

RUSSIA



ICELAND



Reykjavik

Arctic Ocean

Baffin Bay

Nash (Godtháab)

UNITED STATES

Victoria Island

Baffin Island

How inclusive are Canadians @ 150?
Public opinion and vulnerable group experience

Labrador Sea

Pacific

Presentation to the YMCA Canada National Conference
Edmonton, Alberta
June 23, 2017

Michael Adams, President
Environics Institute for Survey Research

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Hudson Bay

ALBERTA

MANITOBA

SASKATCHEWAN

ONTARIO

QUEBEC

NOVA SCOTIA

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Ottawa

NEW BRUNSWICK

UNITED STATES

Washington, D.C.

Atlantic Ocean

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

The historical record...not great

- 1800s: Poor treatment of Irish migrants
- 1930s: Anti-semitism (“None is too many”)
- 1940s: Internment of Japanese and German Canadians
- 21st century: Police profiling racialized minorities
- 1800s – today: “Long assault” on Indigenous Peoples

But some positive signs

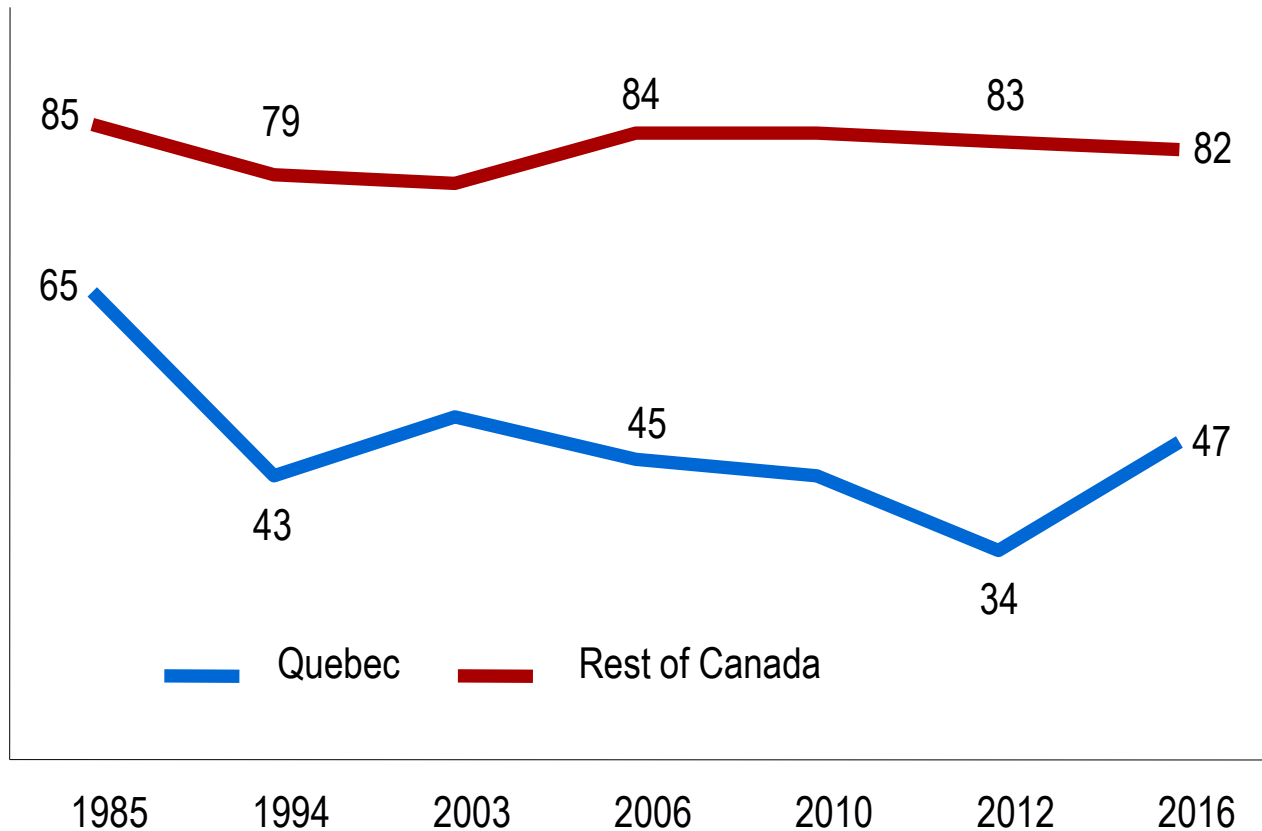
- 1800s: Welcoming Black American refugees from slavery
- 1960s: Opening the door to widespread immigration
- Late 1970's: Accepting 70,000 South-east Asian refugees
- 2015: TRC report and 94 "Calls to Action"
- 2015-16: Welcoming 35,000 Syrian refugees

So how do Canadians feel about
their country today?

We are proud to be Canadian, even nearly half of Quebec

1985 - 2016

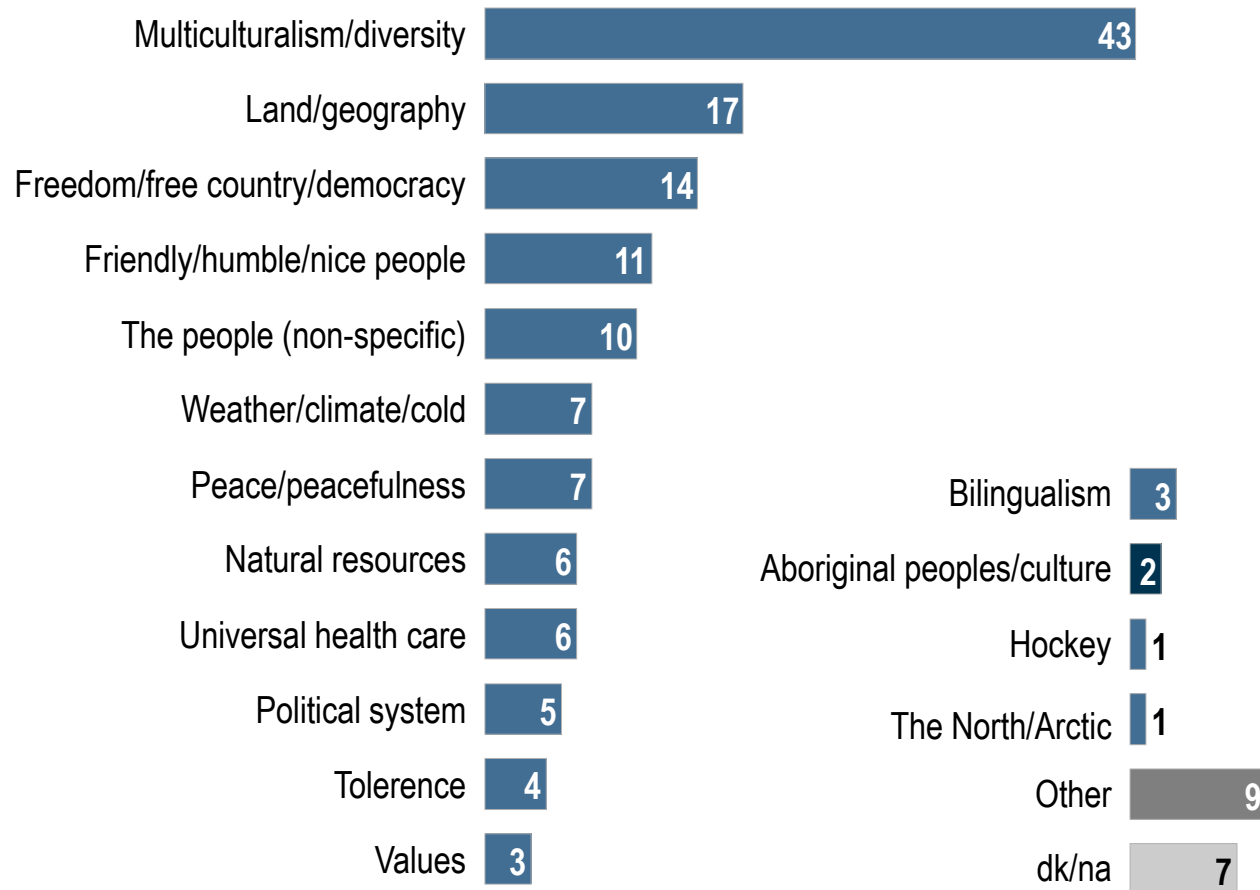
Would you say you are very, somewhat, not very or not at all proud to be a Canadian?



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

2015

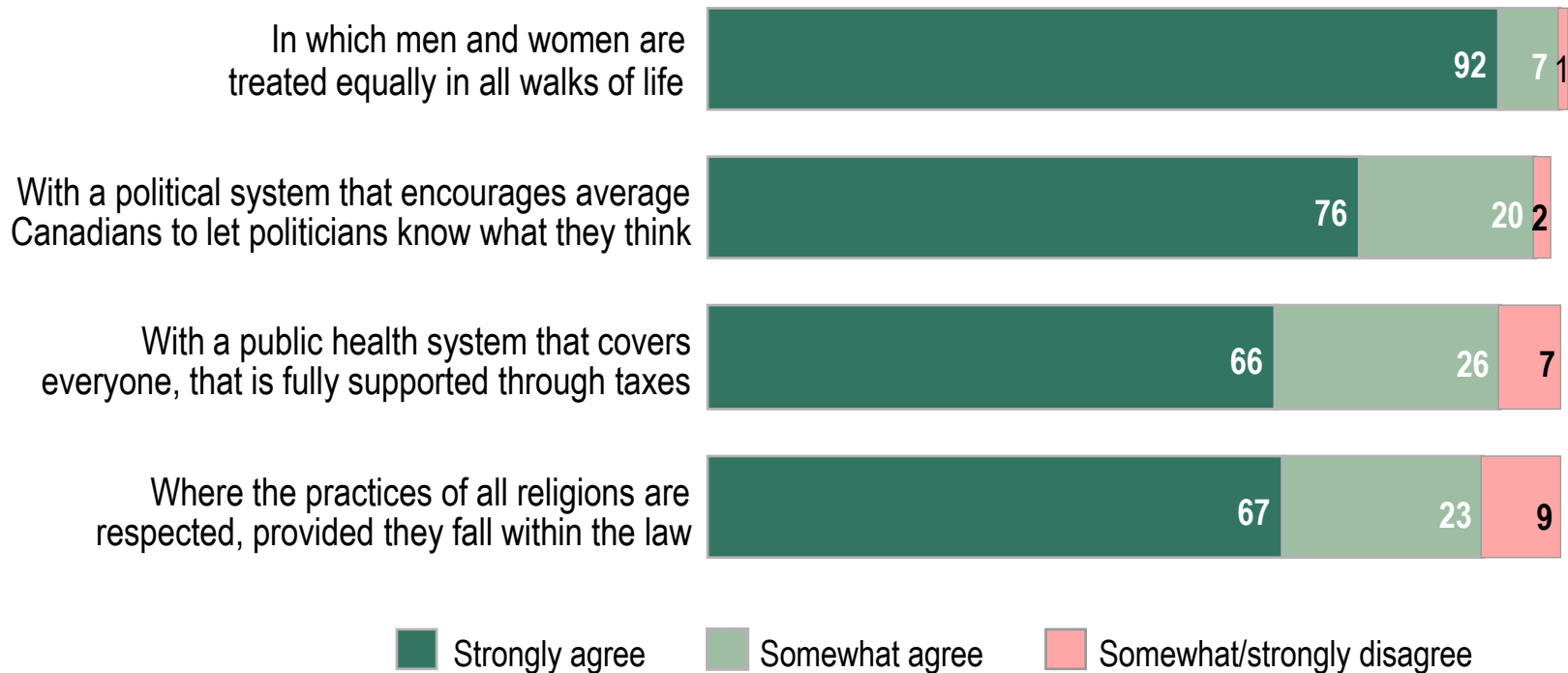
What makes Canada unique? (unprompted mentions)



Gender equality is our most important aspirational value

2012

Canada should be a country ...

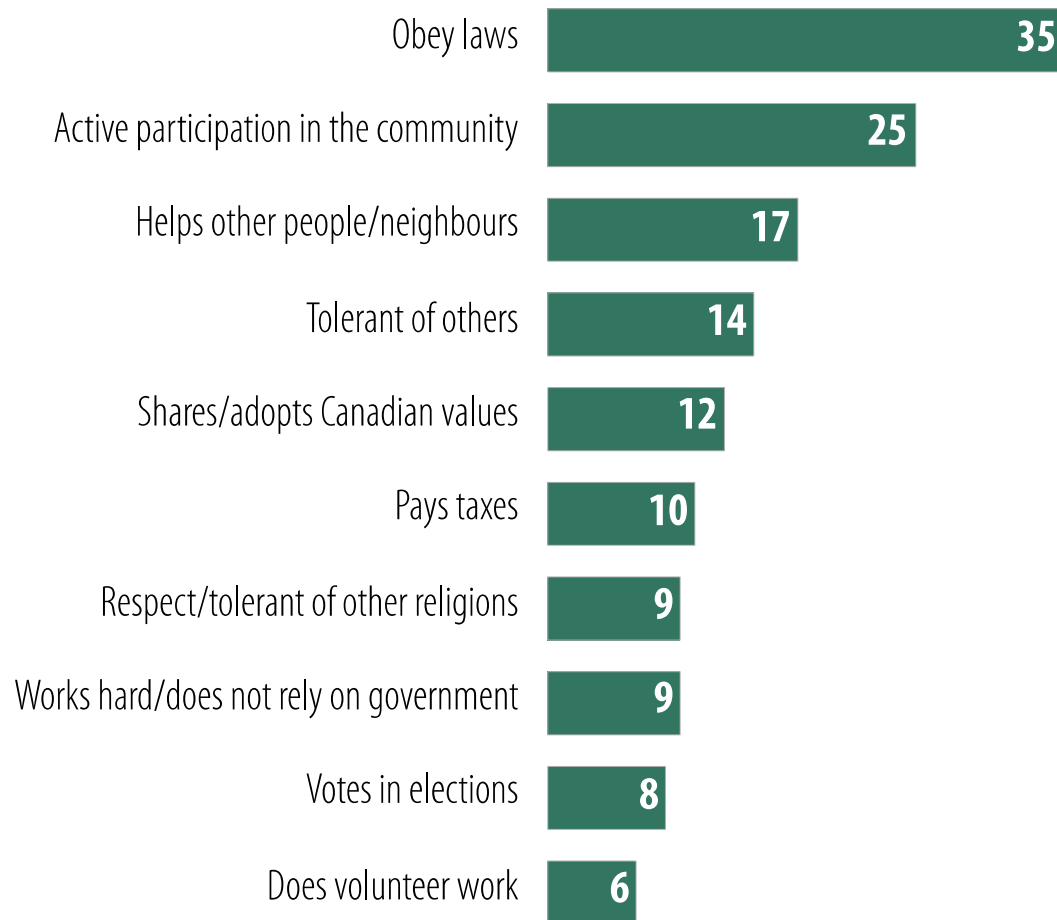


Citizenship and Identity

In Canada, a good citizen obeys our laws, participates in the community and helps others

2012

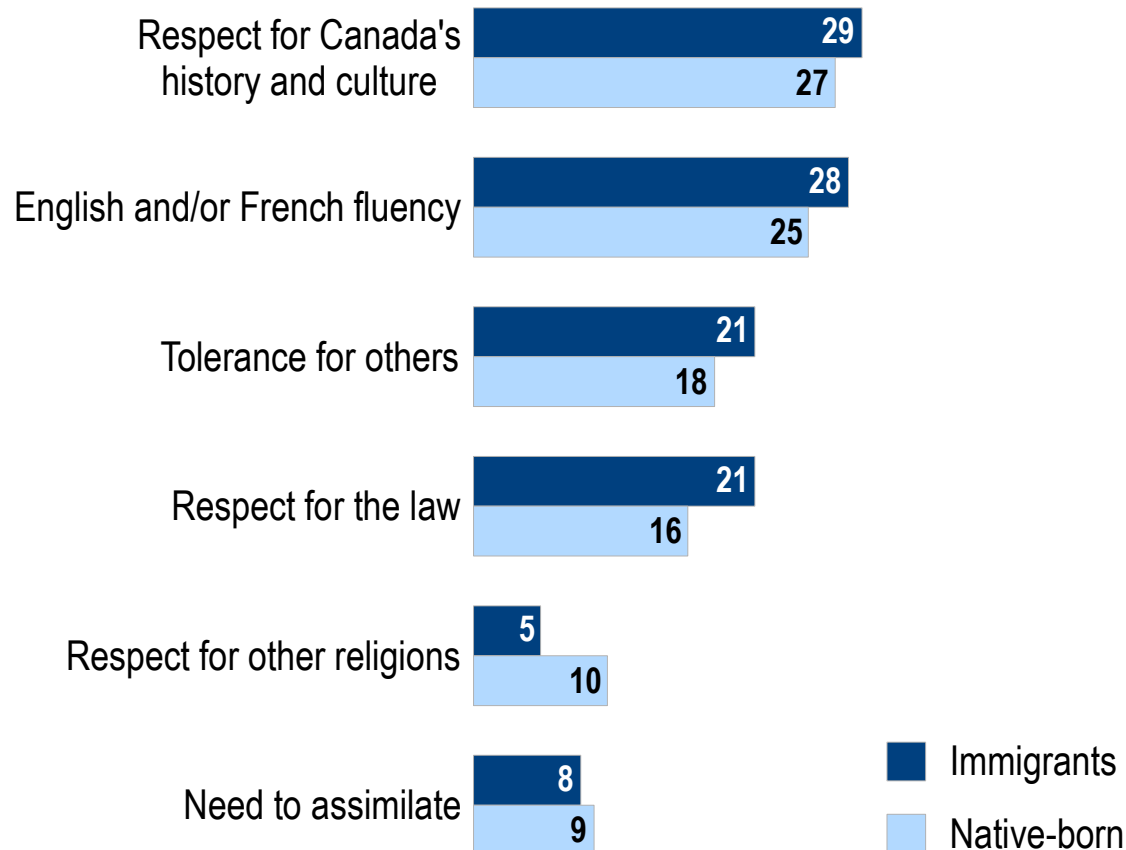
*What does it mean to be a good citizen in Canada today?
(unprompted mentions)*



Native-born Canadians and immigrants both agree on the values that immigrants should be expected to adopt

2011

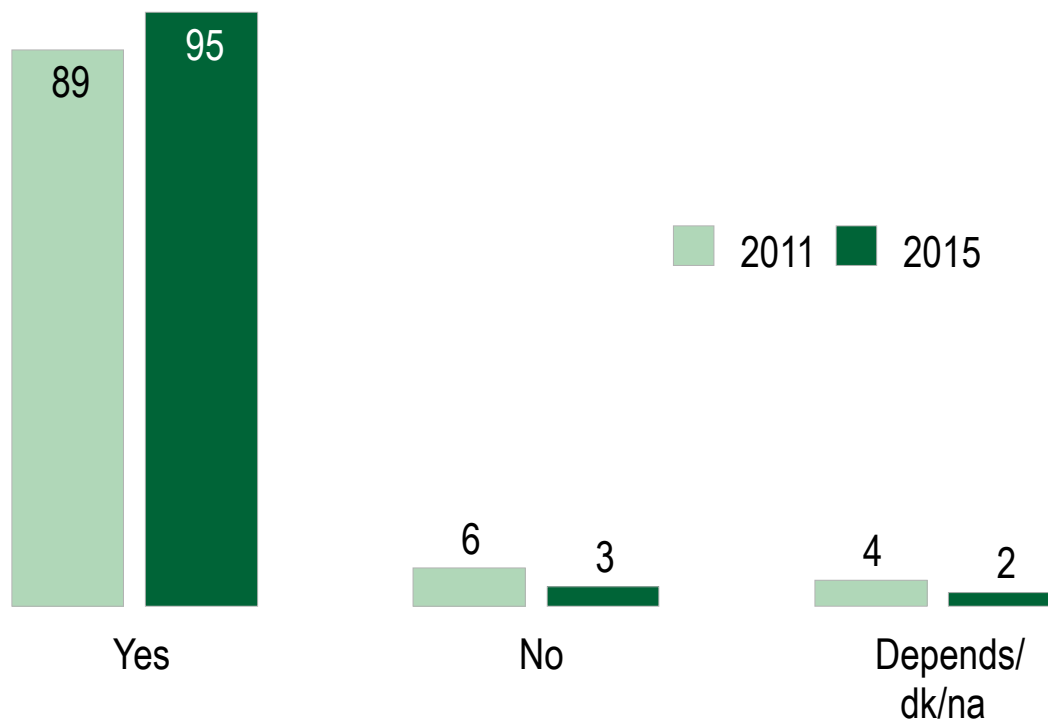
*What values are most important for immigrants to adopt?
(unprompted mentions)*



Canadians overwhelmingly believe that the foreign-born can be just as good a citizen as the native-born

2011 - 2015

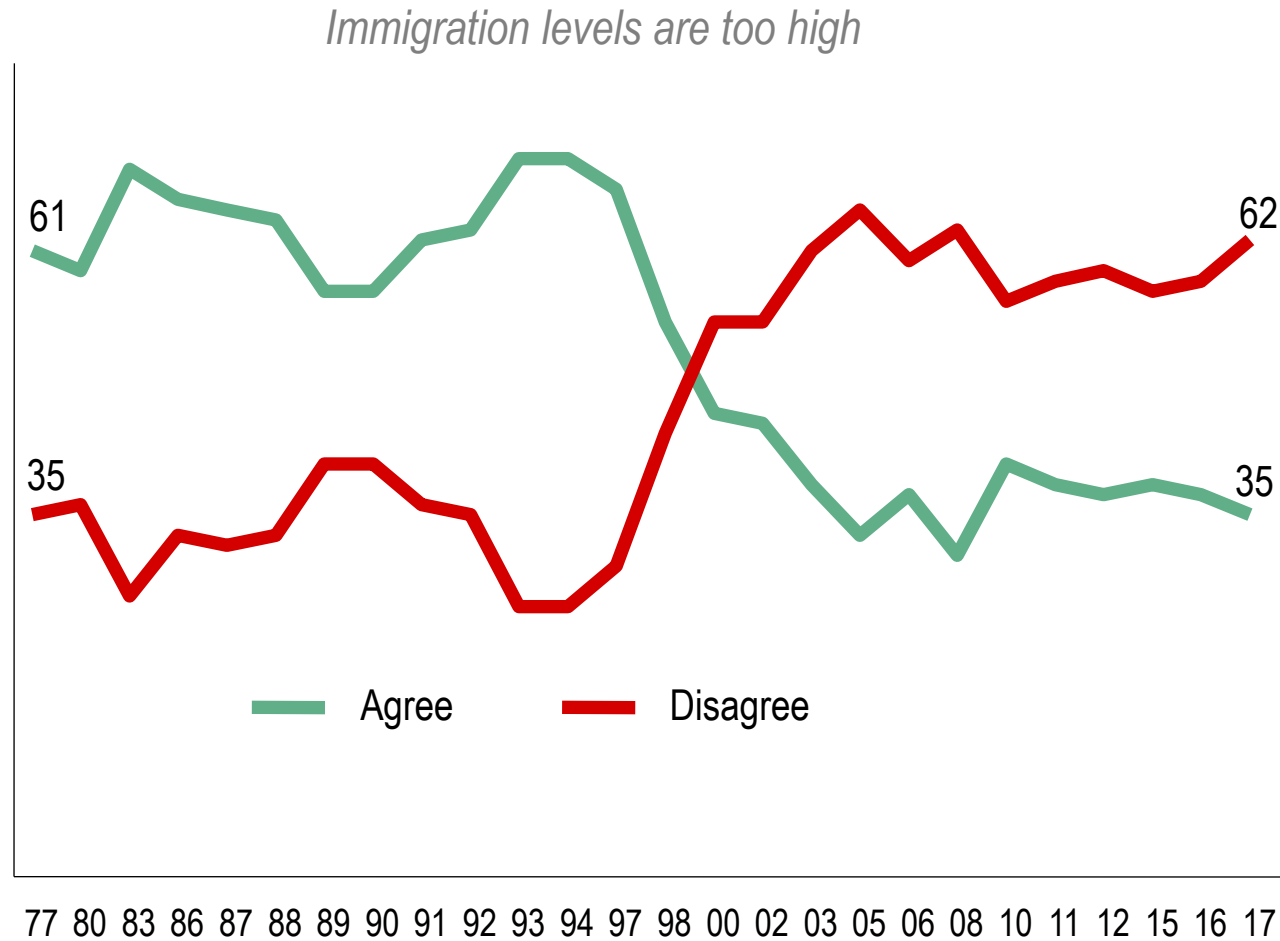
Can someone born outside Canada be just as likely to be a good citizen as someone born here?



Acceptance of difference and diversity

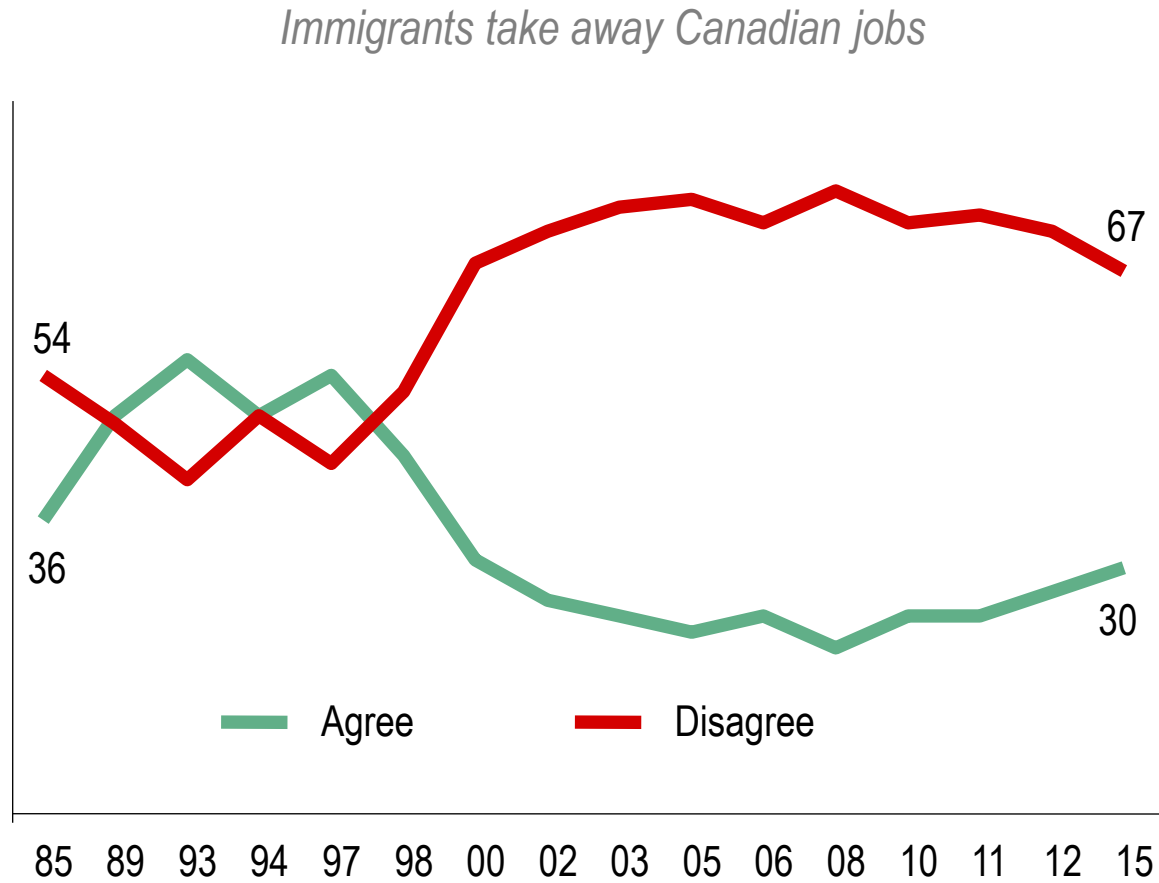
At the turn of the millennium, Canadians began to disagree that *“immigration levels are too high”*, and have never looked back

1977 – 2017



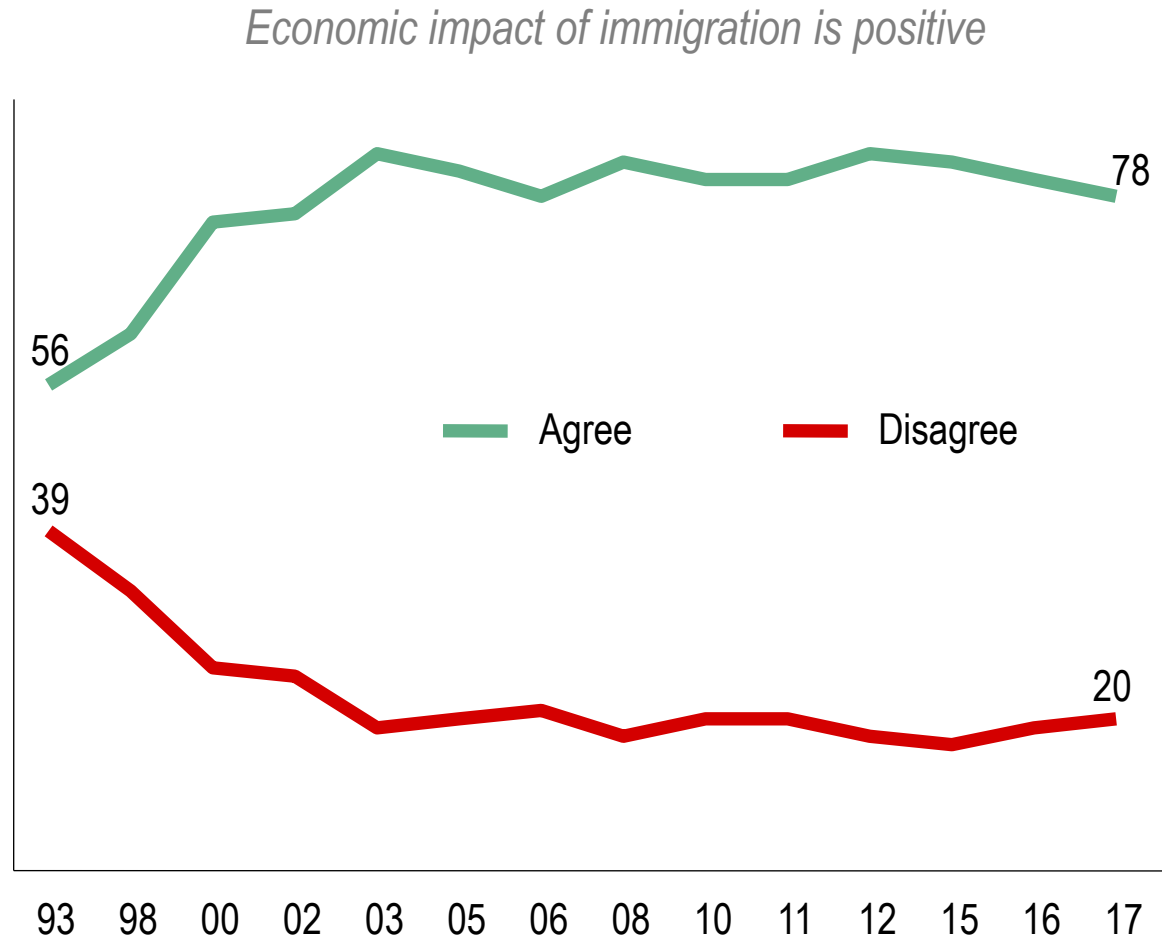
Strong majority consistently reject the idea that immigrants take away jobs from other Canadians

1985 - 2015



The vast majority of Canadians continue to believe that the economic impact of immigrants is positive

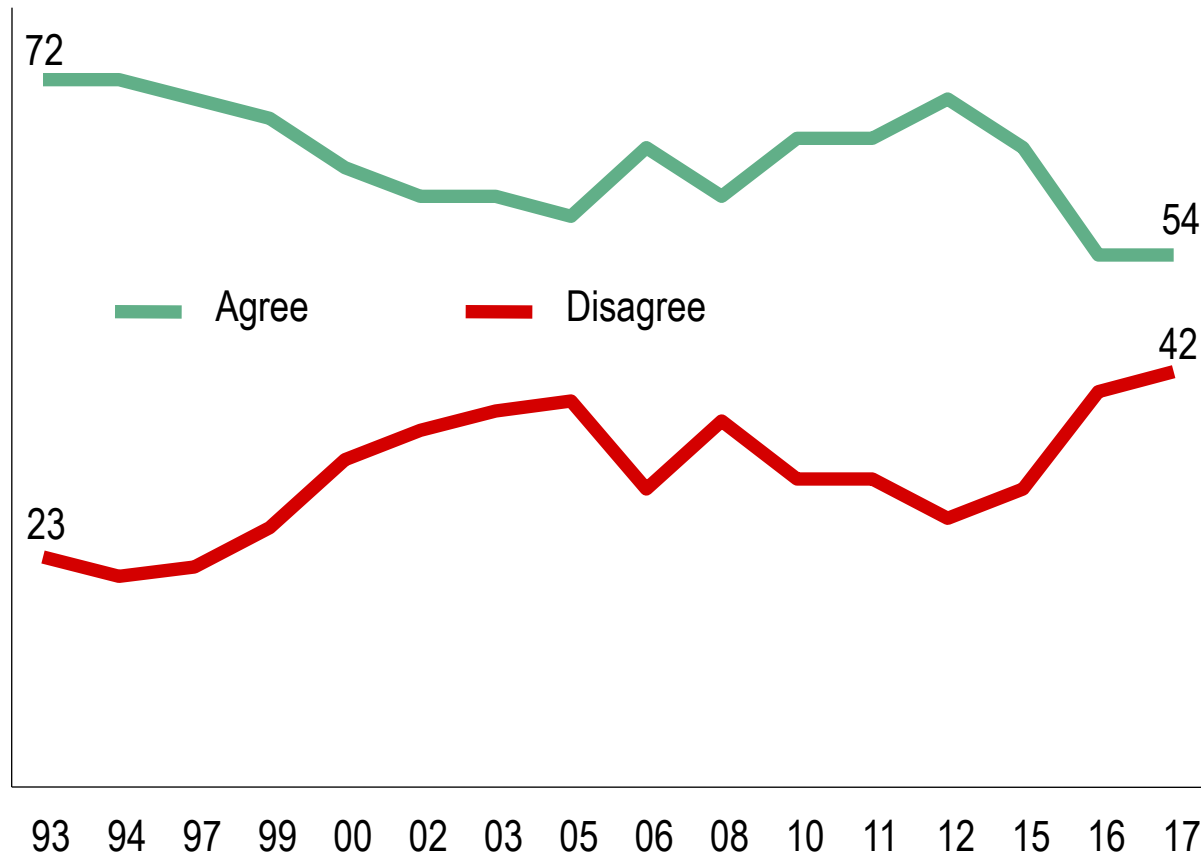
1993 - 2017



Although most still agree, Canadians are less likely to believe that too many immigrants do not adopt Canadian values

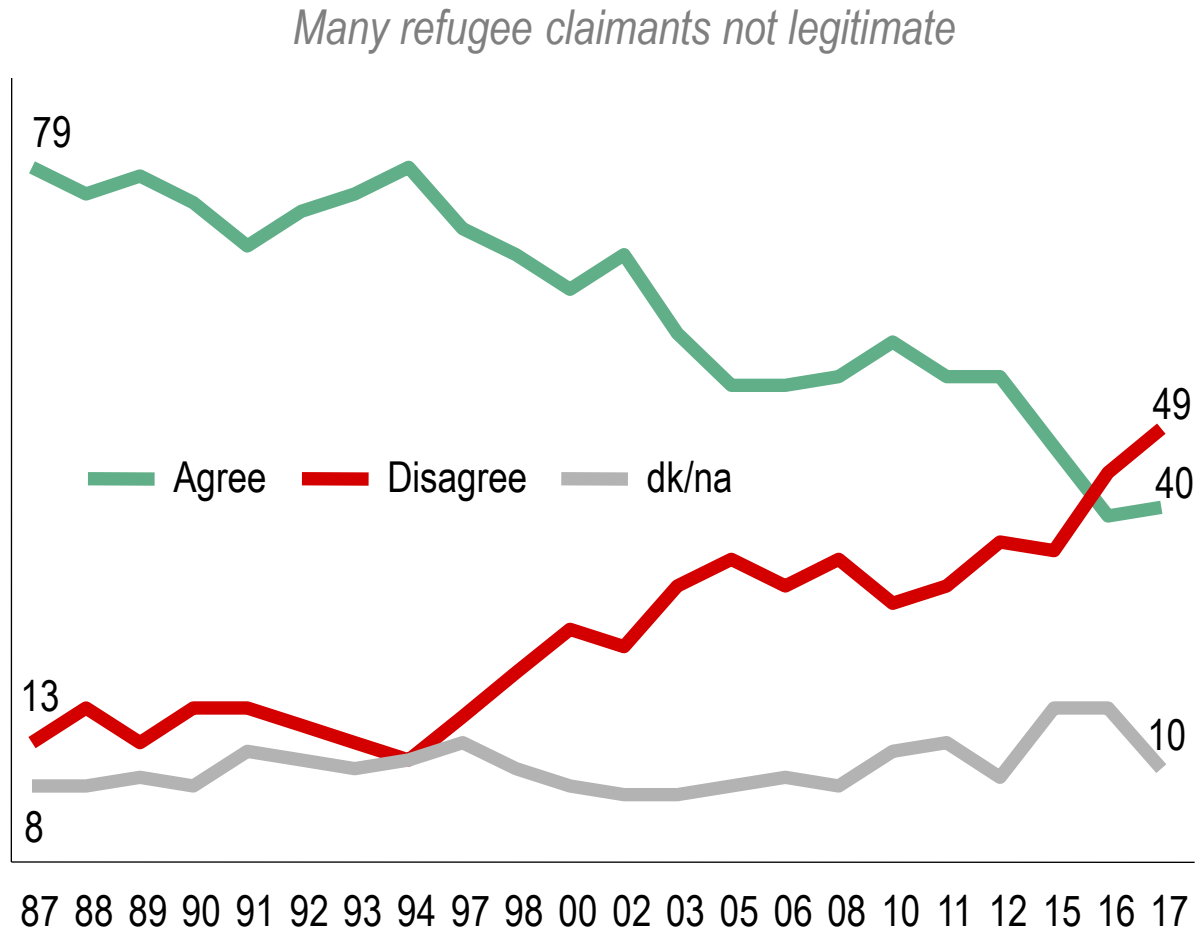
1993 - 2017

Too many immigrants do not adopt Canadian values



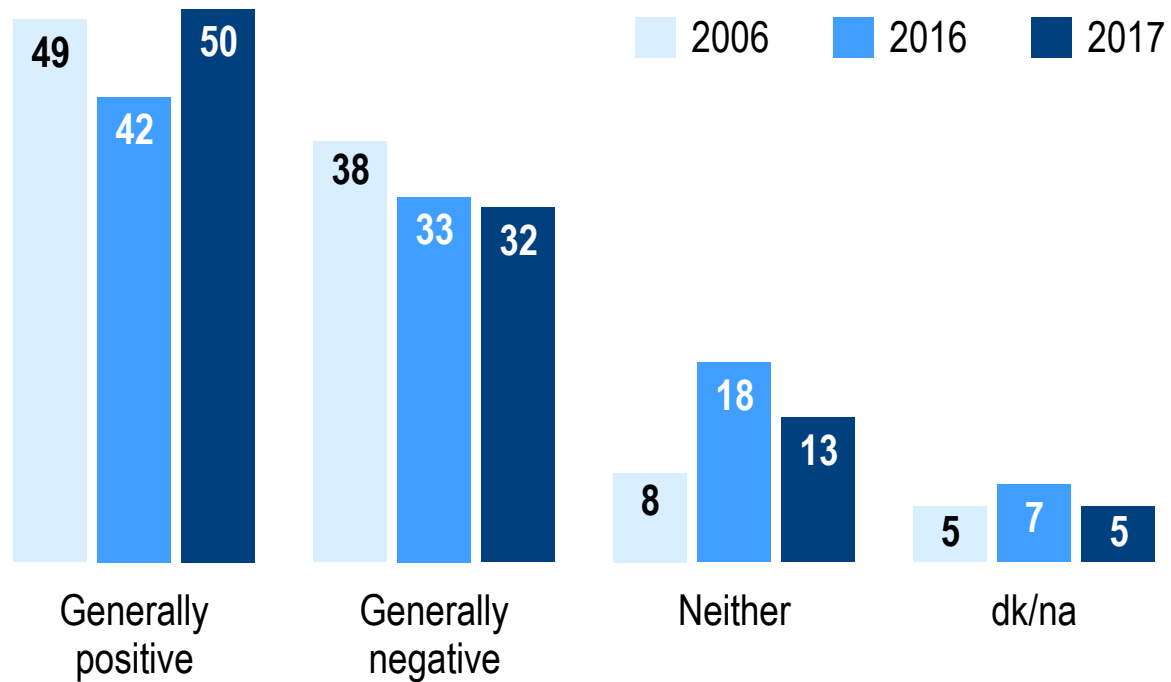
The plurality of Canadians now disagree that many refugee claimants are not legitimate

1987 - 2017



Canadian mainstream opinion of Islam continues to be more positive than negative

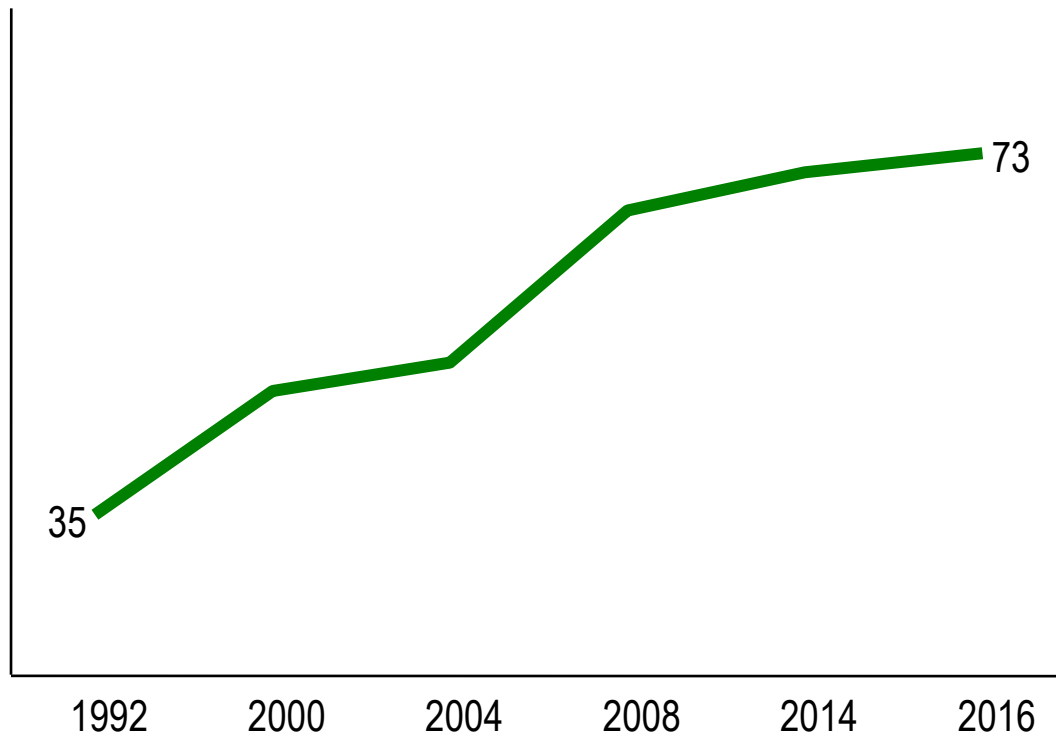
2006 – 2017 General impression of the religion of Islam.



Aside from our continuing openness to immigration, the most remarkable evolution in Canadian social values over three decades is our attitude towards homosexuality

1992 - 2016

Agree that society should regard people of the same sex who live together as being the same as a married couple

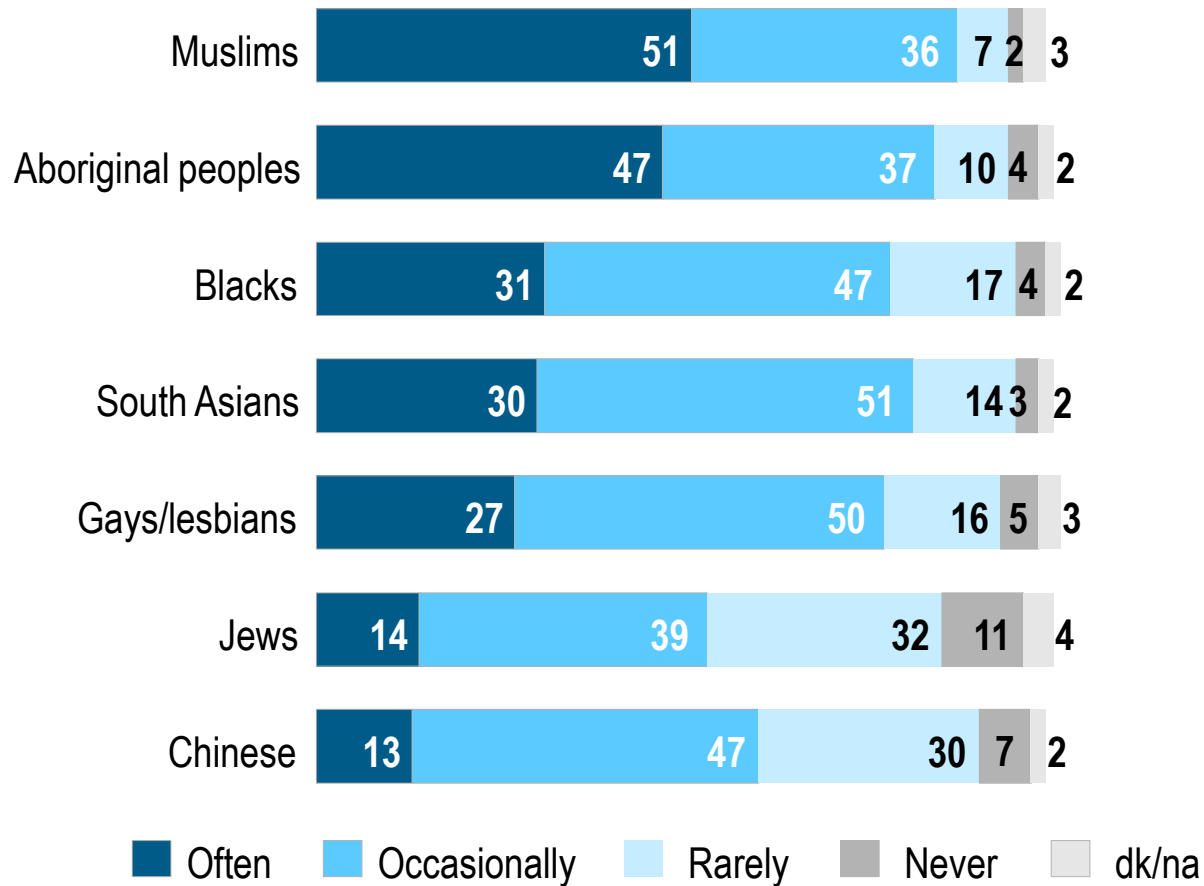


Public recognition of racism

Canadians admit there is discrimination against various groups in Canada – only a tiny minority are in denial

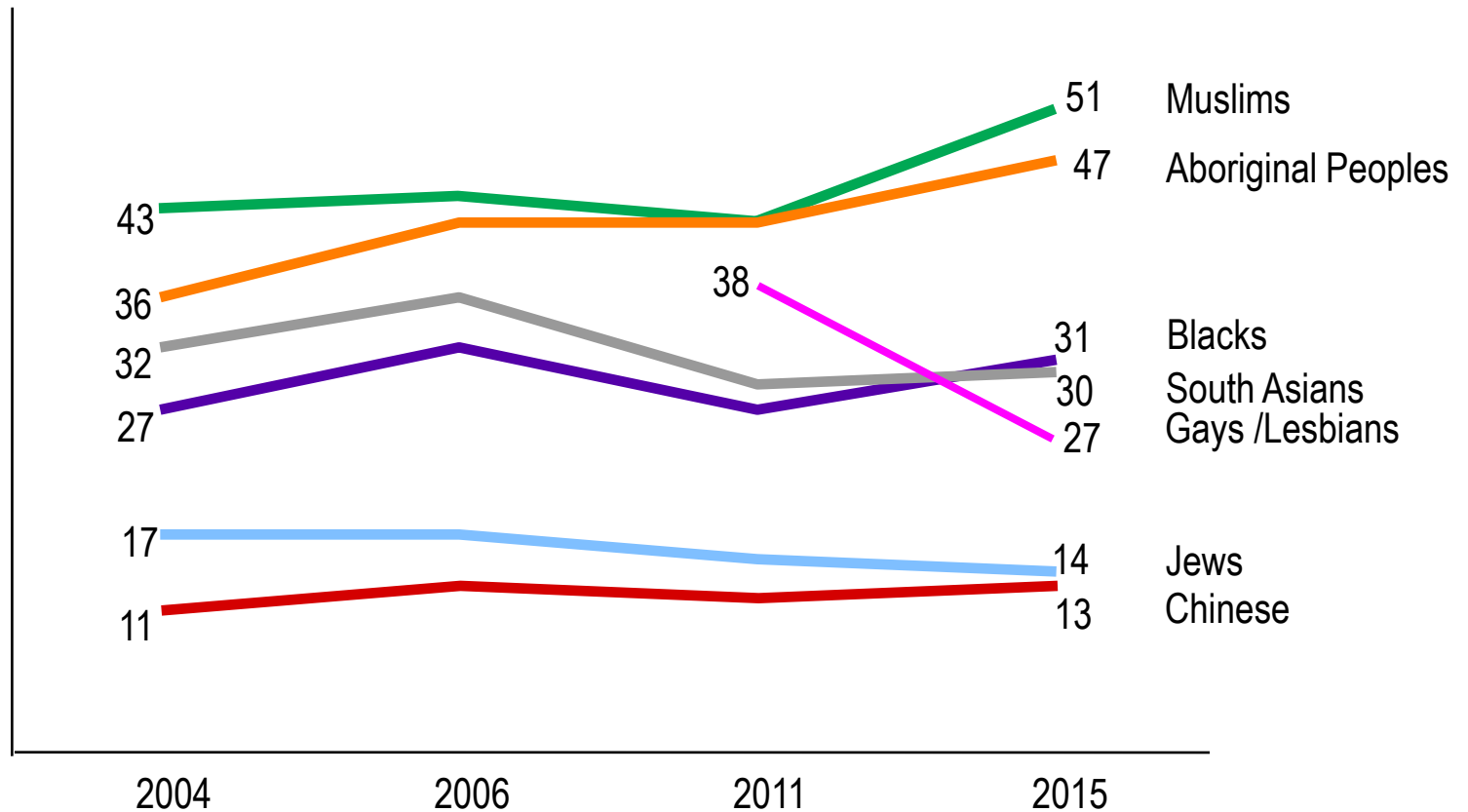
2015

Please tell me whether you think each of the following groups are often, sometimes, rarely or never the subject of discrimination in Canadian society today



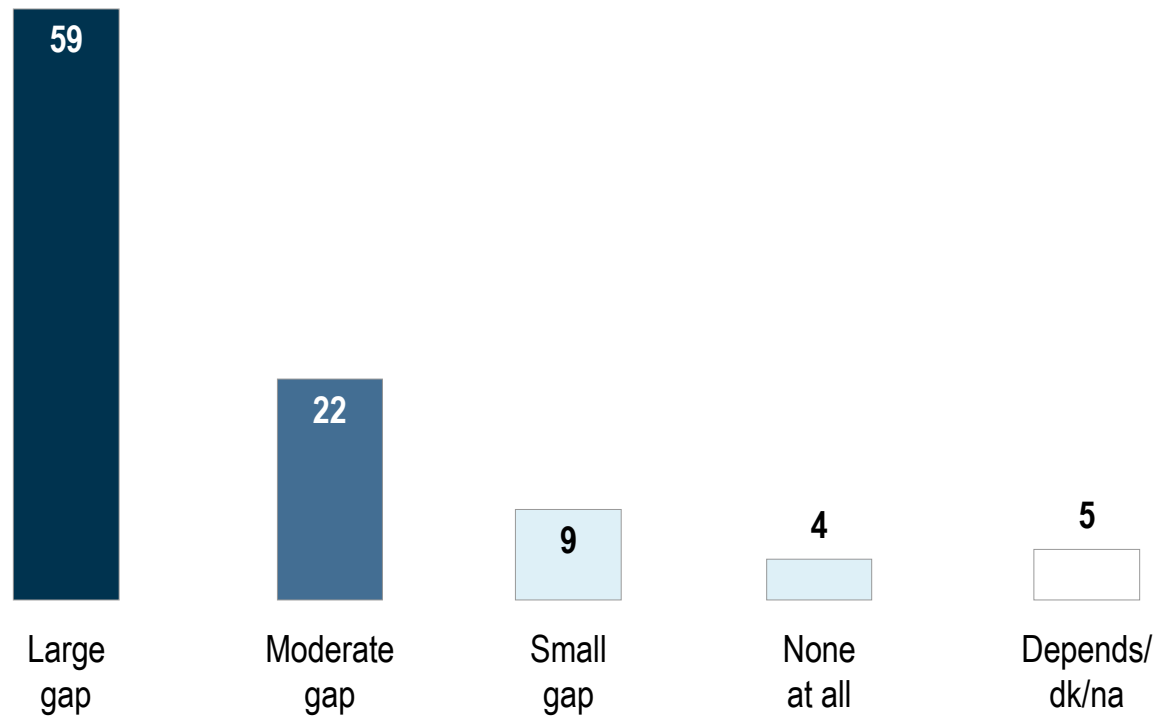
And there is increasing public awareness of discrimination against Muslims and Aboriginal people

2004 – 2015 Groups “often” subject to discrimination



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

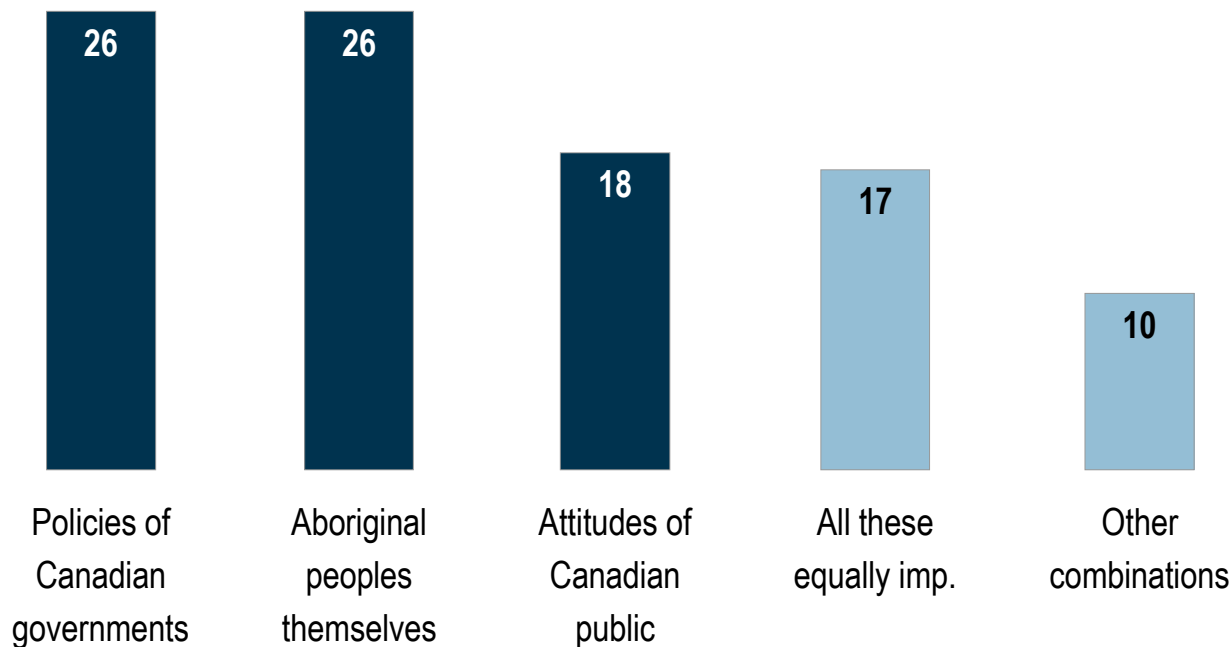
2016



There is no consensus on the reason for the lack of progress towards equality for Aboriginal peoples

2016

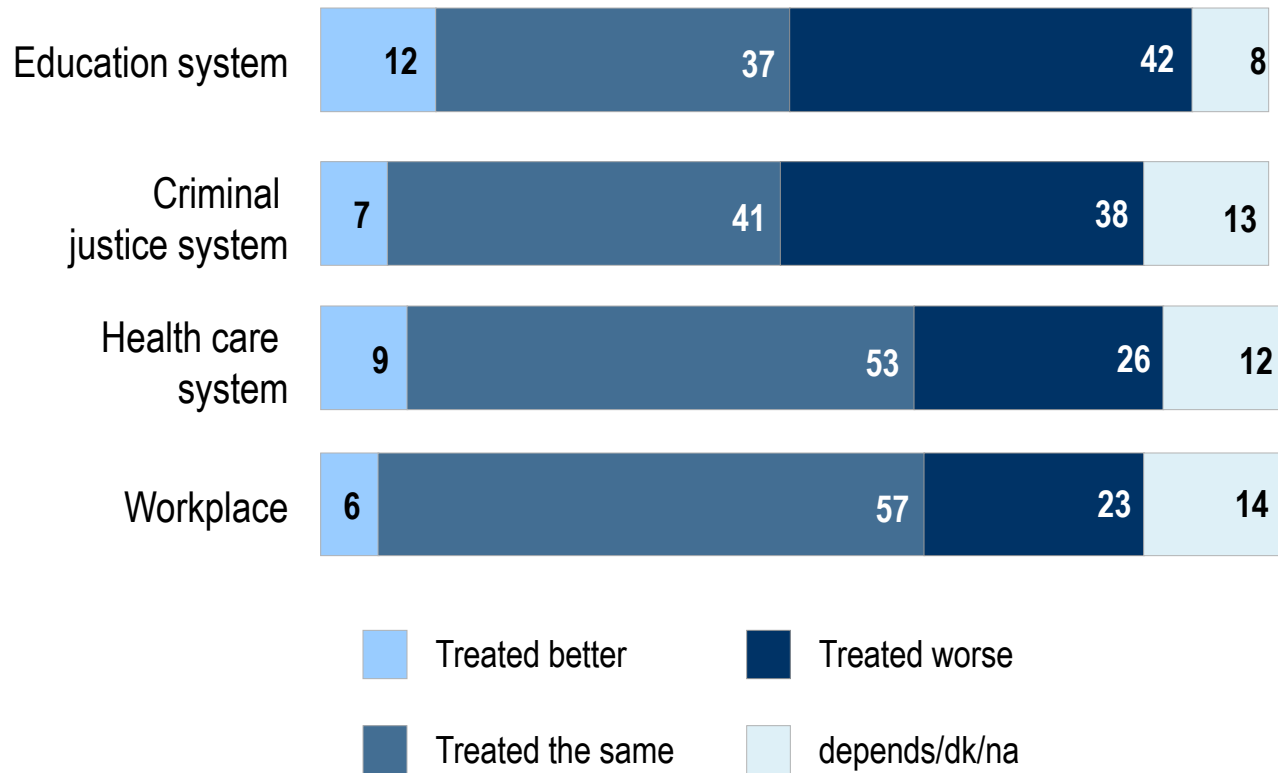
Biggest obstacle to achieving economic and social equality for Aboriginal peoples



The education and criminal justice systems are perceived as the most problematic for Aboriginal peoples

2016

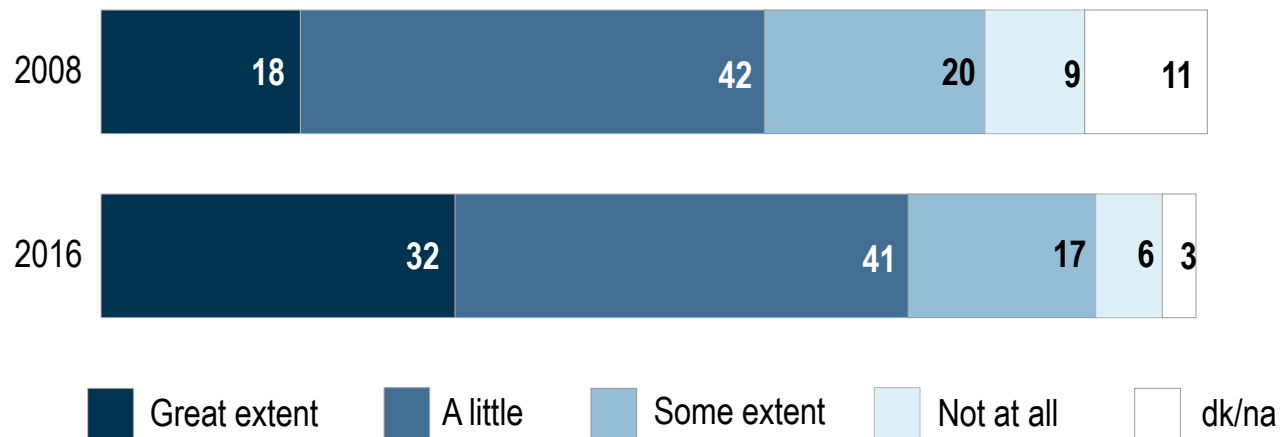
Treatment of Aboriginal peoples by institutions compared to other Canadians



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

2008 – 2016 Among those who have heard about residential schools

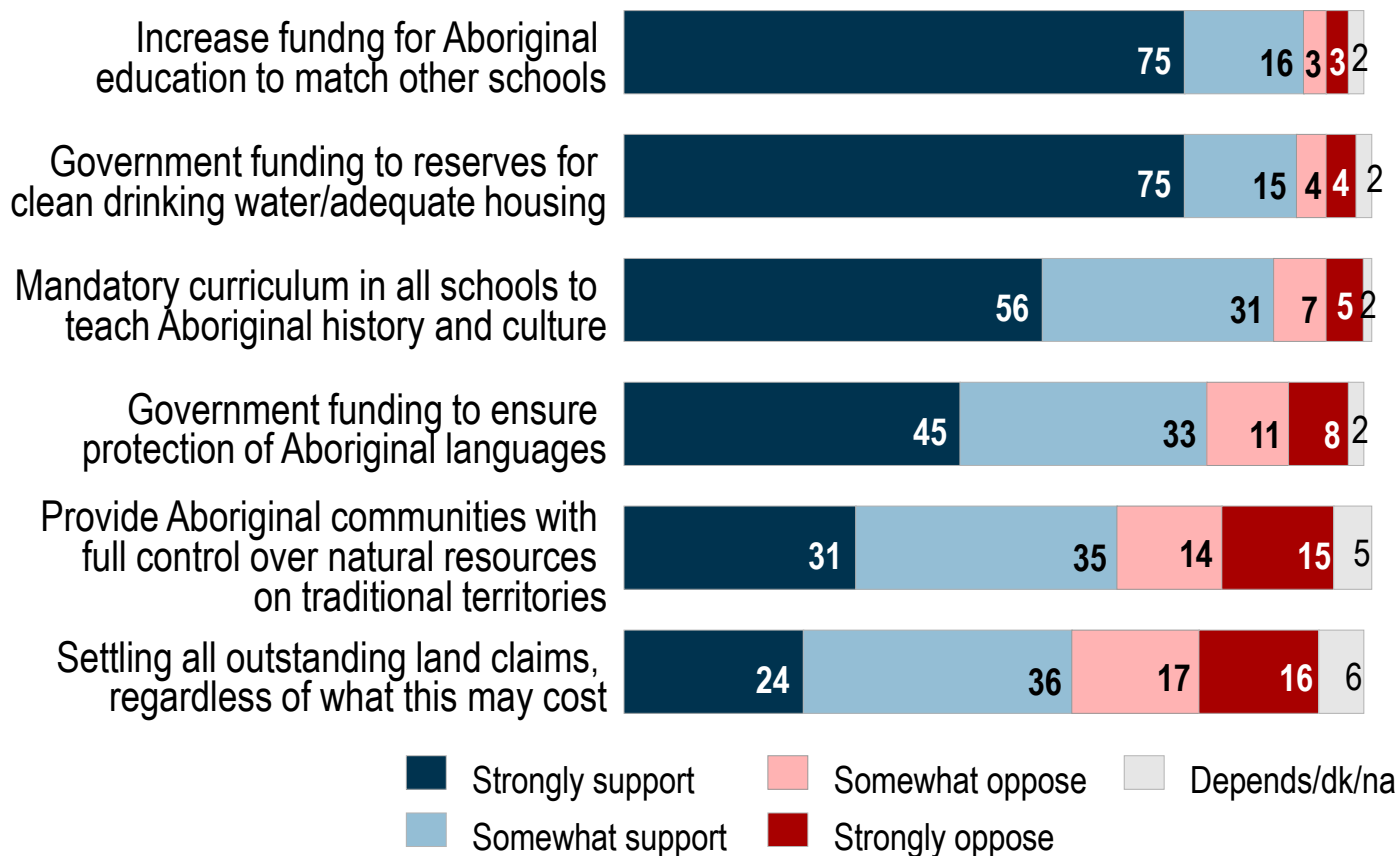
Extent of connection between residential schools experience and current challenges facing Aboriginal communities



Better education and living conditions on reserve are top priorities, less so political issues

2016

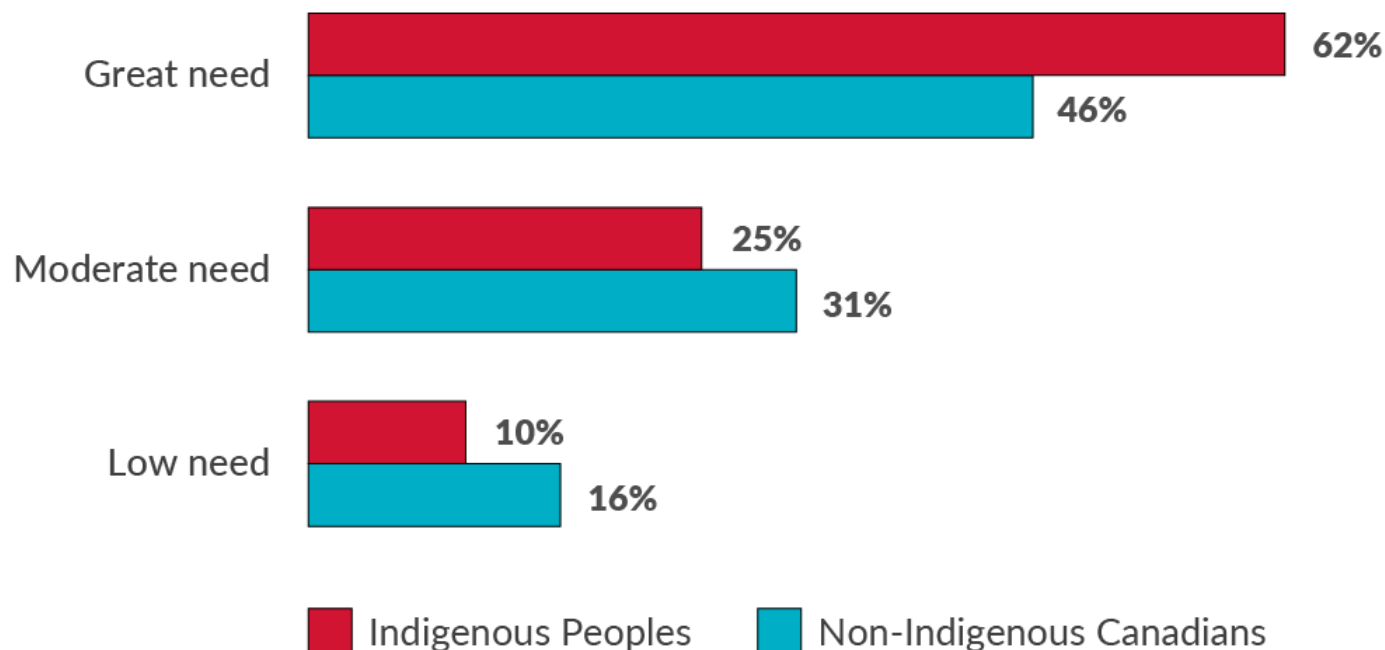
Support for Aboriginal rights and reconciliation



Indigenous Peoples and other Canadians generally agree on the need for reconciliation between them . . .

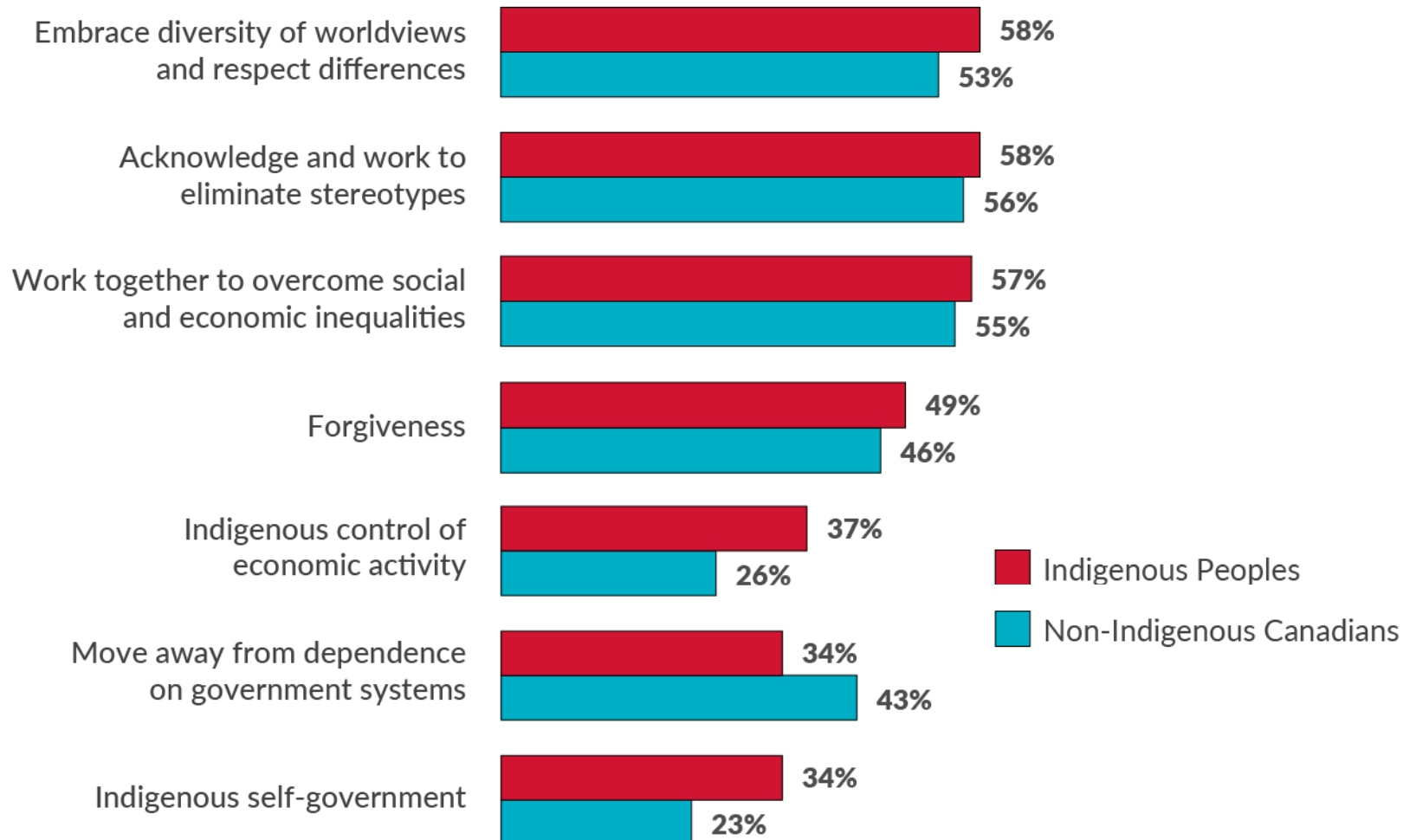
2016

To what extent, if any, do you feel there is a need for reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Canadians?



... and there is a common understanding about what reconciliation means

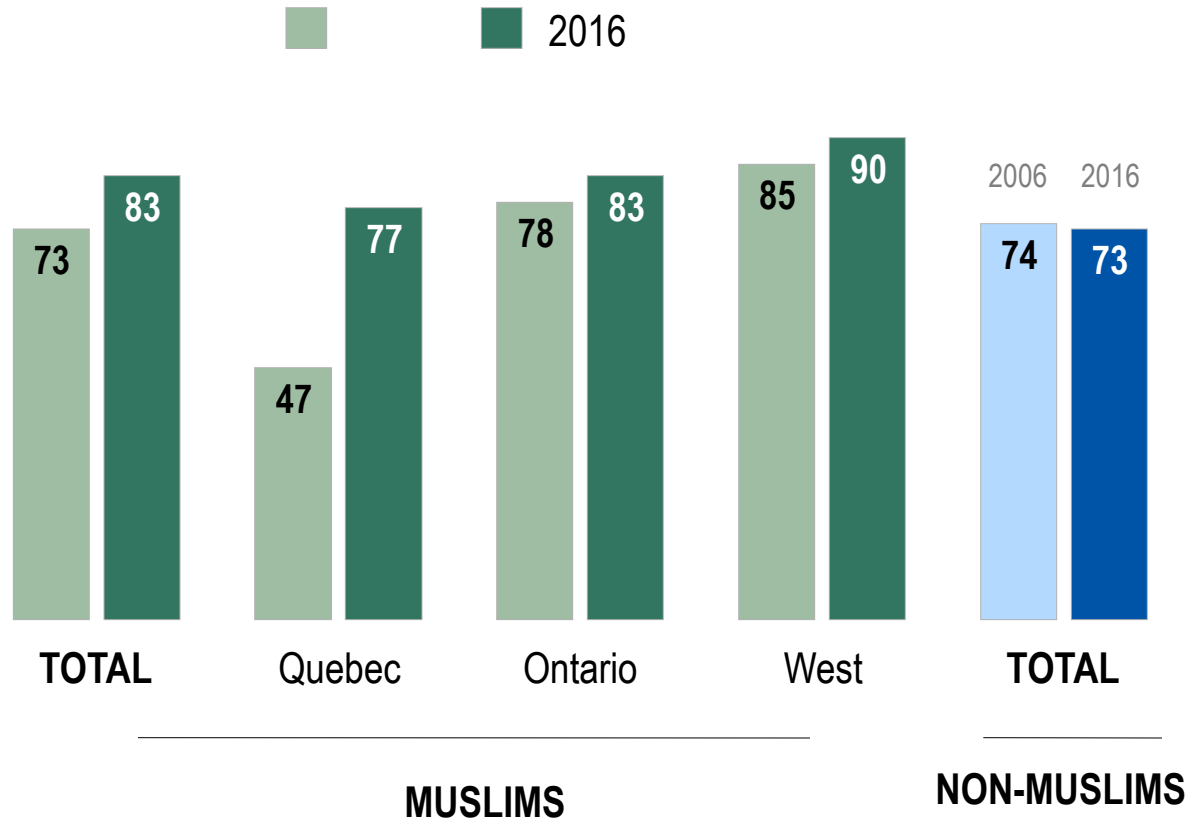
2016 What reconciliation means to you



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

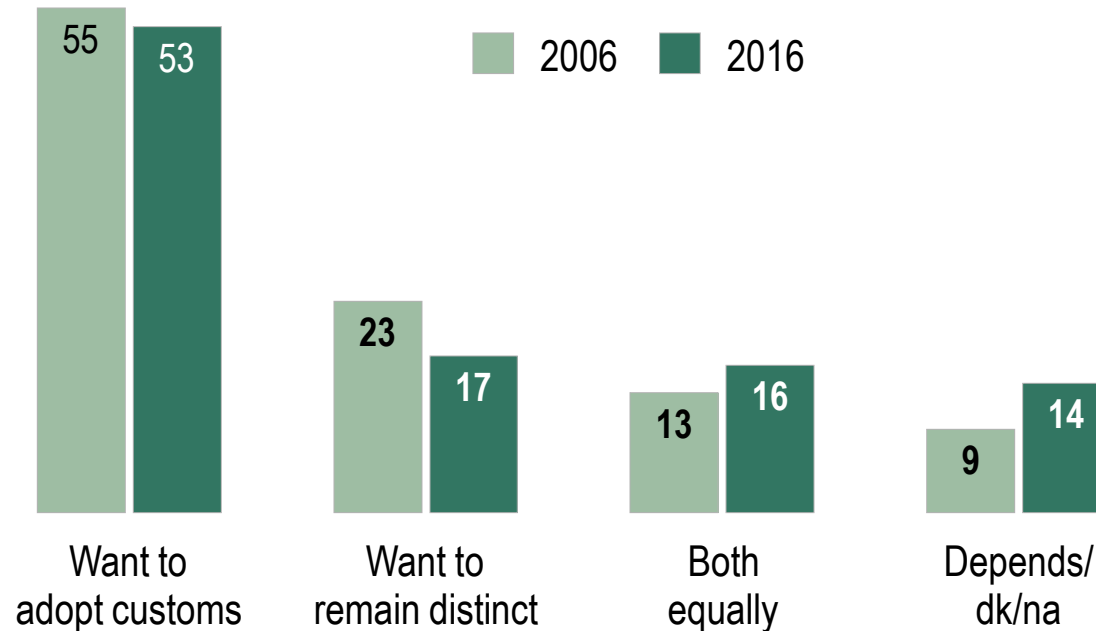
2006 - 2016 Very proud to be Canadian



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

2006 - 2016

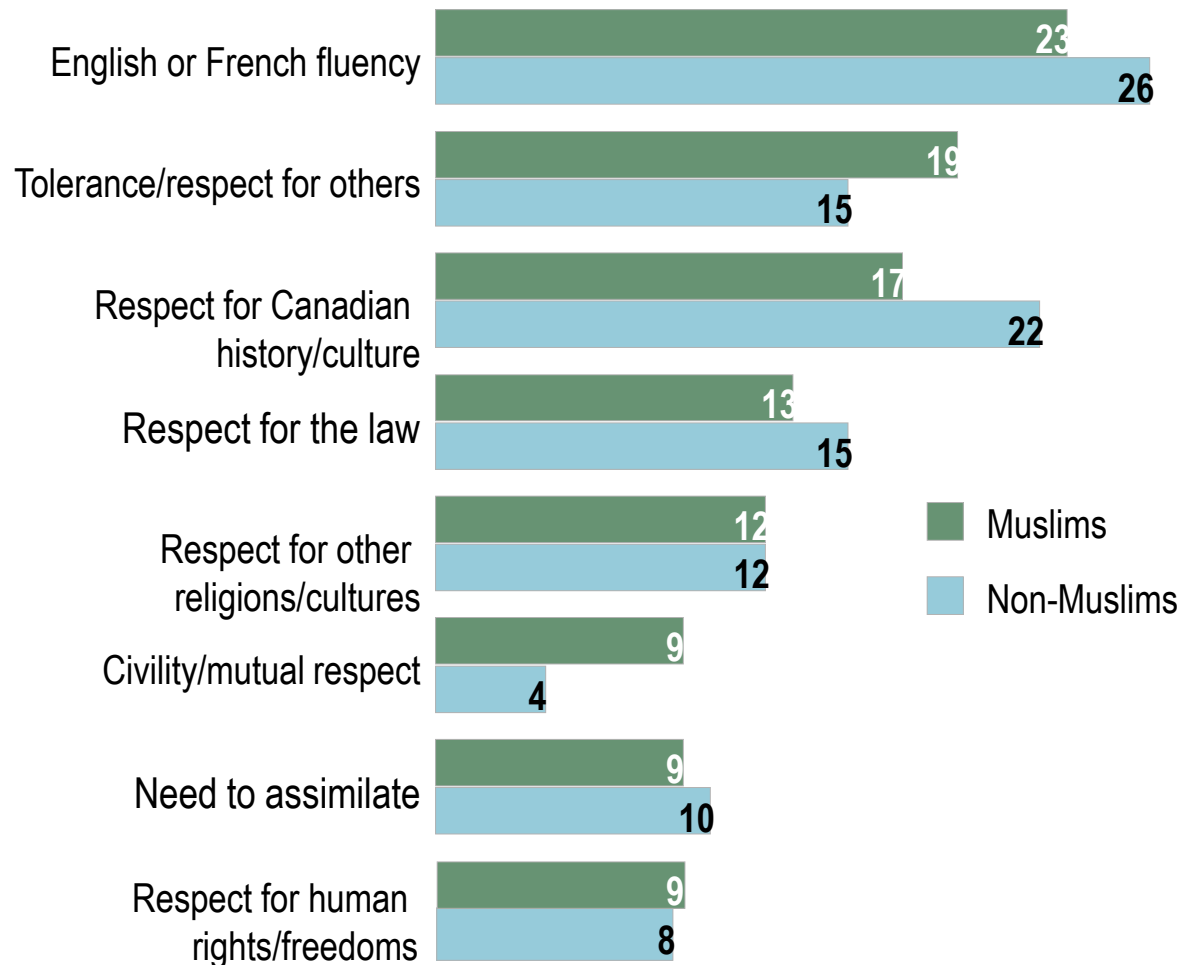
Do Muslims want to adapt Canadian customs or remain distinct?



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

2016 Top mentions

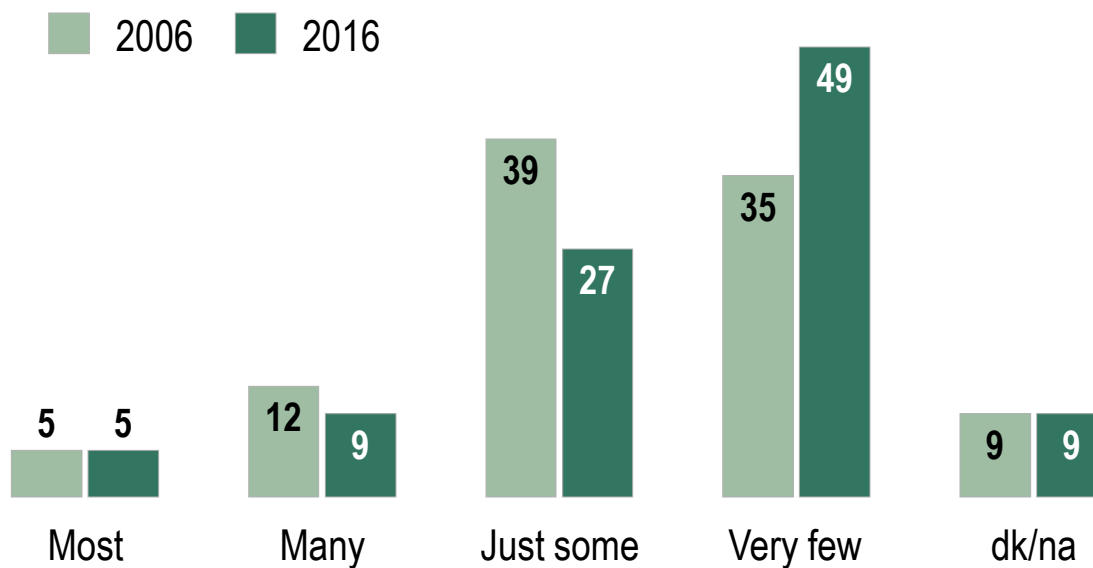
What values are most important for immigrants to adopt?



Few Canadian Muslims believe most or many Canadians are hostile to Muslims in Canada

2006 - 2016

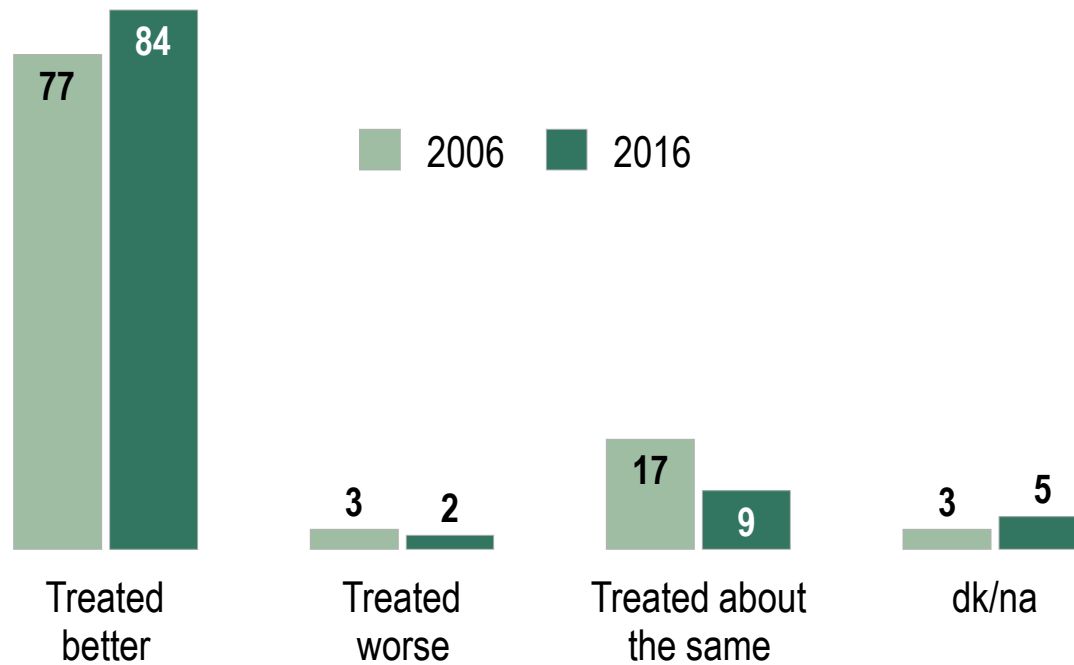
Estimated number of Canadians hostile to Muslims



Overwhelmingly, Canadian Muslims think Muslims are treated better in Canada than other Western countries

2006 - 2016

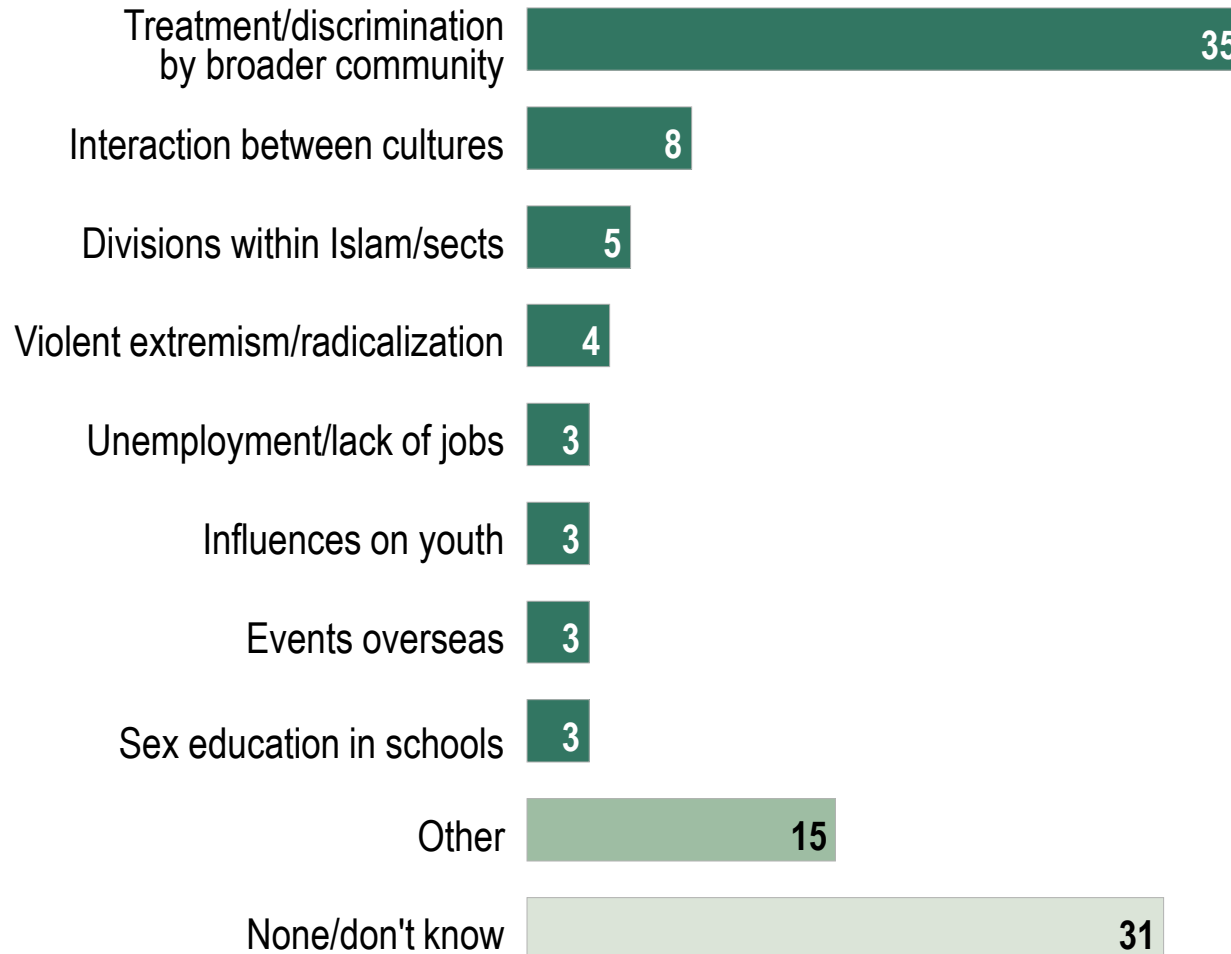
Treatment of Muslims in Canada compared to in other western countries



Discrimination is overwhelmingly the top concern for Muslims in their communities

2016

Most important issues facing Muslims in local community today (unprompted)

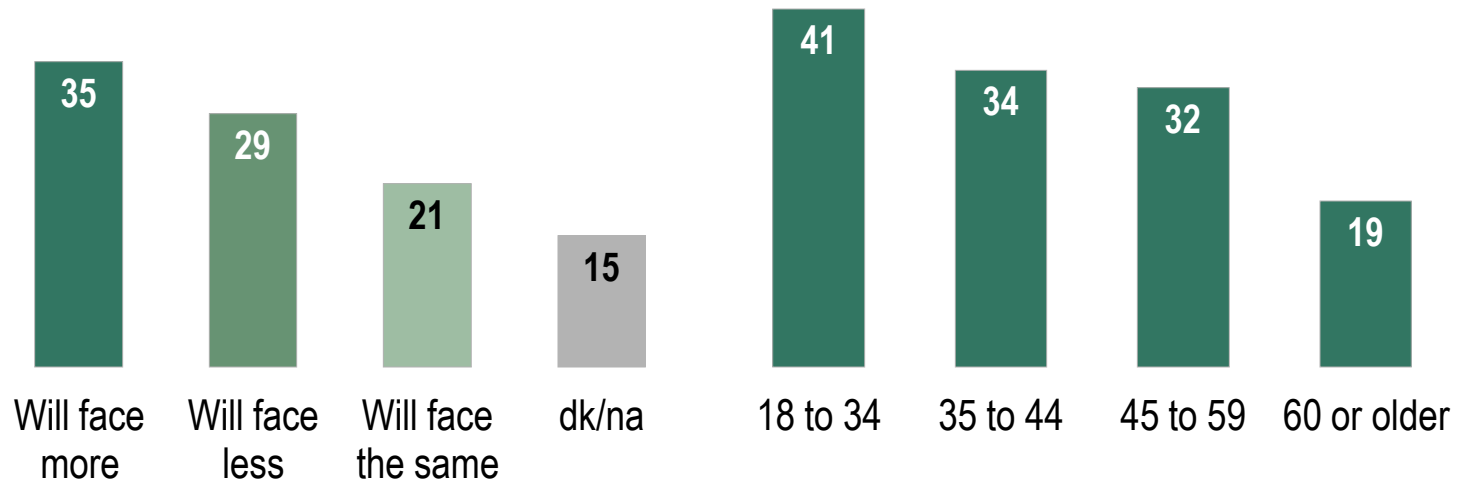


Muslims are divided on the future of discrimination but youth are the most pessimistic

2016

What will next generation of Muslims face in terms of discrimination/stereotyping?

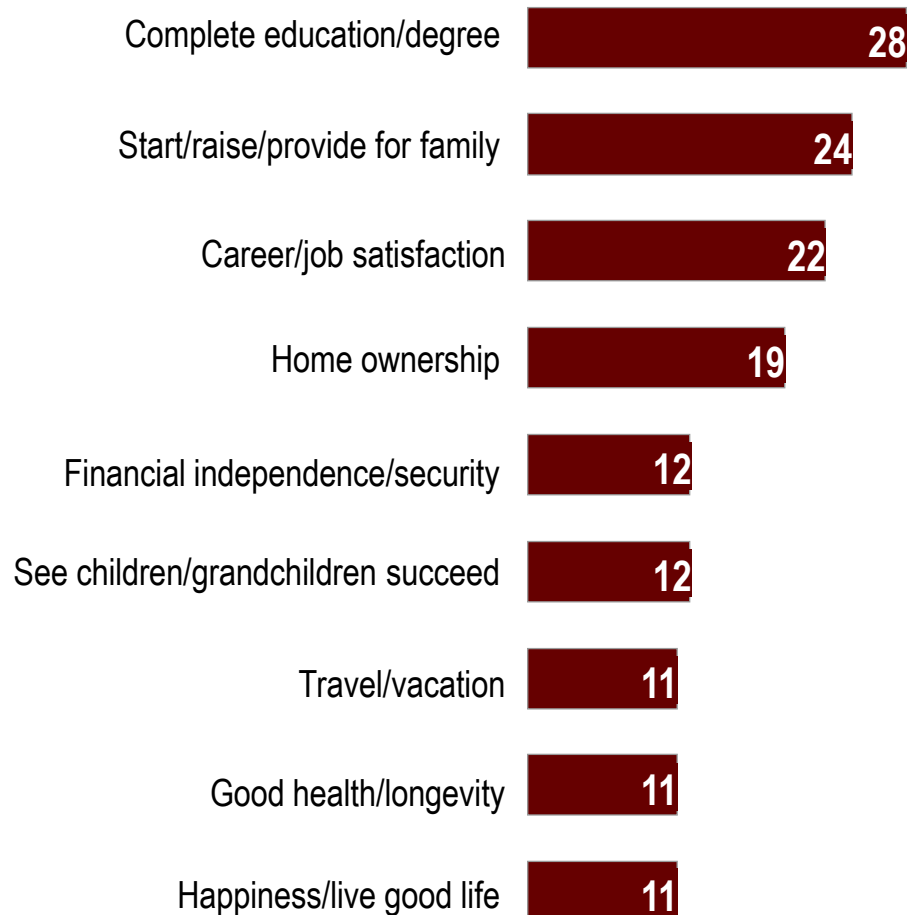
Will face more discrimination, by age cohort



Being an Urban Indigenous Person

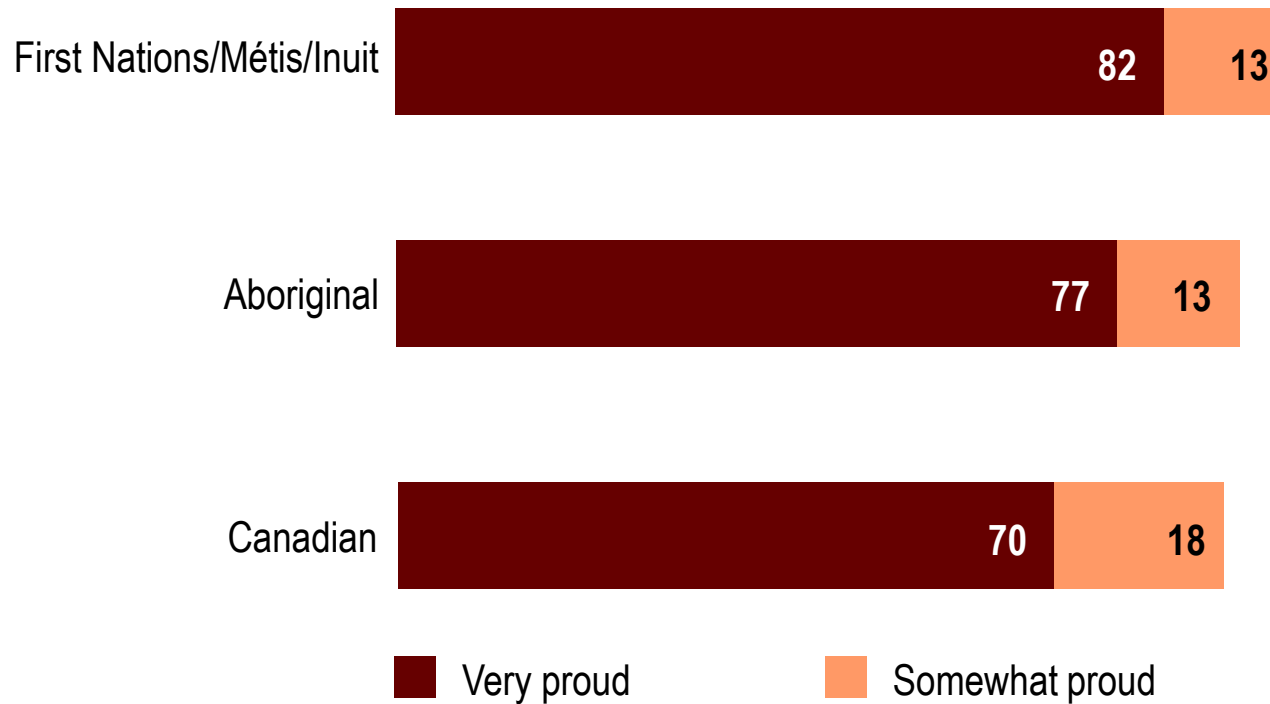
First Nations, Métis and Inuit desire to be successful in mainstream ways.

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



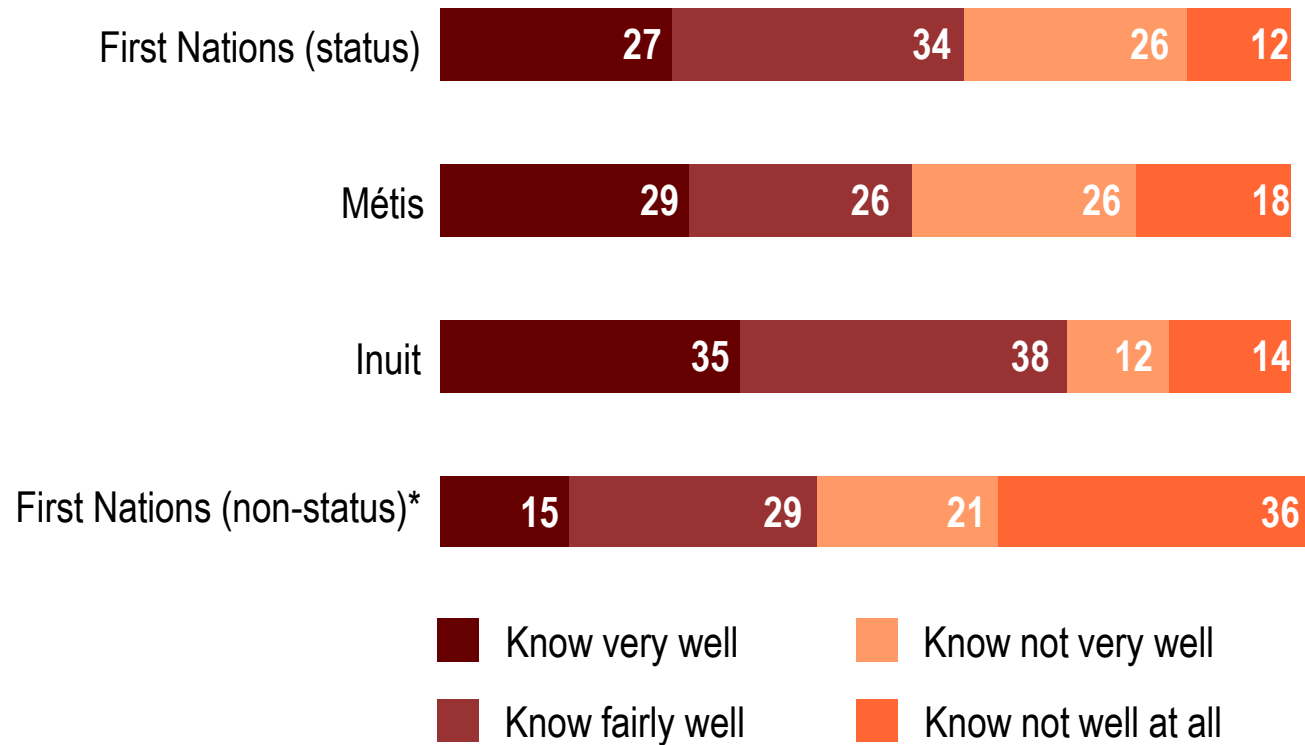
There is also strong Indigenous pride...and pride in Canada.

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



And the majority has a connection to their heritage, although some do not

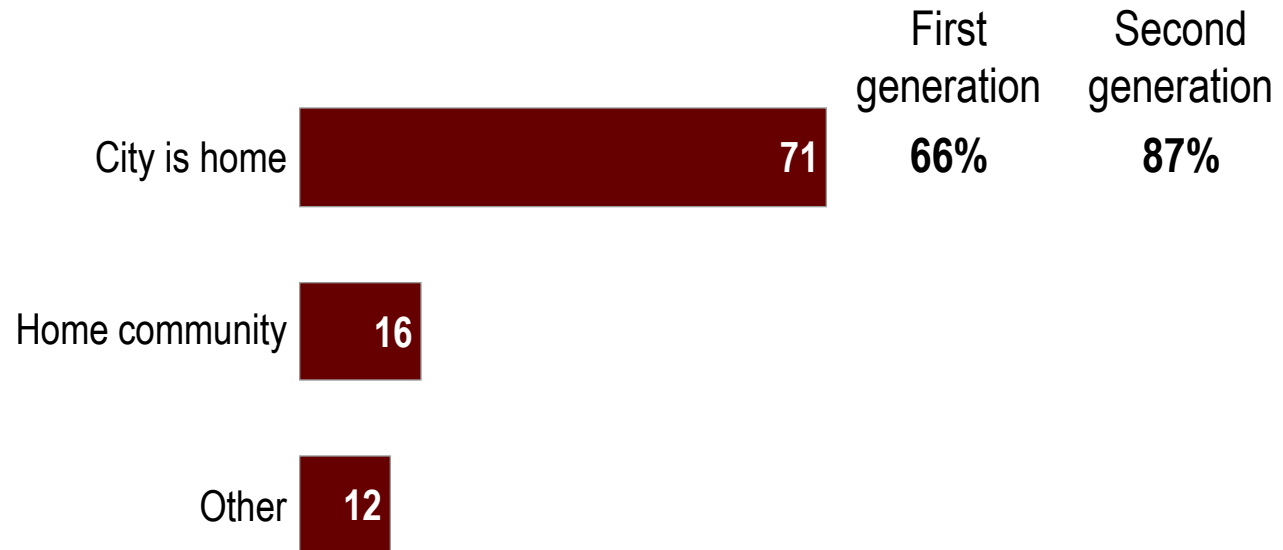
Knowledge of your family tree



*7% of our First Nations sample is non-status.

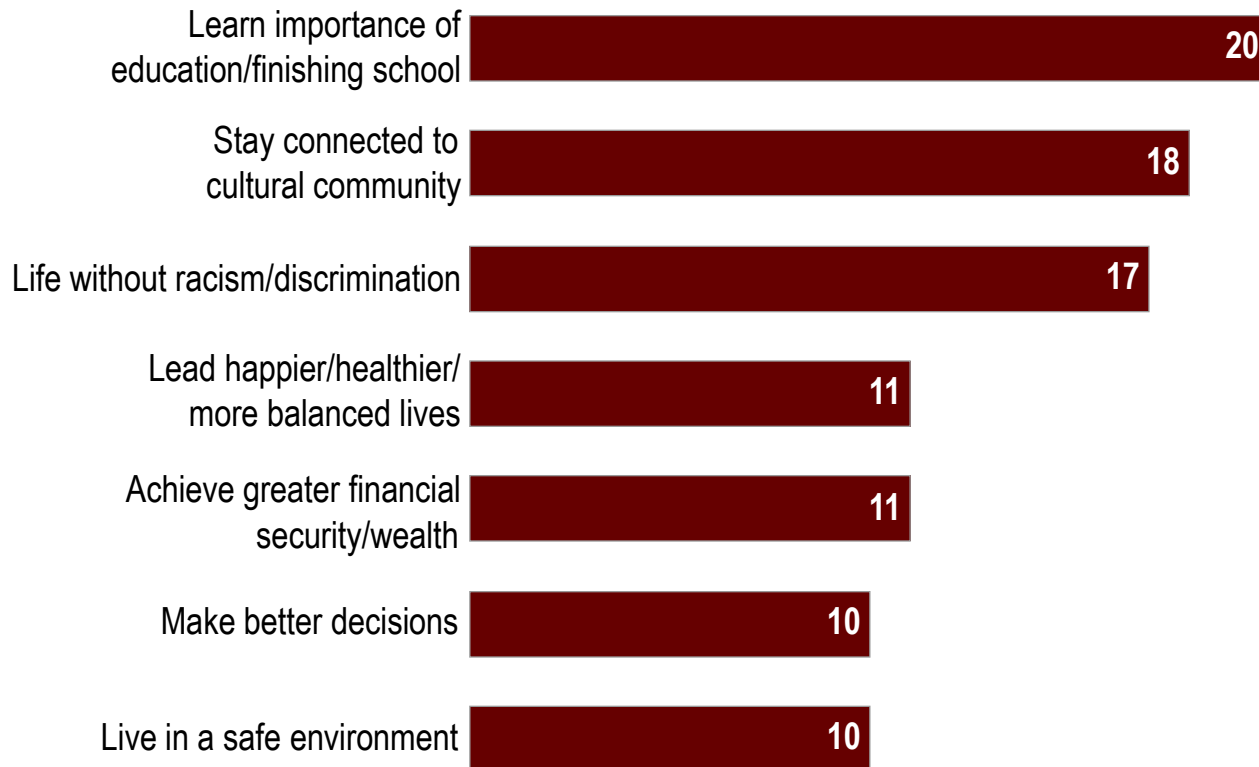
Most feel their current city of residence is home...

Where is home for you?



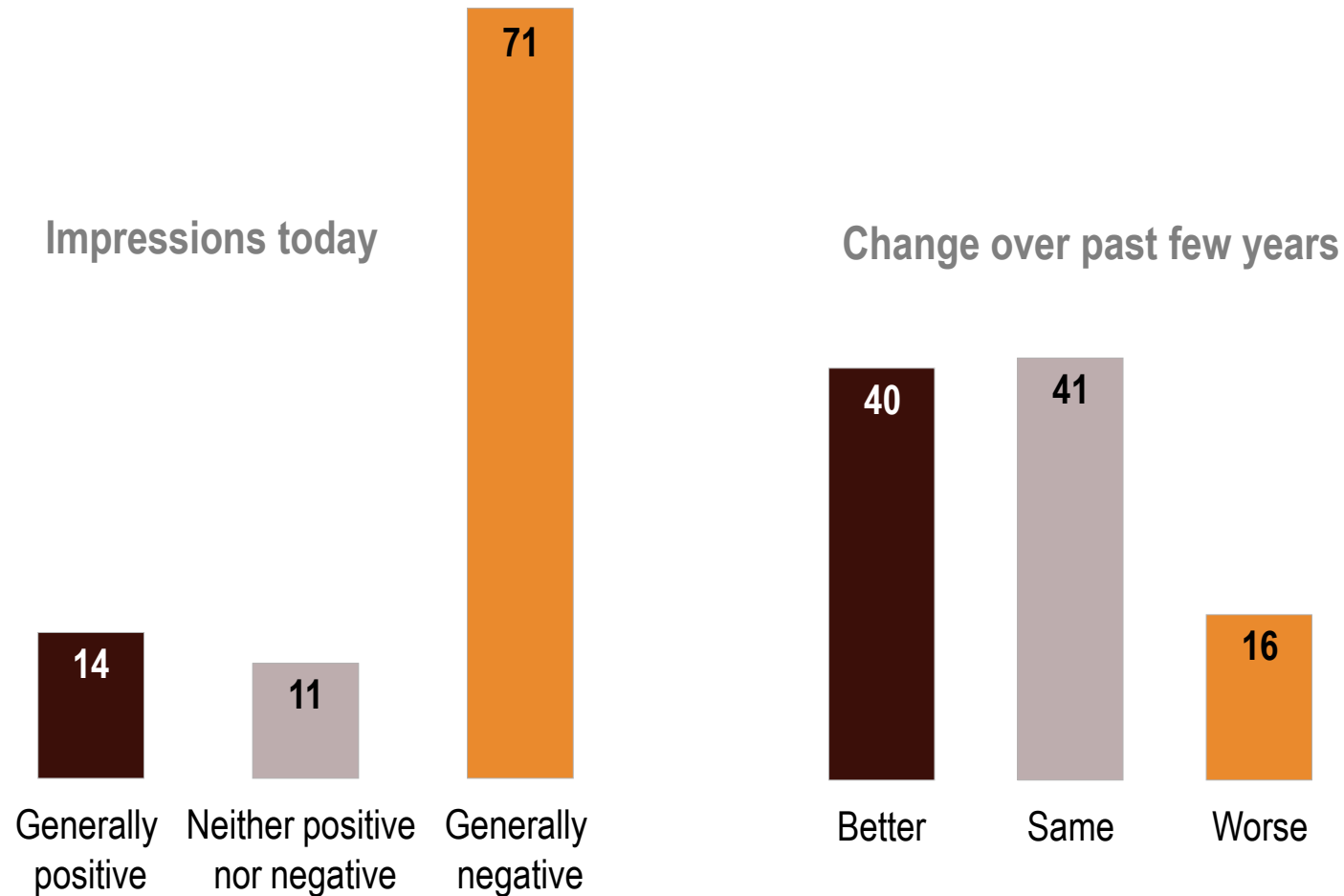
Education is the top priority for the next generation

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



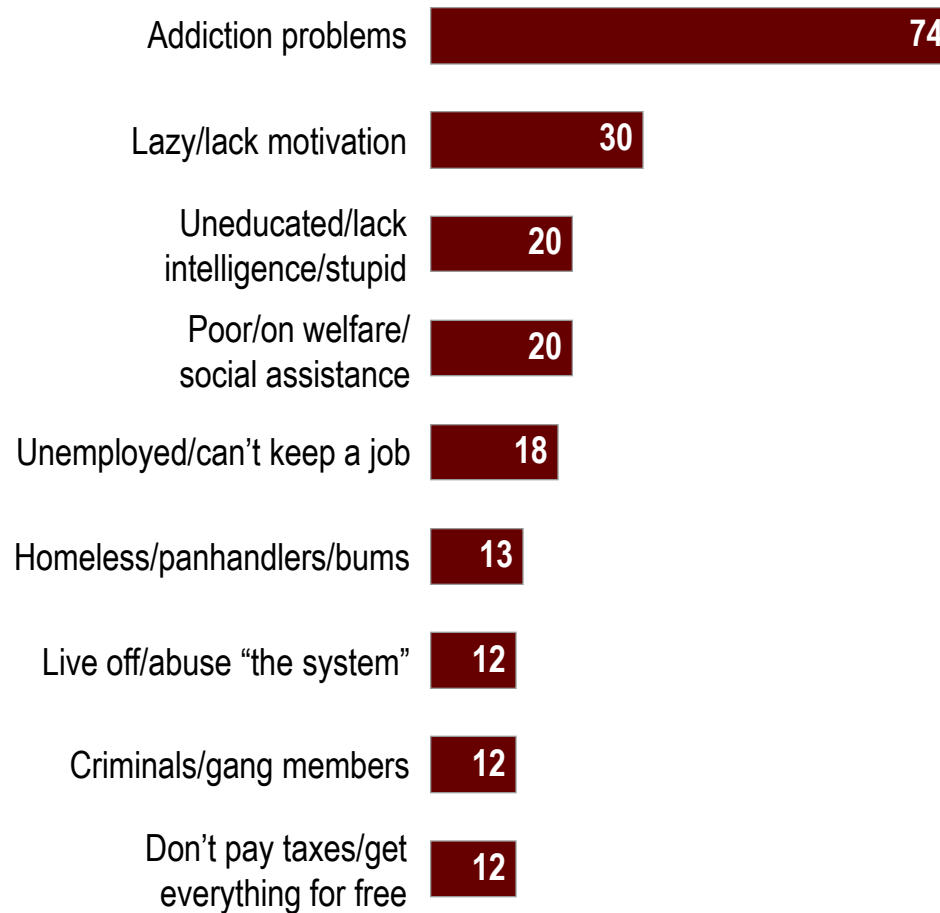
Indigenous Peoples believe they are seen negatively by other Canadians

How Aboriginal Peoples believe they are seen by non-Aboriginals.



Indigenous Peoples perceive addiction problems to be the number one stereotype against them

What do you believe are the most common stereotypes that non-Aboriginal people hold about Aboriginal people, if any?



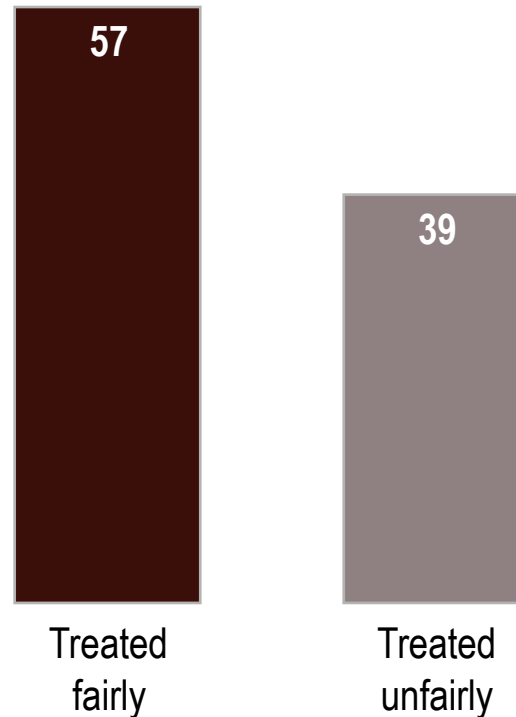
The majority of Indigenous Peoples say they have experienced discrimination

	% Agree	% Disagree
<i>“I think others behave in an unfair/negative way toward Aboriginal people”</i>	89	9
<i>“I have been teased/insulted because of my Aboriginal background”</i>	70	28

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

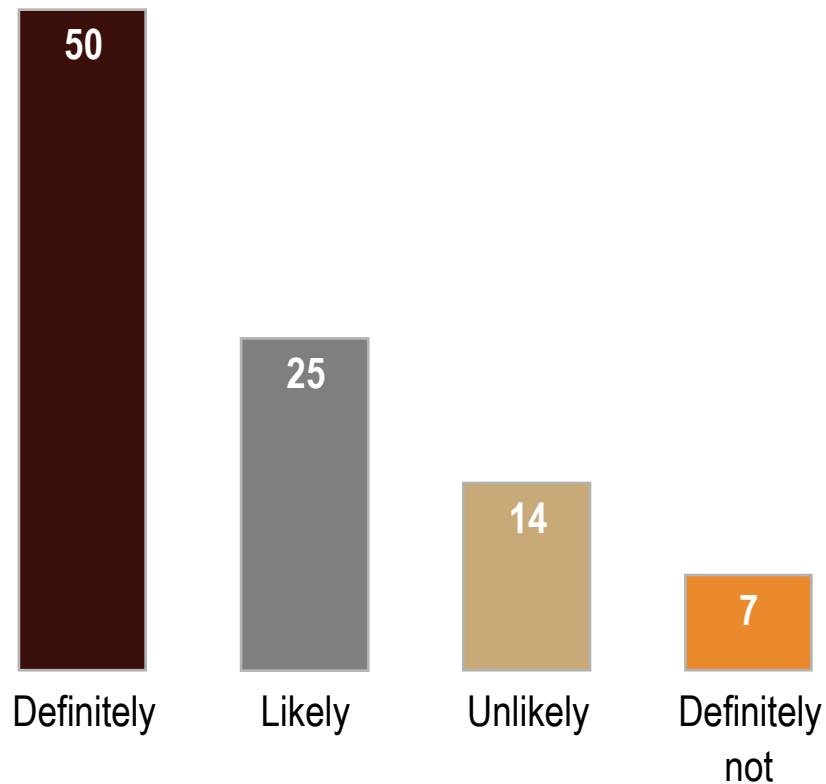
Those who have had experience with the justice system

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



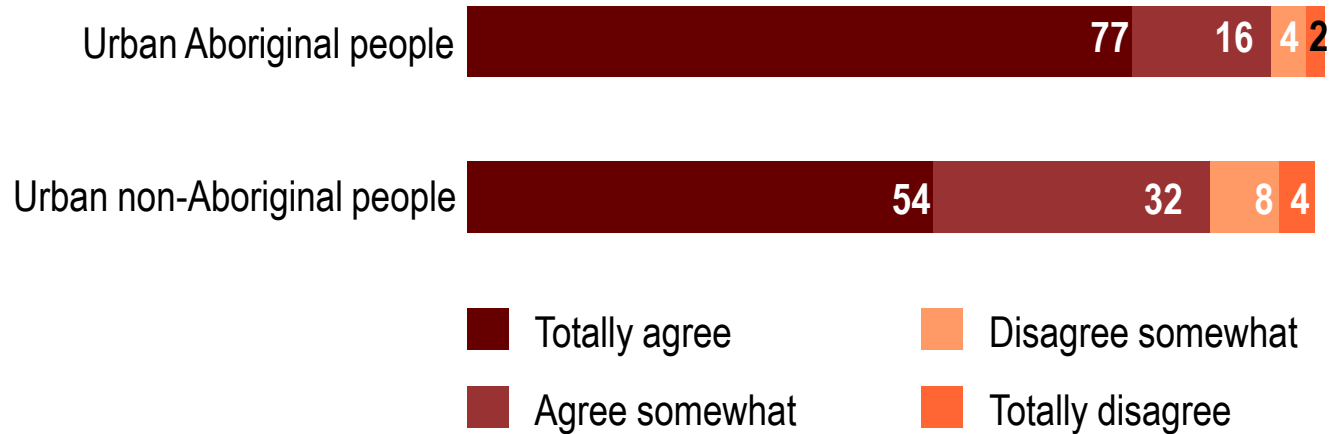
... unfair treatment being directly related to being Indigenous

*To what extent do you think you were treated unfairly because you are an Aboriginal person?**



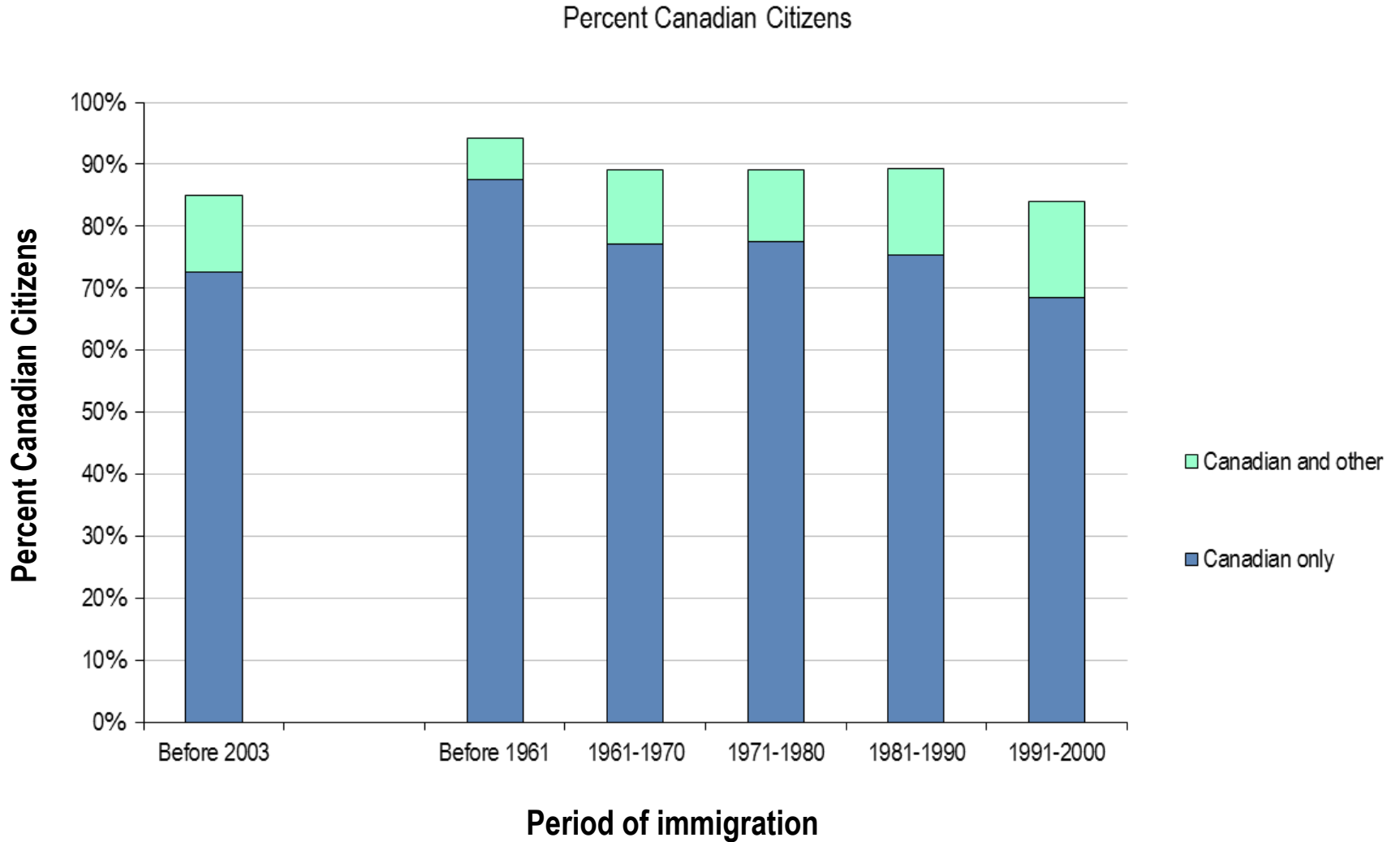
Yet, urban Indigenous Peoples are even more likely to embrace pluralism than other Canadians

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



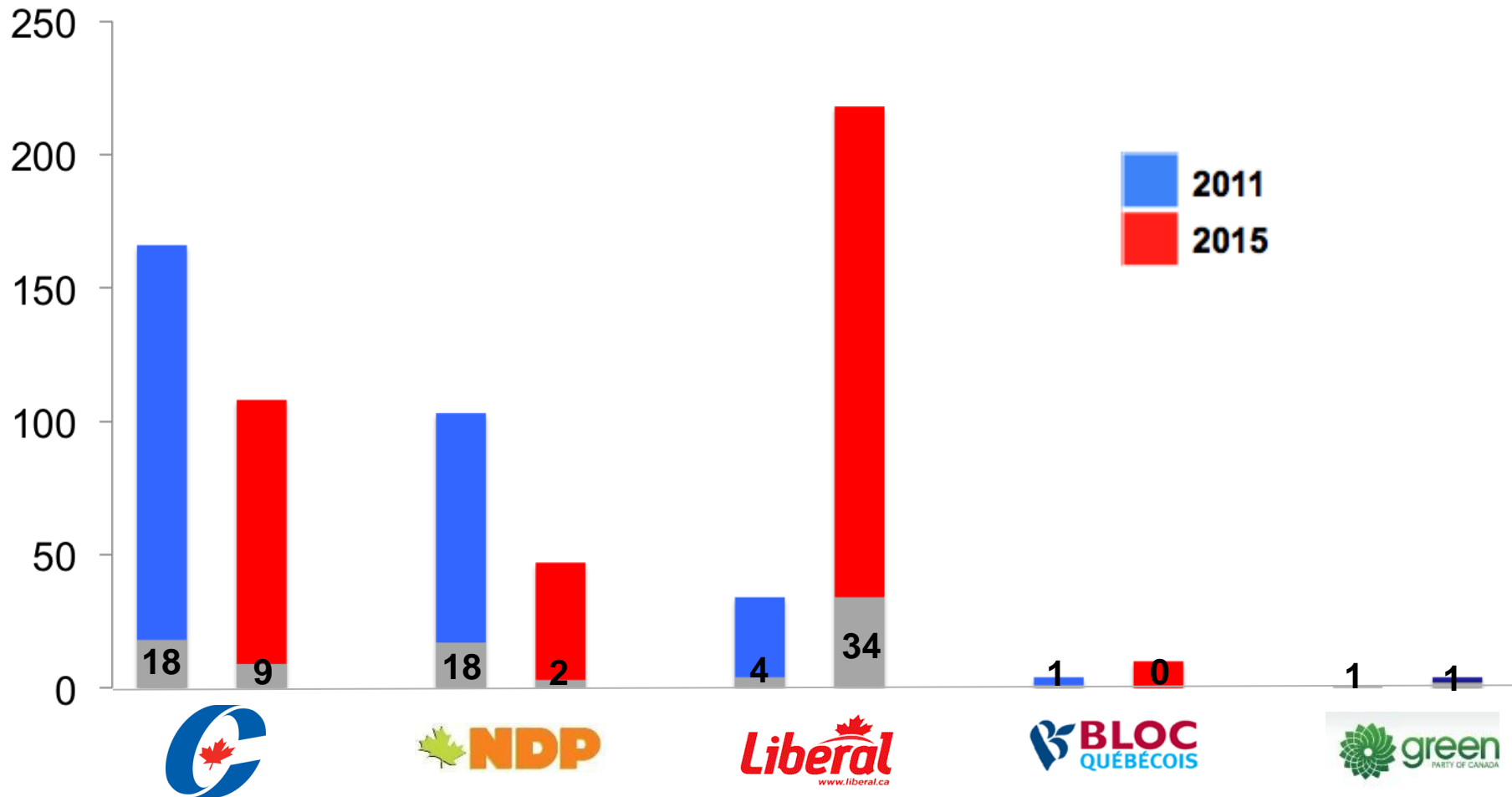
Political representation

Most immigrants become Canadian citizens



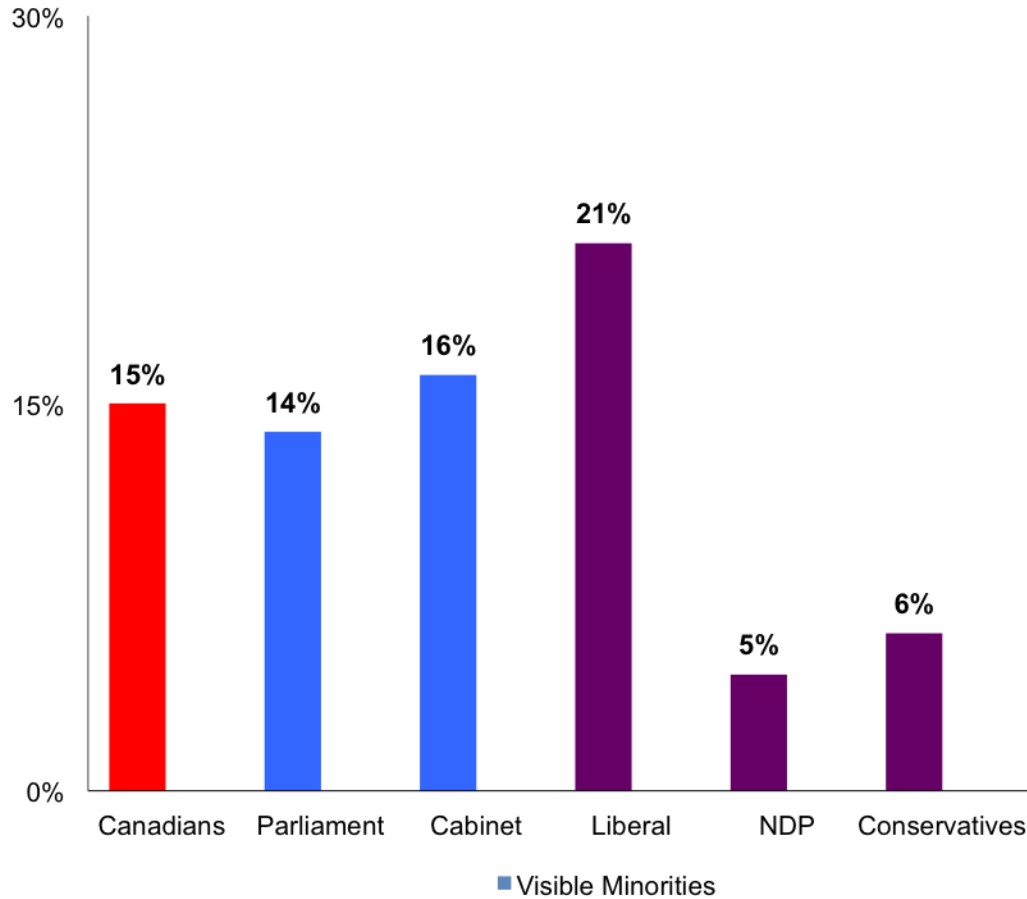
In 2015, Canadians elected 46 foreign-born MPs, up from 42 in 2011

2011 + 2015 Elections – number of foreign-born and Native born elected MP's, by party



The 2015 election also saw 47 visible minority persons elected to Parliament

2015 Election

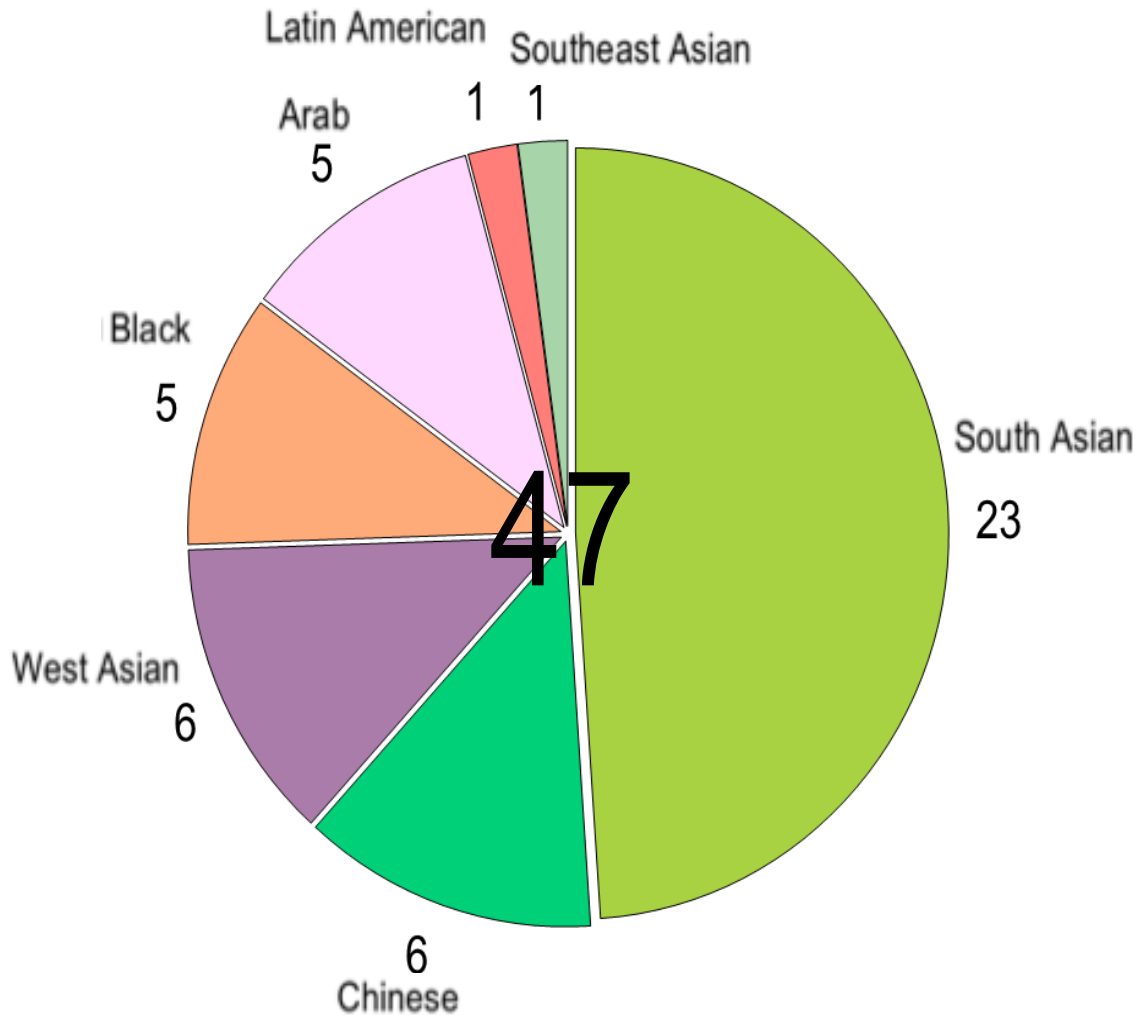


47 Visible Minority members of Parliament – party break down



Visible minority MPs come from around the world

Visible Minority MPs Representation by Ethnic Group

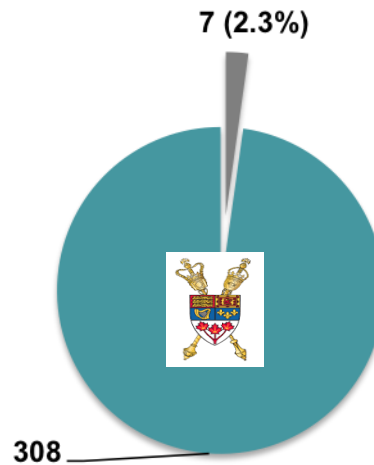


Indigenous Canadians also improved their representation in Canada's Parliament in 2015

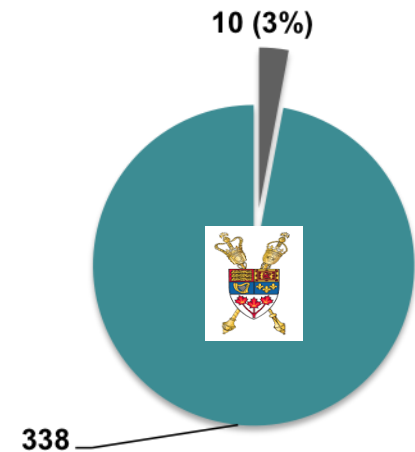
Indigenous population of
Canada



Indigenous representation in
Canadian Parliament - **2011**



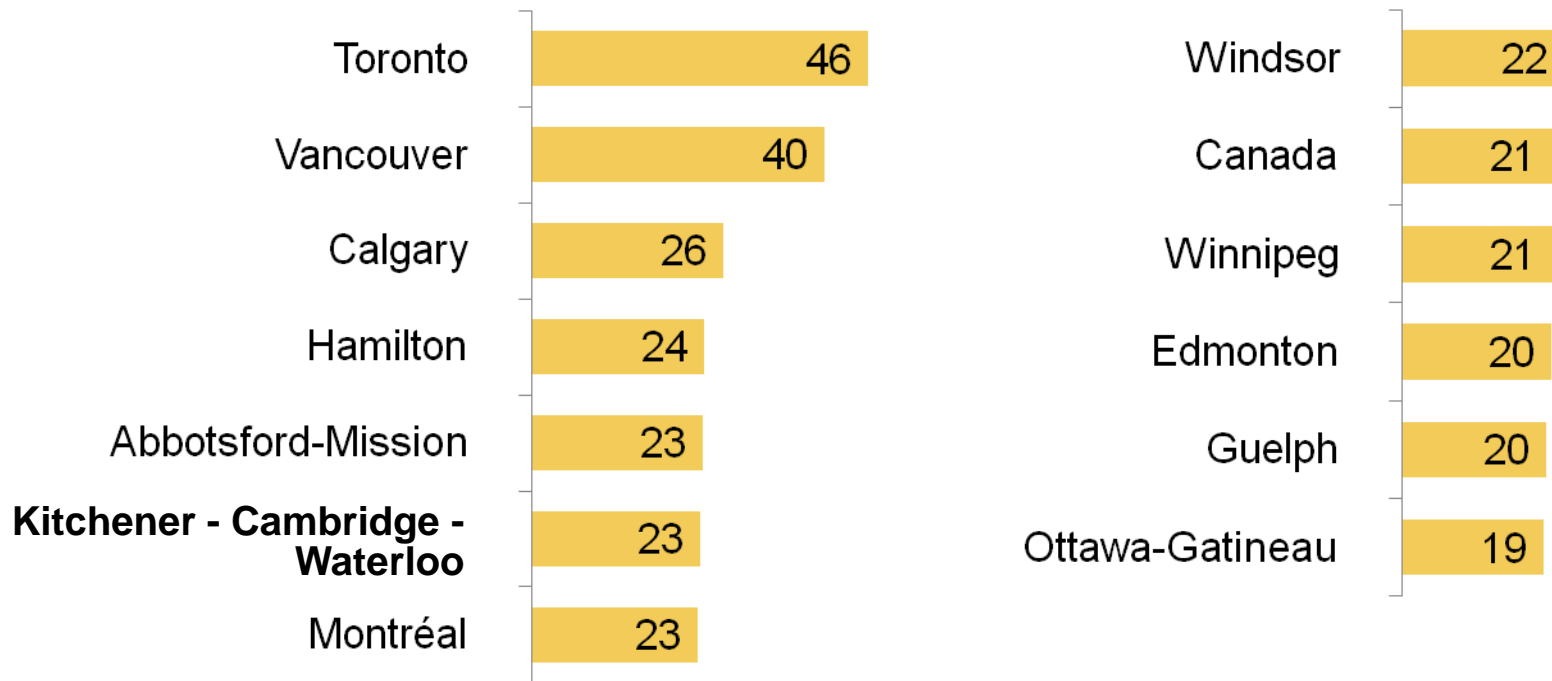
Indigenous representation
Canadian Parliament - **2015**



And finally a glimpse into the future ...

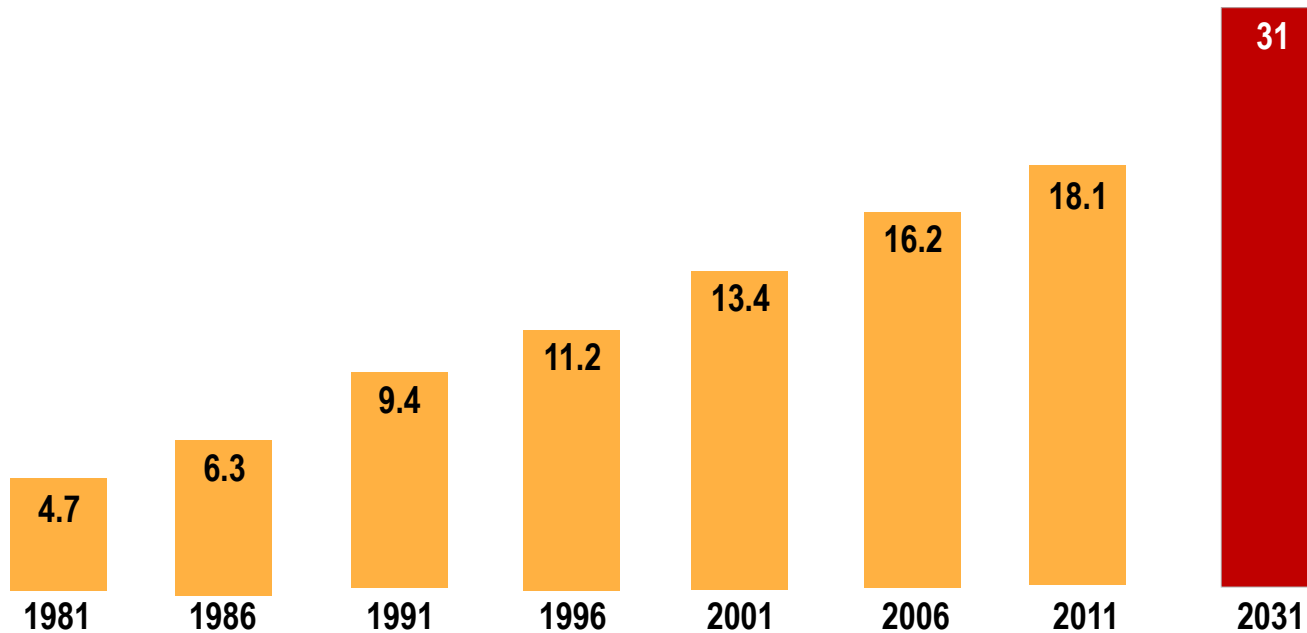
12 largest urban areas have more than 20% immigrants

Percent of population immigrants 2011



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

Visible Minority population as % of Canadian population



2031 % Visible Minority

Toronto - 63%

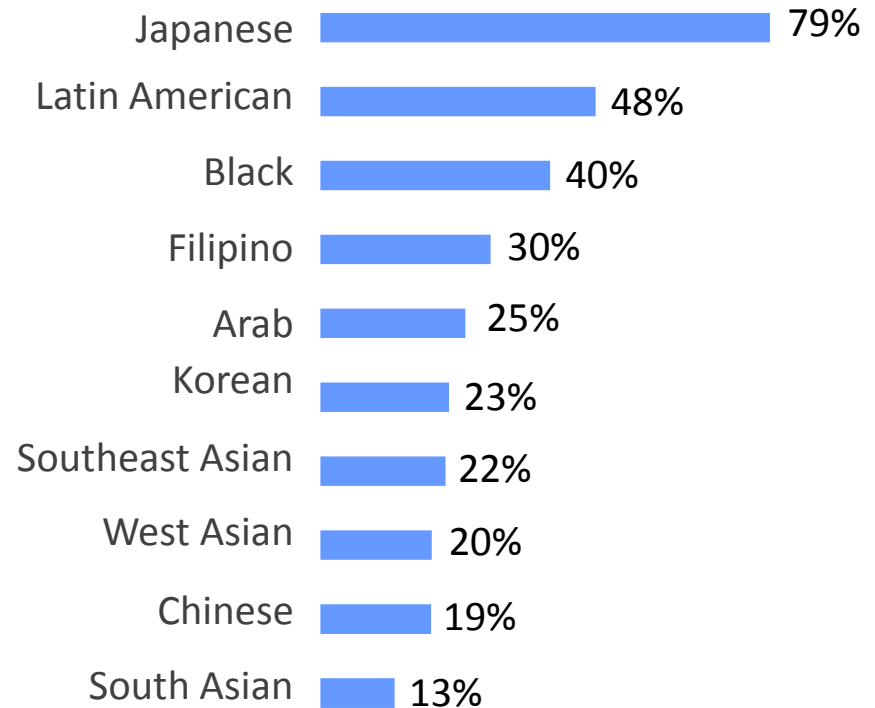
Vancouver - 59%

Canadian mixed marriages are now commonplace, especially among some visible minority groups

% of couples in mixed marriages in Canada - 2011



Proportion of individuals in mixed unions - Visible Minority Group, Canada, 2011



Concluding thoughts



How are we doing?

- Multiculturalism and acceptance of diversity are well established aspirations 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 the road to mutual accommodation:
 - Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians and
 - Eliminating stereotyping, discrimination and prejudice against racialized groups and religious minorities

Looking into the future

- Tolerance for the most part 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)

Looking into the future

Canada's...

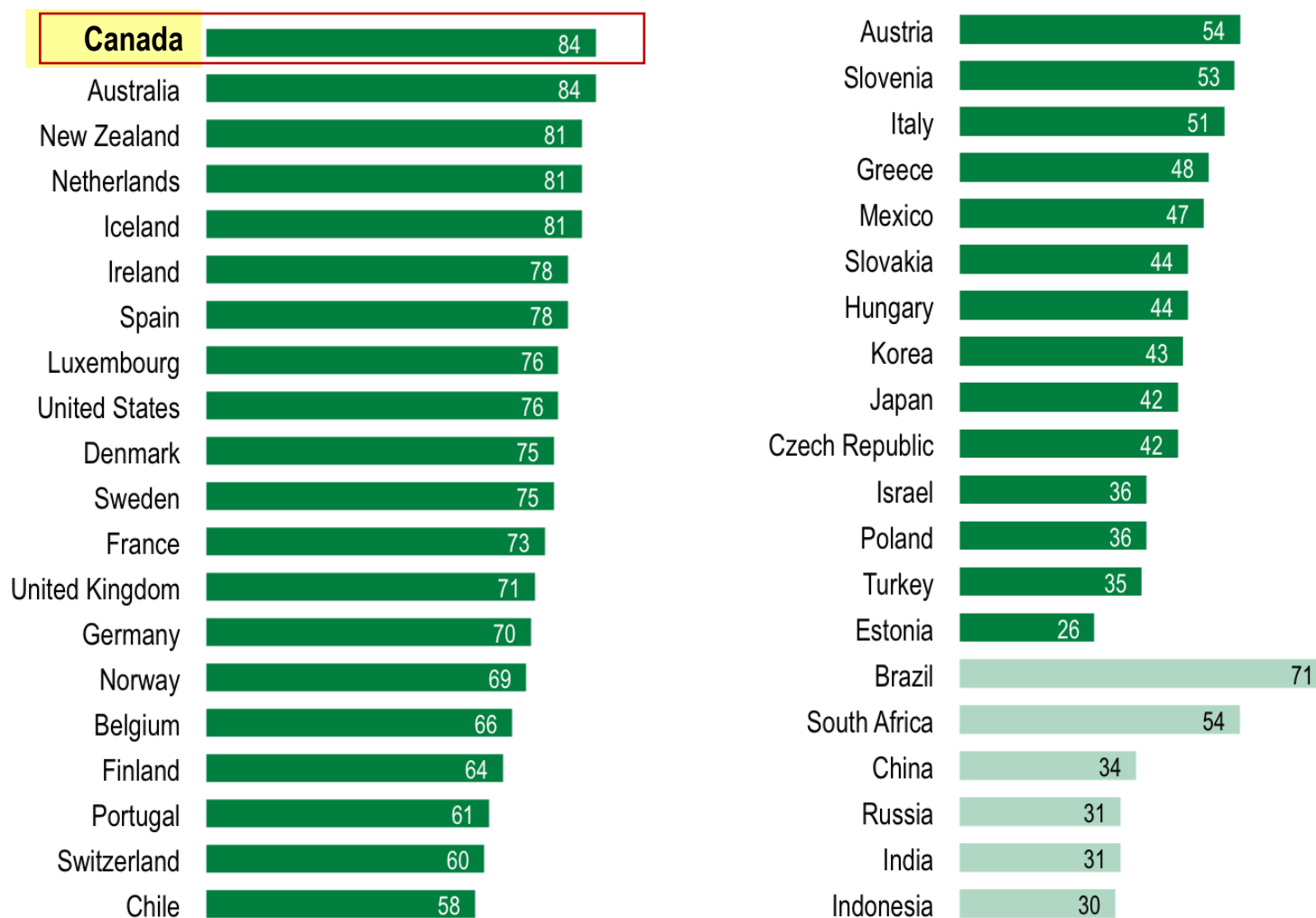
- History of mutual accommodation
- Our values
- Political institutions
- Social programs
- Public education
- Dedication to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples
- Programs to promote immigrant/refugee integration
- Programs to eliminate racial and religious discrimination

....suggest we will not experience deep alienation from marginalized minorities nor deep backlash from significant segments of the majority

And finally, according to Gallup we don't look too bad when compared to other countries

2010 OECD + other countries

Tolerance of others who are different





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