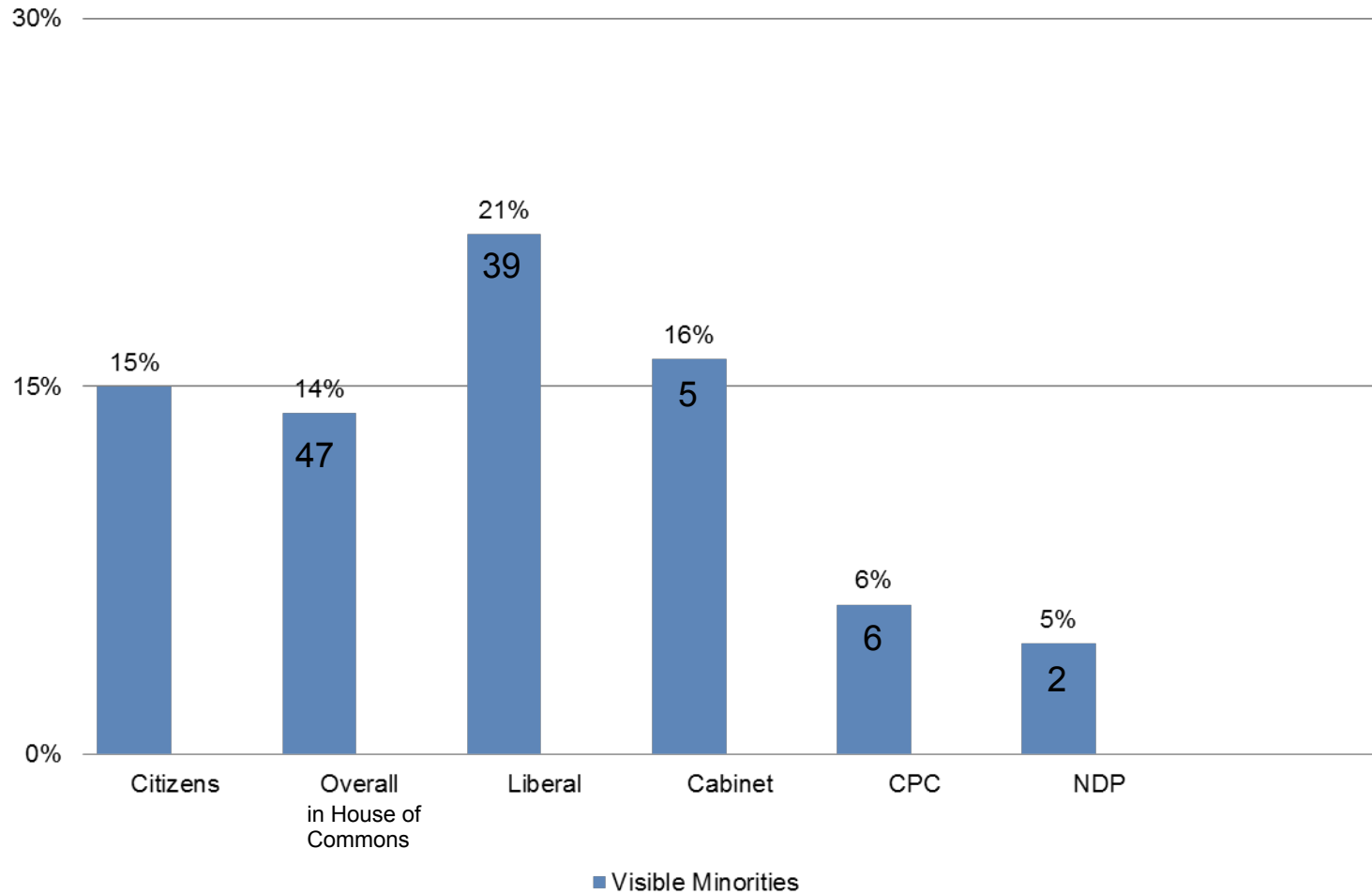


2015



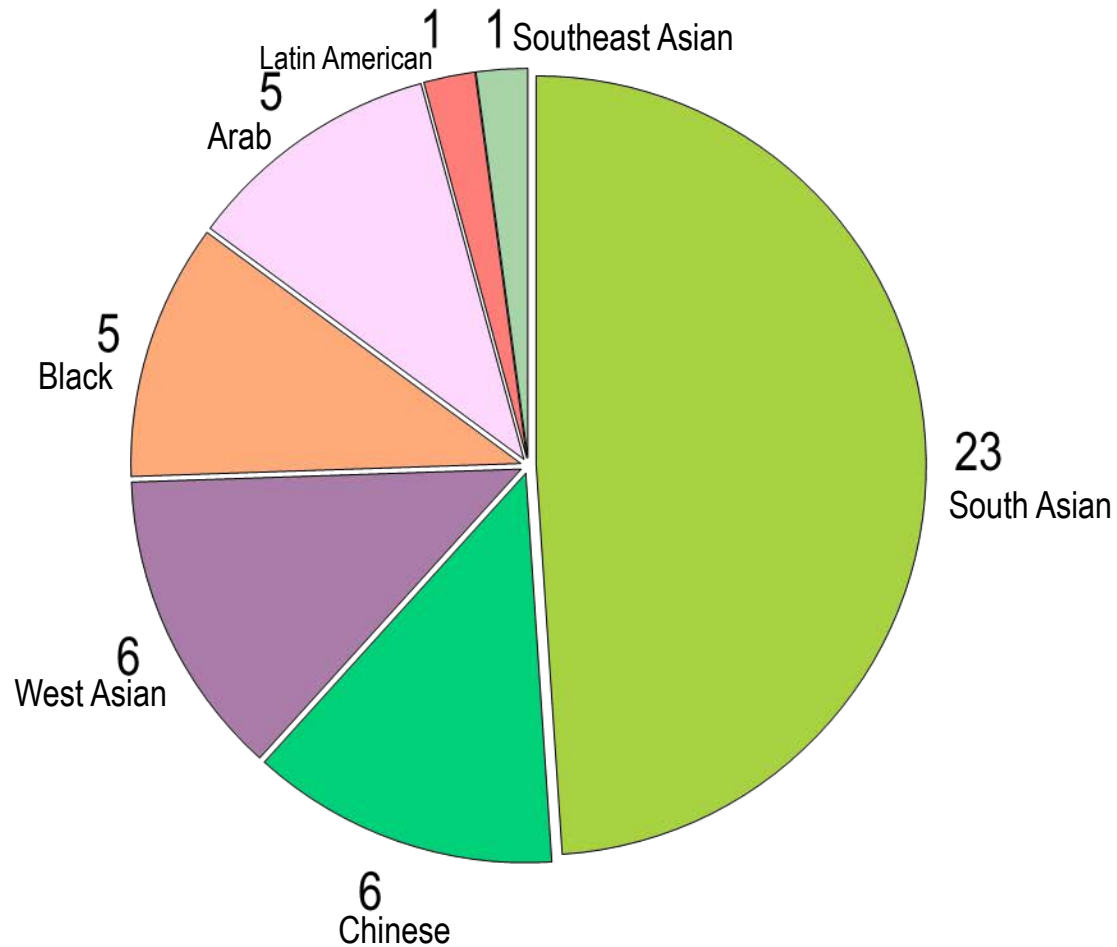
# The 2015 election also saw the election of 47 visible minority persons to parliament

2015 Elections



# Visible minority MPs come from around the world

Visible Minority MPs Representation by Ethnic Group



## Indigenous Canadians also improved their representation in Canada's parliament in 2015

- Indigenous peoples are 4% of Canada's population
- 54 Indigenous candidates (5.3%)
- 10 elected MPs (3.0%), up from 7 (2.3%) in 2011
- 8 Liberal, 2 NDP

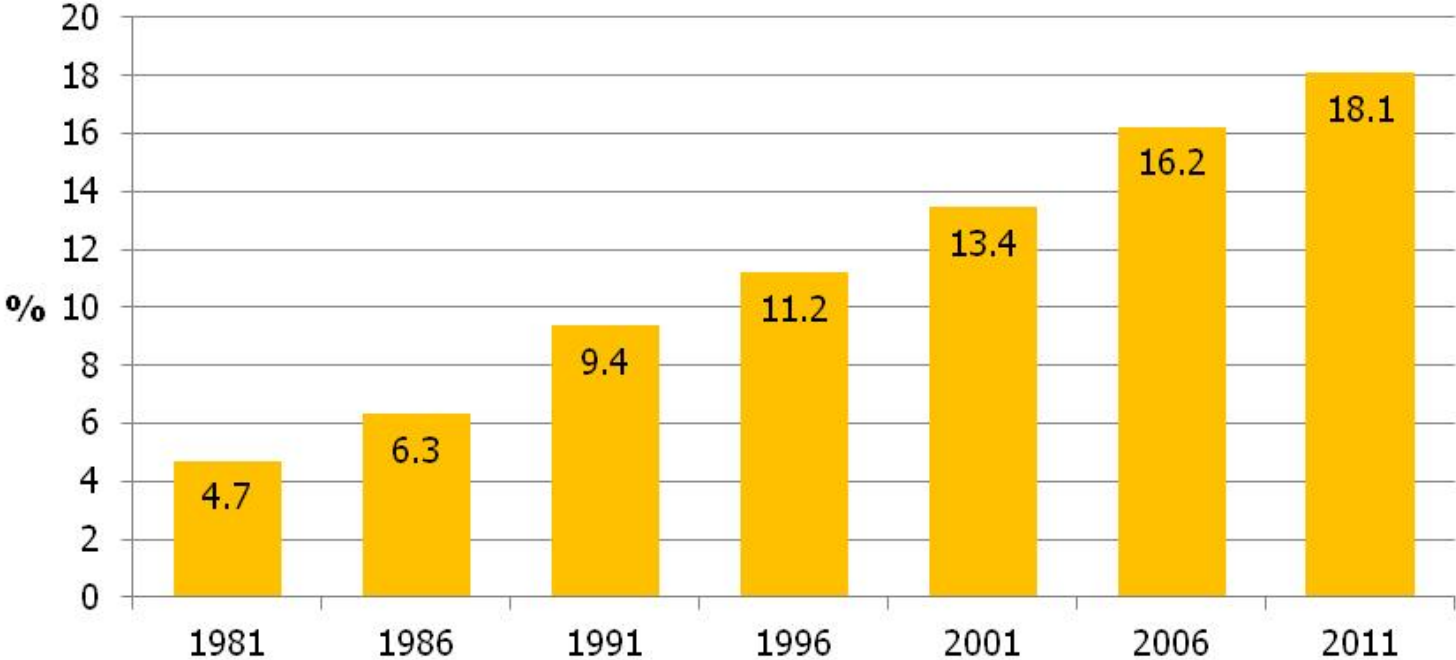
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And finally a glimpse into the future



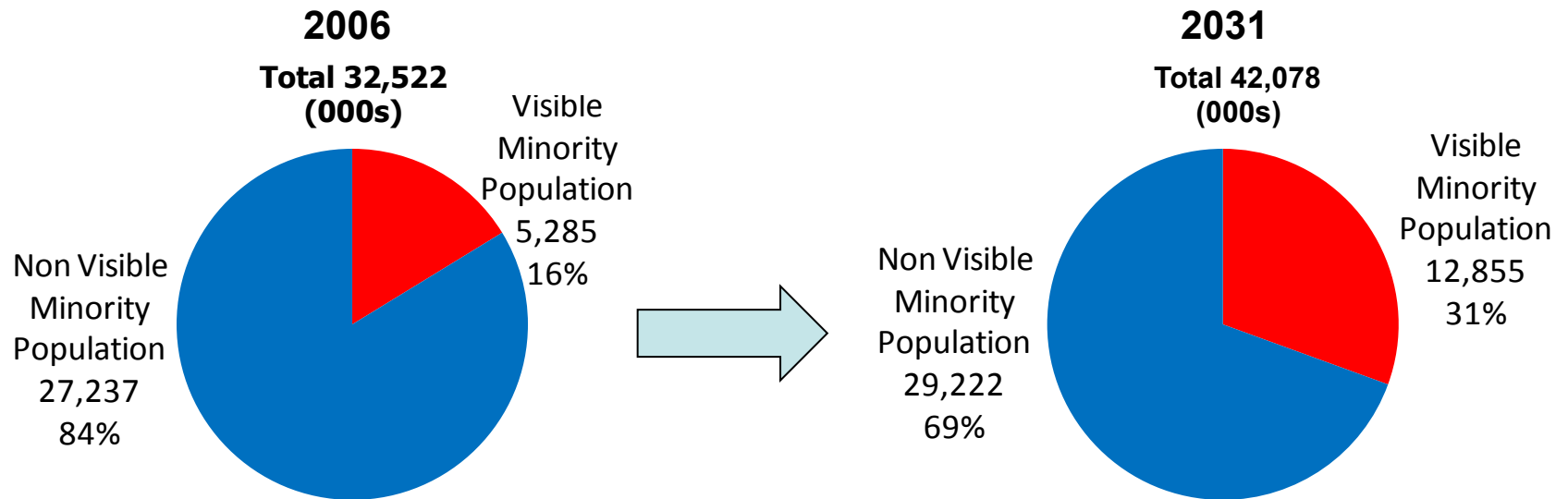
# Canada's visible minority population is on the rise . . .

### Visible Minority Population, Canada



**Definition: Visible minority** The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour". The visible minority population consists mainly of the following groups: Chinese, South Asian, Black, Arab, West Asian, Filipino, Southeast Asian, Latin American, Japanese and Korean.

... and will more than double by 2031



<b>Growth 2006-2031</b>	
Visible Minority Population	143%
Non Visible Minority Population	7%
Total Population	29%

<b>2031 % Visible Minority</b>	
Toronto	63%
Vancouver	59%

# Concluding thoughts



# How are we doing?

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- Multiculturalism and acceptance of diversity is a well established aspiration for most Canadians
- Most newcomers are doing their part once they arrive
- The rest of us sometimes struggle with the reality of those who look and act differently
- Some differences are more comfortable than others; some are more comfortable than others with difference
- Social norms matter, and Canadians are generally law-abiding and embrace gender equality and tolerance
- We have a long way to go on reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians

# Looking into the future

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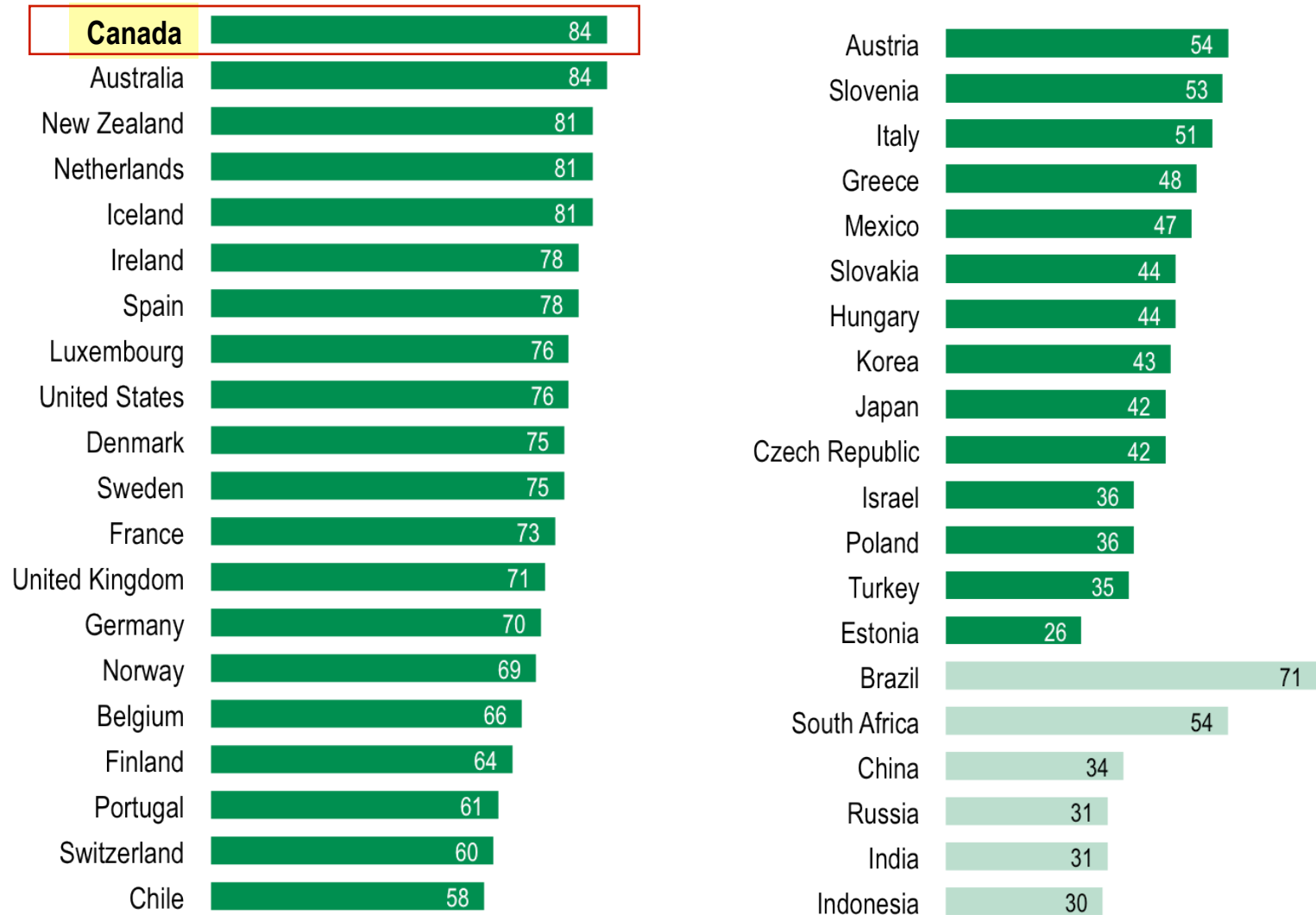
- Tolerance is holding – for now
- What could change?
  - significant economic downturn/disruption
  - dramatic world events with global consequences
  - homegrown terrorism
  - erosion of central institutions (public education)
- Canada's history of mutual accommodation; our values, political institutions, social programs, unionization, dedication to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, public education and programs to promote immigrant/refugee integration suggest we will not experience deep alienation from marginalized minorities nor deep backlash from significant segments of the majority



# And finally, we look pretty good when compared to others

Tolerance of others who are different

OECD + other countries - 2010





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