



Canada as a beacon for migrant acceptance

Is this reputation still deserved?

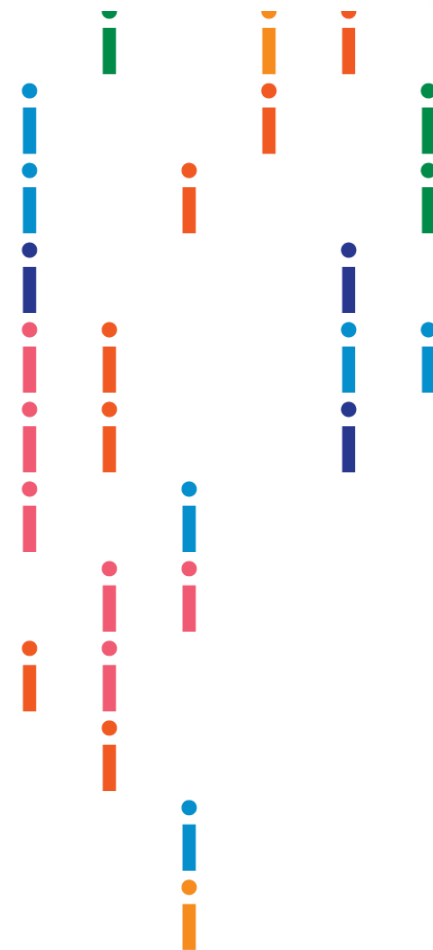
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Environics Institute for Survey Research

Pathways to Prosperity 2019 National Conference

Toronto ON

November 1, 2019



A diverse crowd of people is shown at an outdoor event, likely a festival or community gathering. In the foreground, a man with grey hair and sunglasses is raising his hand. To his right, a man in a suit is also raising his hand. The background is filled with other people, some wearing hats, and colorful tents under a clear sky.

How accepting are Canadians of immigration and our growing diversity?

Has public opinion changed noticeably given recent events in Canada and elsewhere?



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
W. LAMBERT
N. KENNEDY
S. BURNHAMTHORPE
W. CANADA
WELCOME TO CANADA

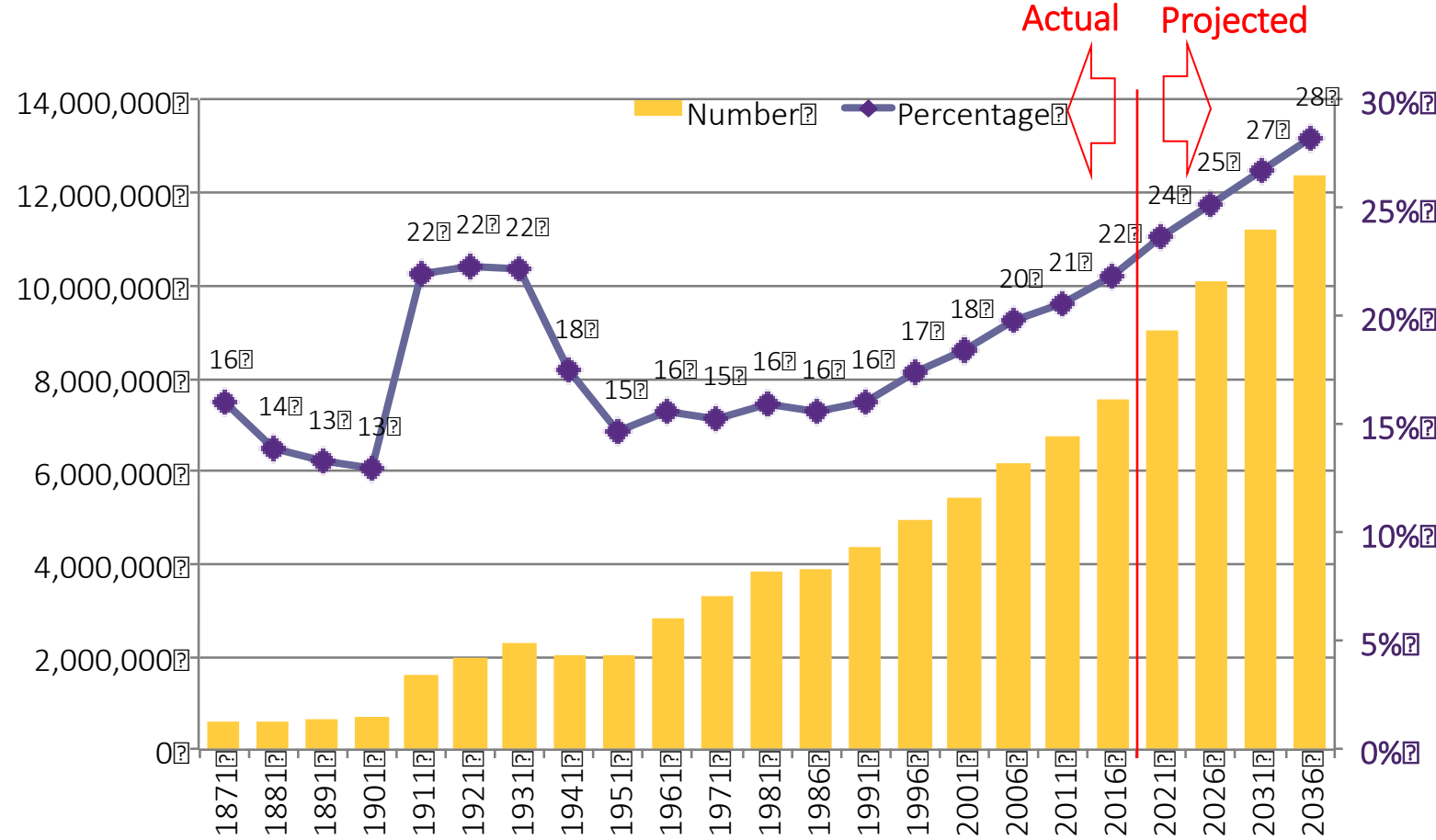


CANADIAN IMMIGRATION



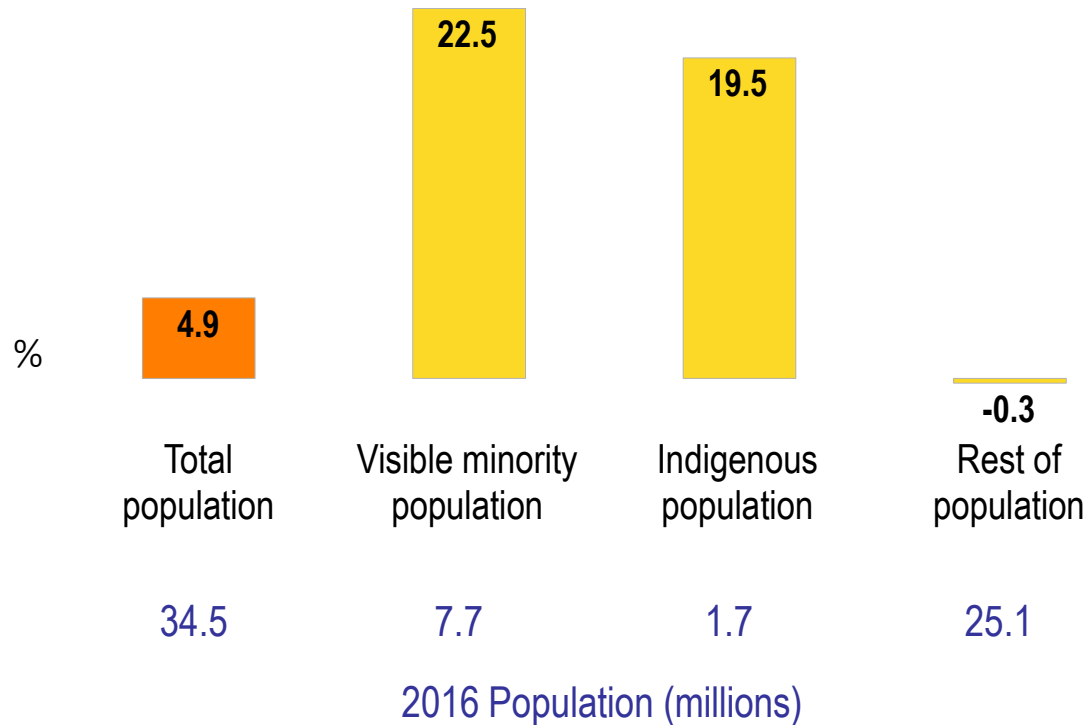
More than one in five Canadians is now foreign-born, and this proportion will continue to rise

1871 - 2036



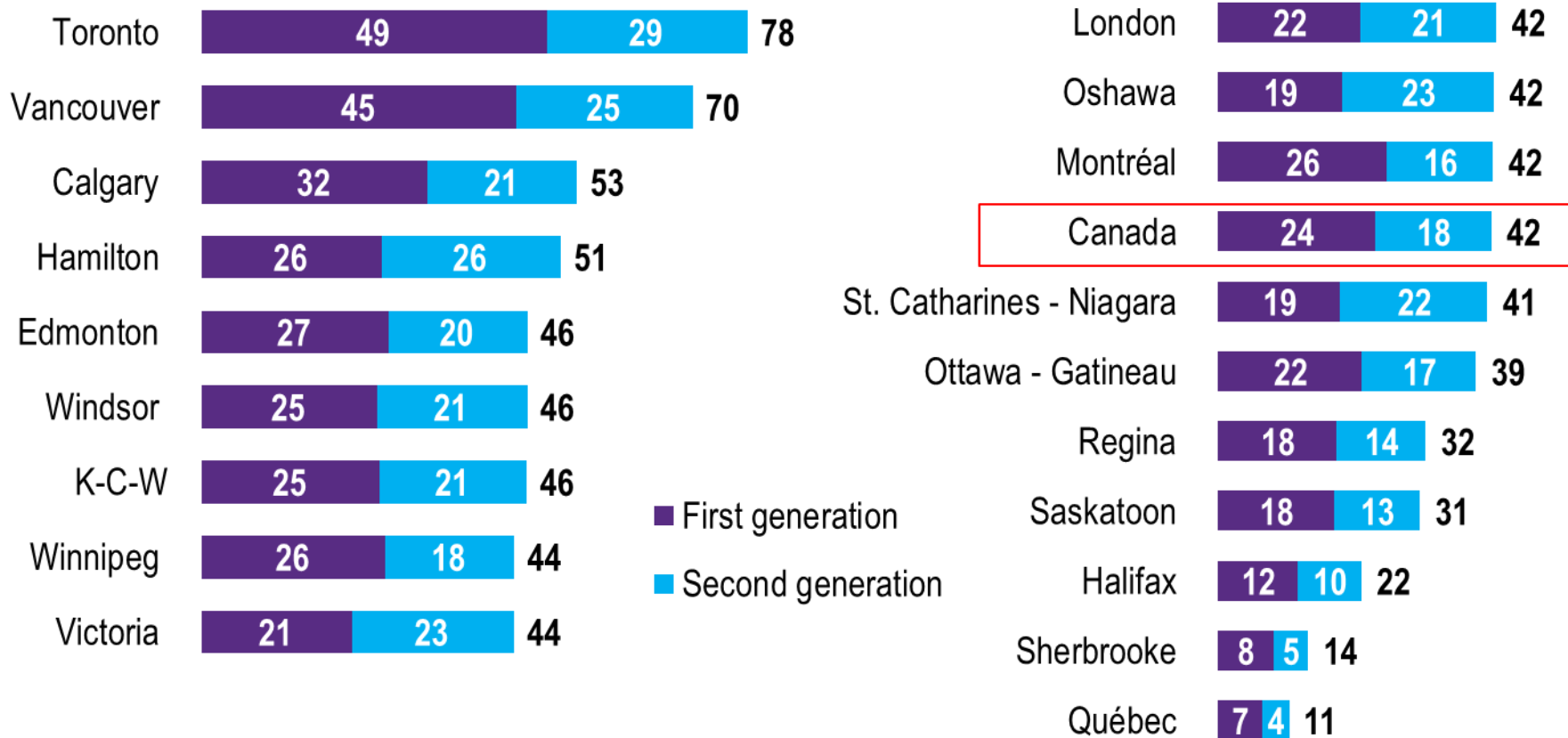
Since 2011, visible minority and Indigenous populations account for **all** of Canada's total population growth

% Population Growth 2011-2016, Canada



Four in ten Canadians are first or second generation -- and now the majority in Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary

Percent of population by generation, Canada, 2016



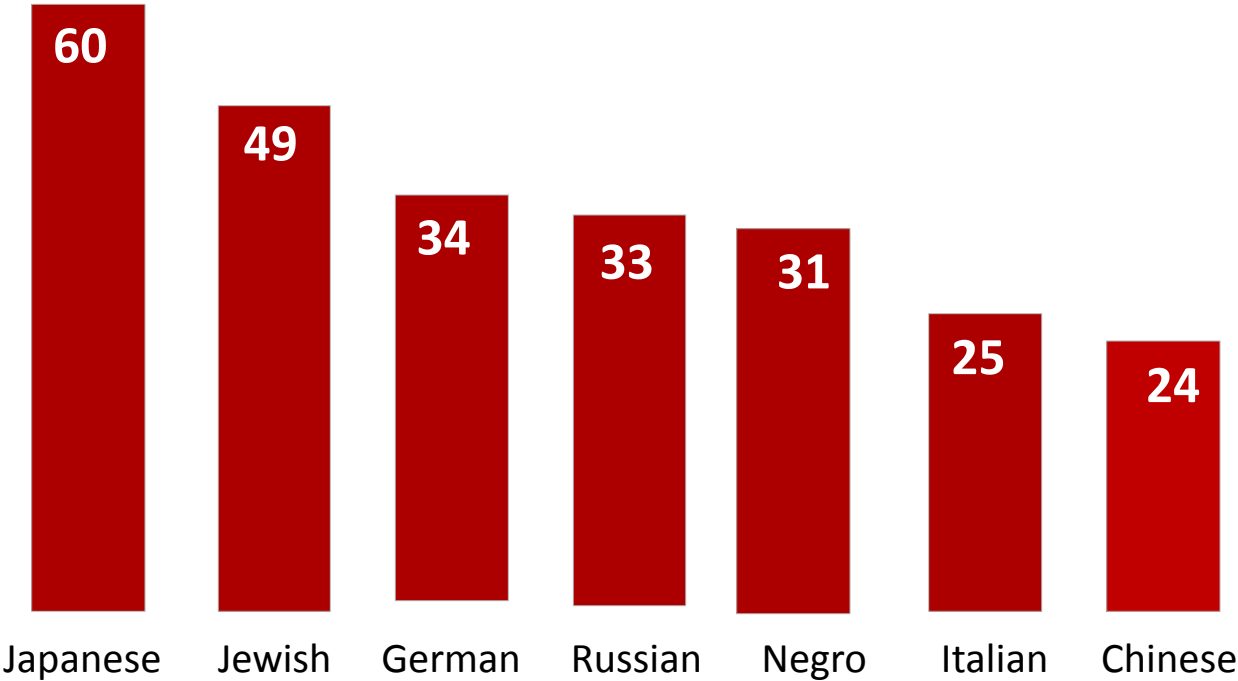
A high-angle, top-down photograph of a very large, dense crowd of people. The individuals are packed closely together, filling the entire frame. Many people are wearing backpacks, suggesting they might be hikers, travelers, or participants in a large-scale event. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance. The lighting is bright, and the overall color palette is somewhat muted, with many people wearing white or light-colored shirts. The text "Public opinion about immigration and refugees" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**Public opinion about
immigration and refugees**

Canadians' views about immigrants in 1940s reflected the racist culture and policies of the day . . .

1946

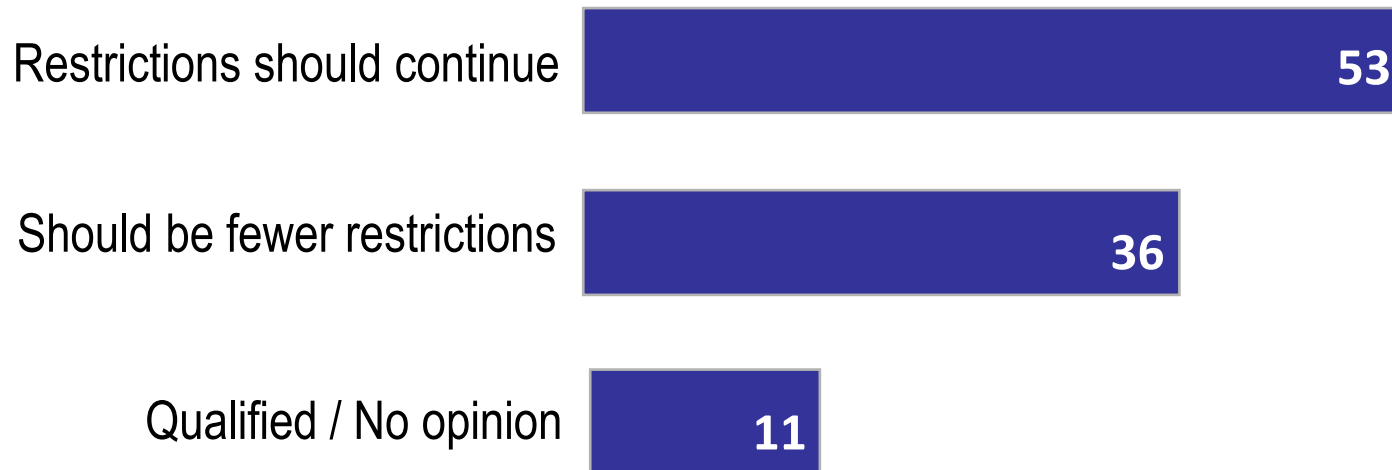
If Canada does allow more immigration, are there any of these nationalities which you would like to keep out?



. . . and continuing into the early 1960s

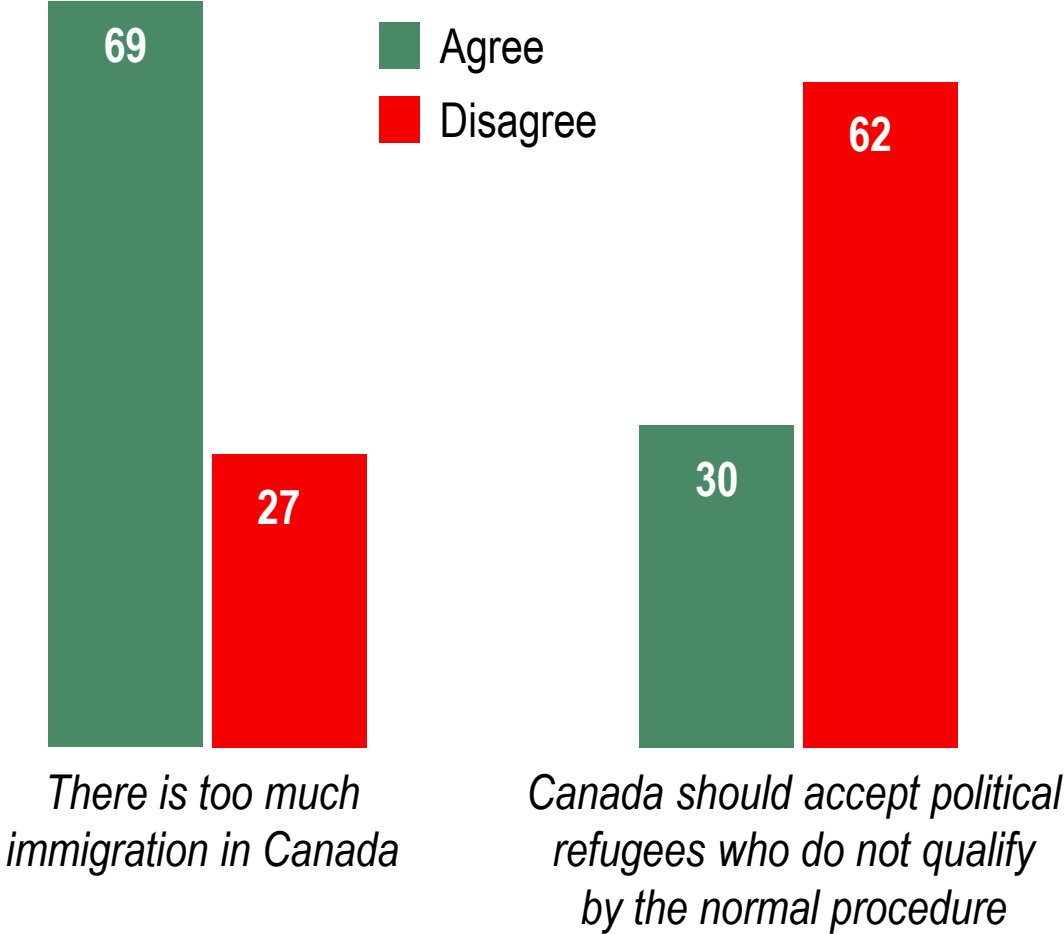
1961

*As you know, Canada restricts the admission of non-whites to this country.
Do you think this should continue, or do you think there should be fewer
restrictions on non-whites?*



In even into the 1980s, most Canadians opposed immigration levels and admitting political refugees

1983



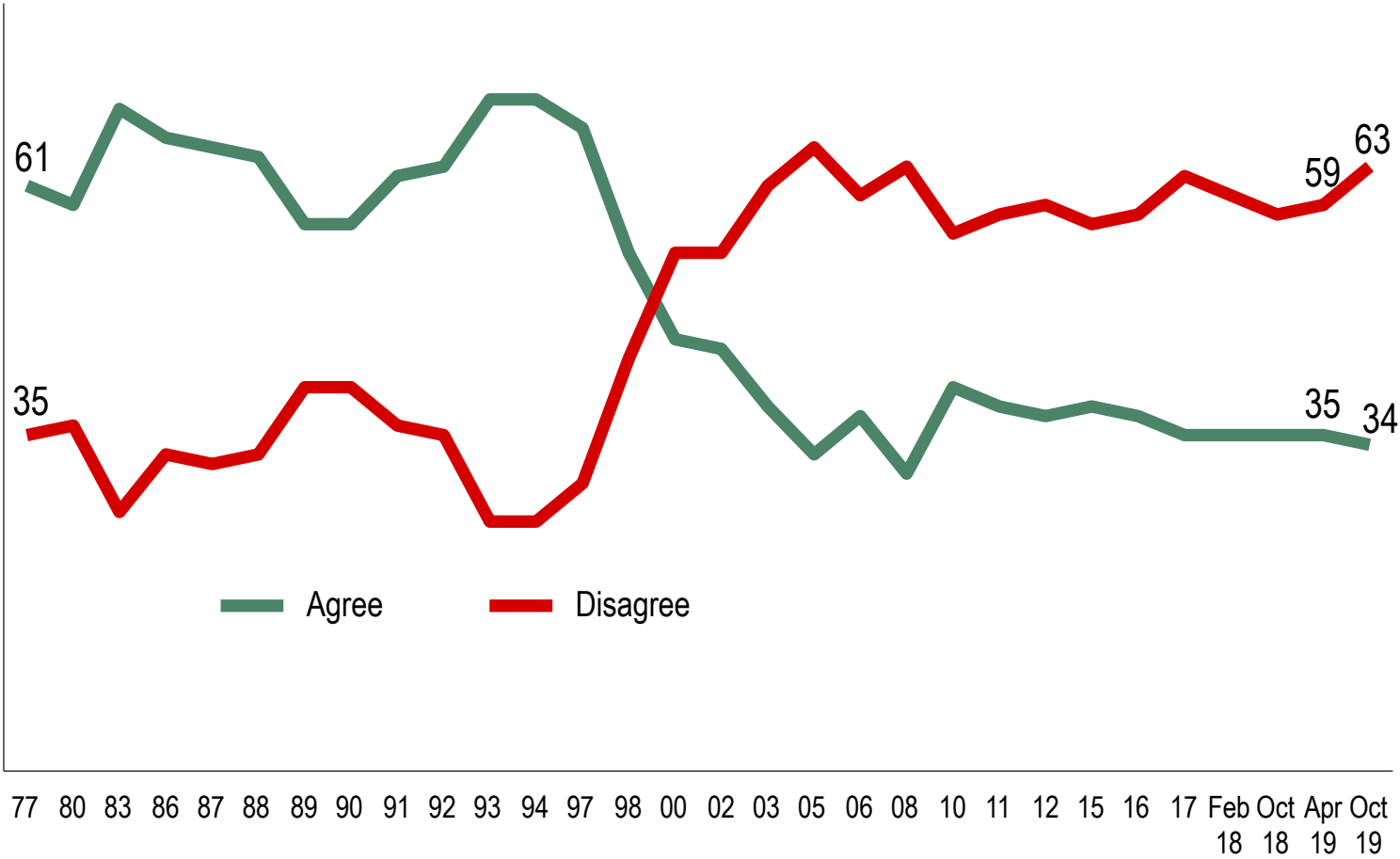
And then it changed . . .



In the 21st century, a defining majority of Canadians have come to accept, if not actively support, the number of immigrants joining them

1977 - 2019

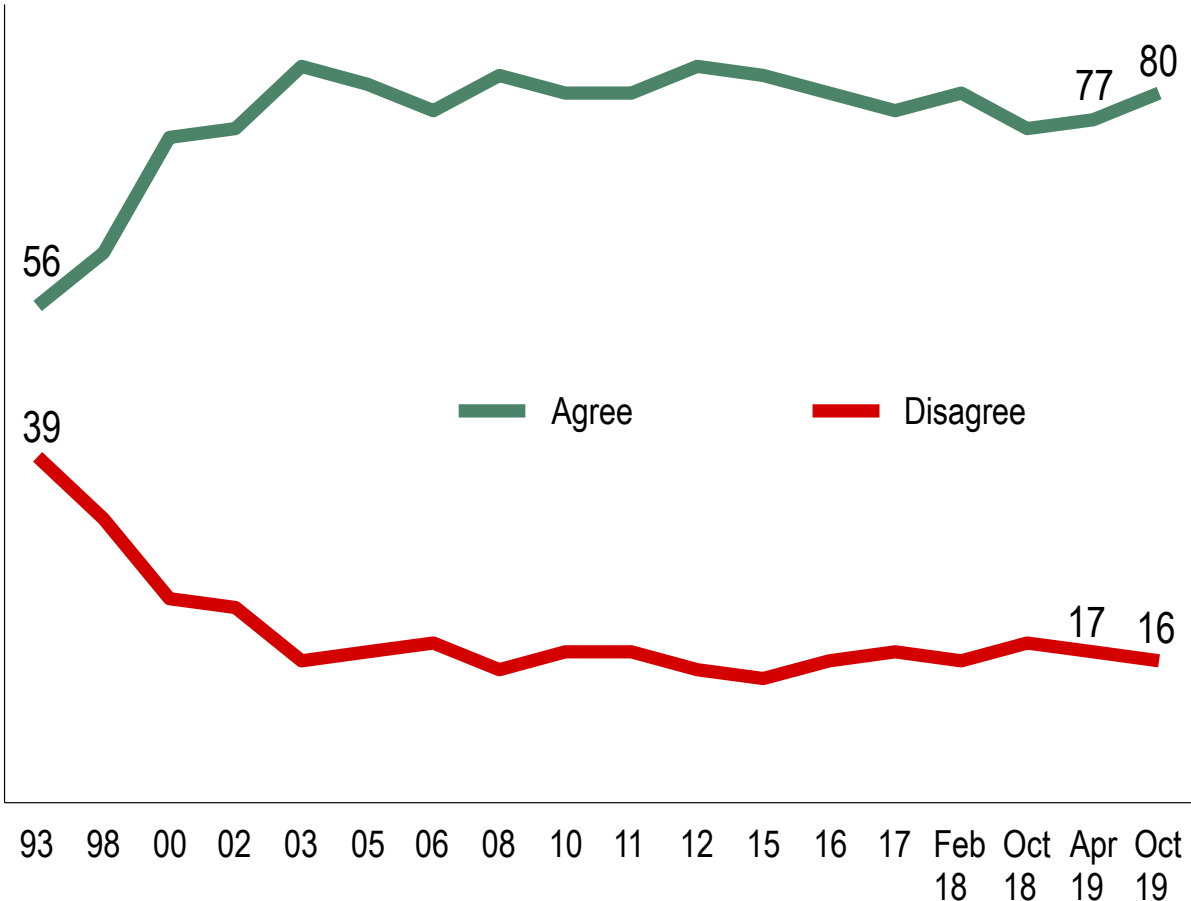
Agree or disagree: "There is too much immigration in Canada"



Most Canadians consistently believe that immigrants help rather than hurt the economy and job creation

1977 - 2019

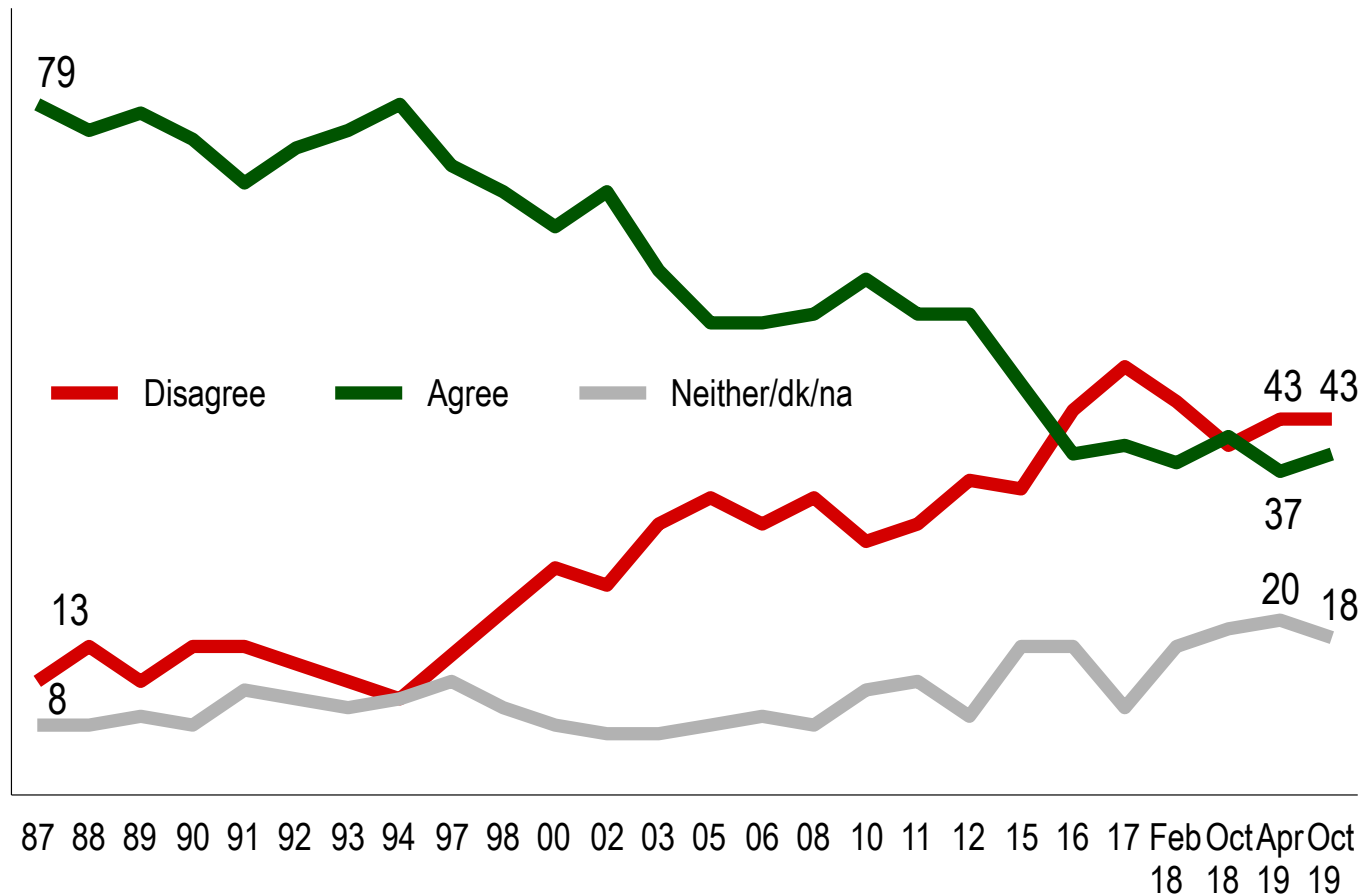
Agree or disagree: "The economic impact of immigrants is positive"



There is no agreement on whether too many refugee claimants are not legitimate, but views are much more positive than in the past

1987 - 2019

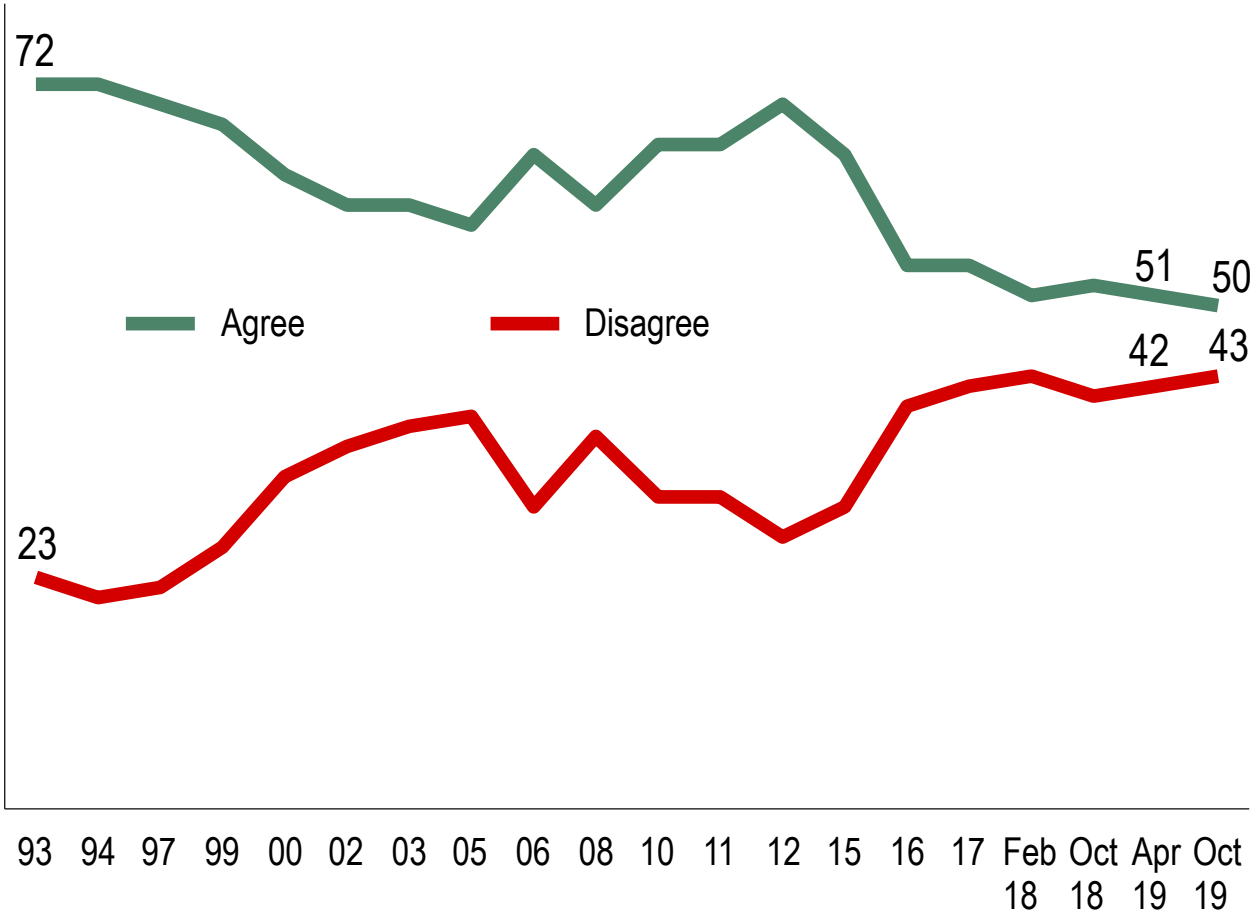
Agree or disagree: "Too many refugee claimants are not legitimate"



The greatest public concern is that some newcomers are not sufficiently integrating into Canadian society

1993 - 2019

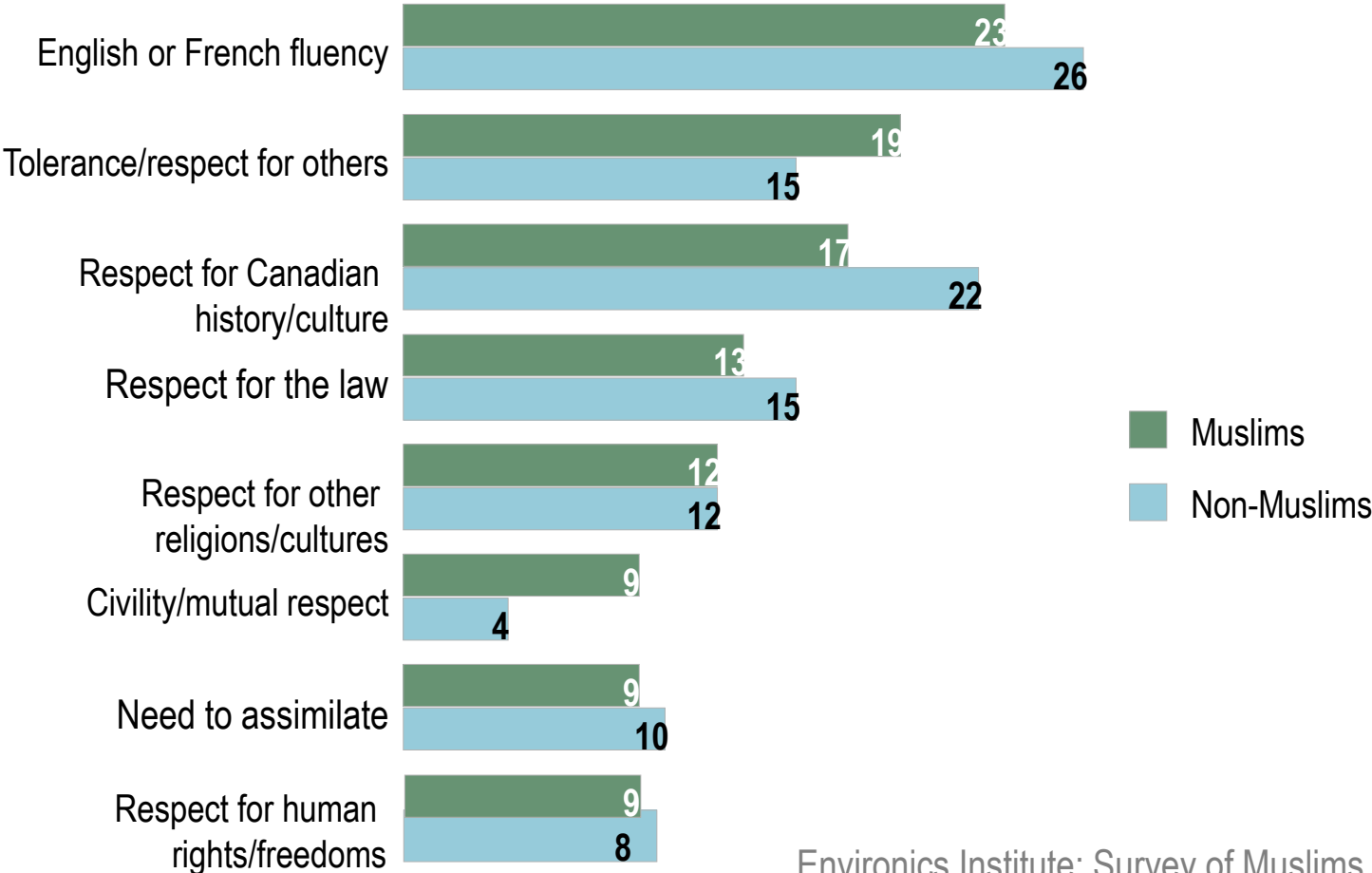
Agree or disagree: "Too many immigrants do not adopt Canadian Values"



And yet - Muslims & non-Muslims generally agree on the important values which immigrants to Canada need to adopt

2016 Surveys of Muslims and non-Muslims

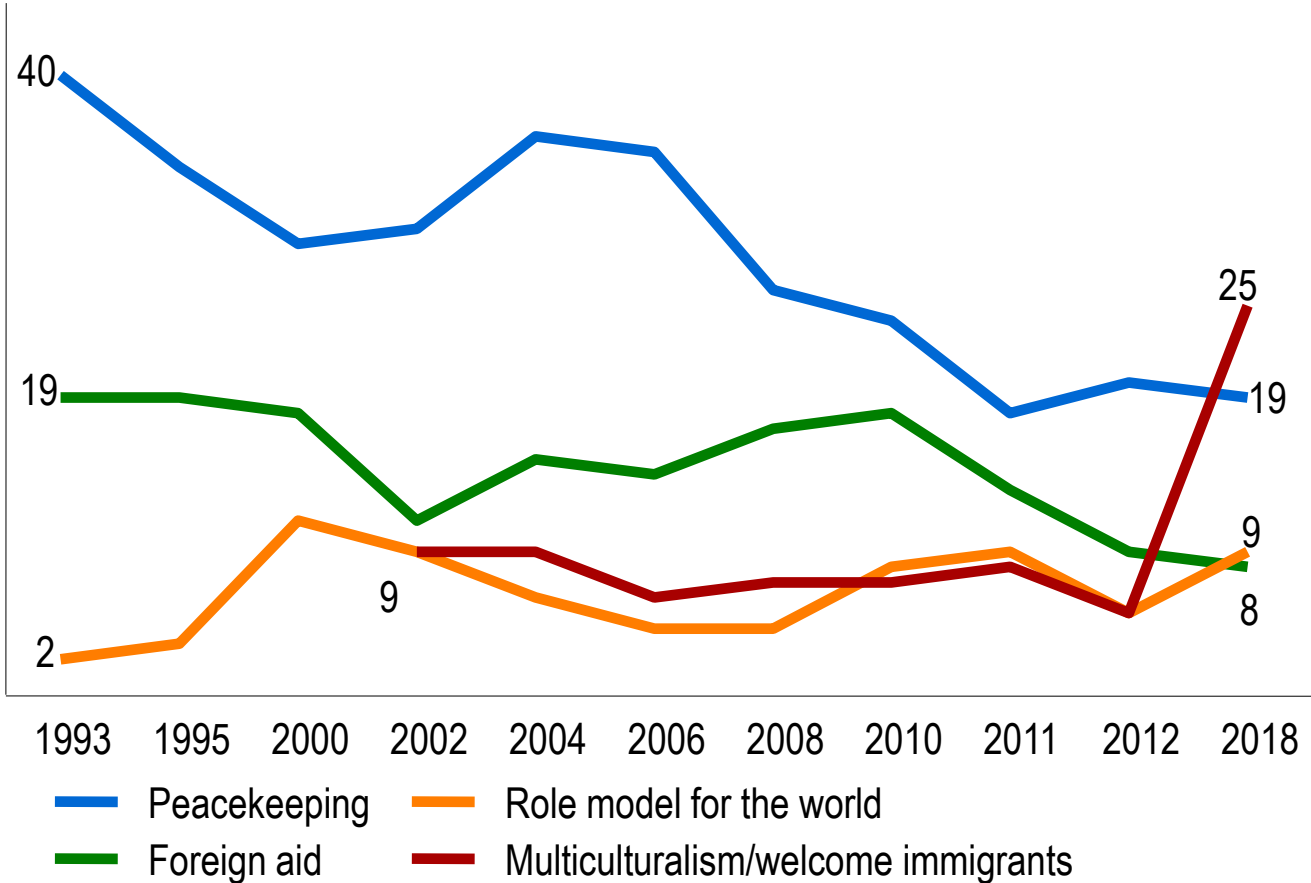
What values are most important for immigrants to adopt? (unprompted mentions)



Canadians now see their country's global image is more about multiculturalism & welcoming migrants than peacekeeping & foreign aid

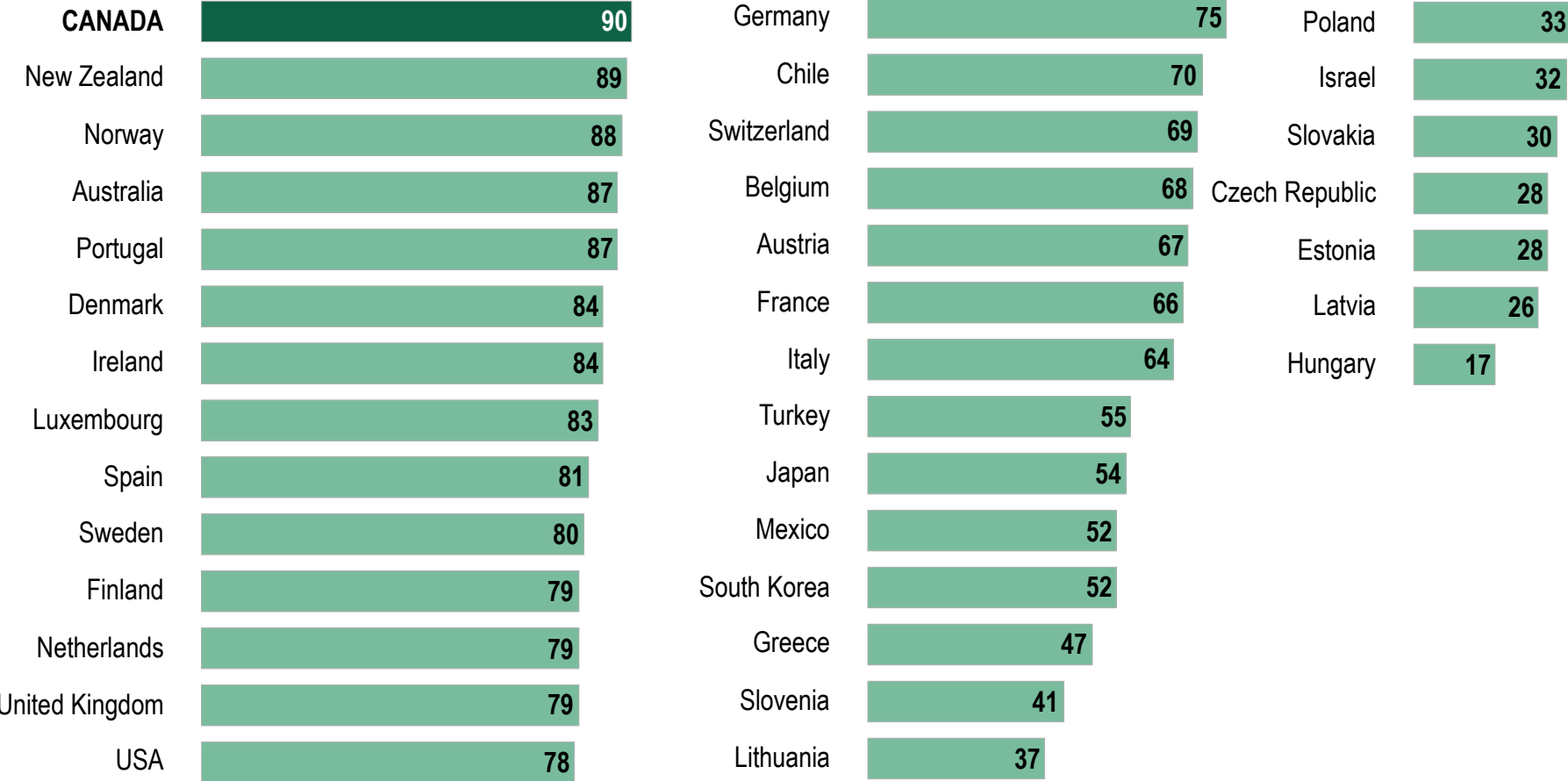
1993 – 2018 Top mentions (unprompted)

What is the most important contribution that Canada makes to the world today?



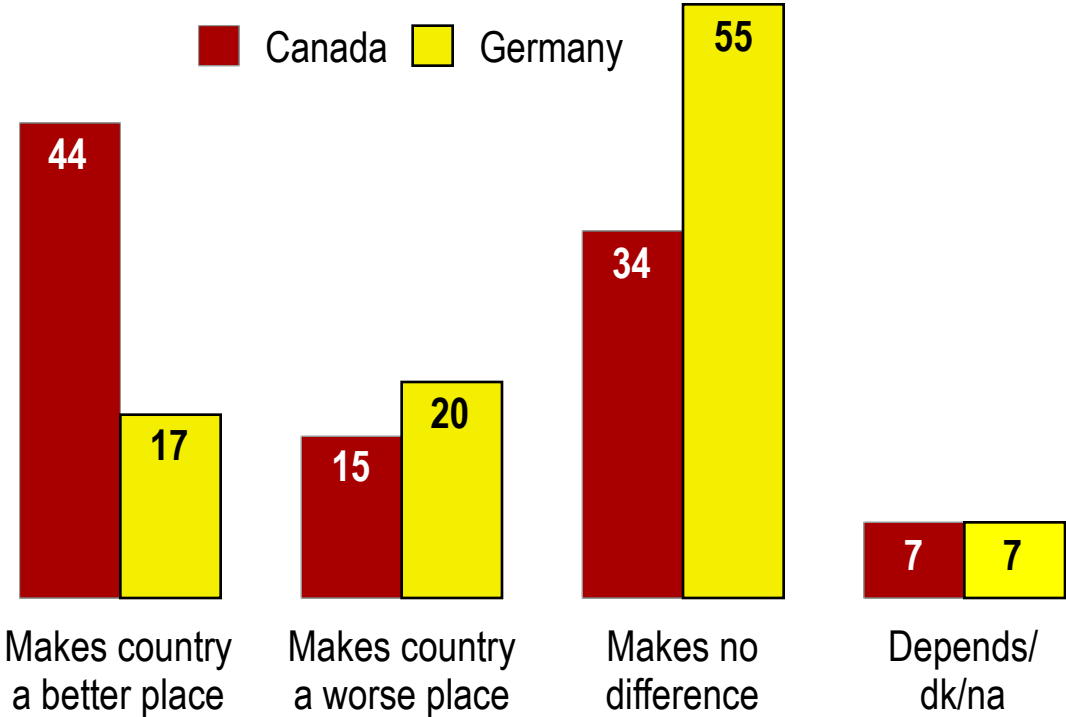
In 2018, Canada ranks first among OECD countries in terms of public sentiment about one's city being a good place for immigrants

Gallup World Poll 2018 OECD City/area is a good place for immigrants to live



Canadians are much more likely than Germans to see immigration as benefitting their country

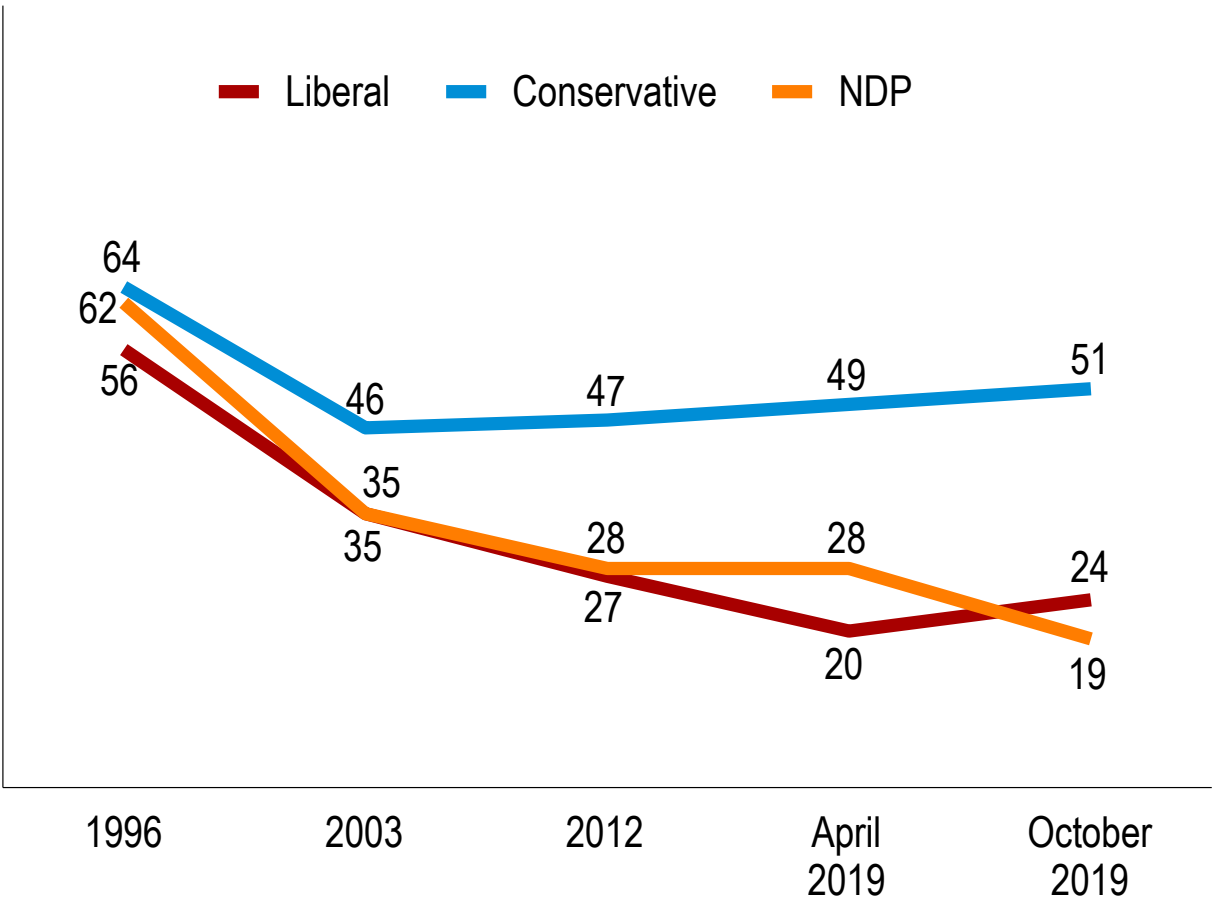
April 2019 Canada & Germany



Over time there has been a growing political polarization in Canada around the number of immigrants being accepted each year

1996 - 2019 By political party support

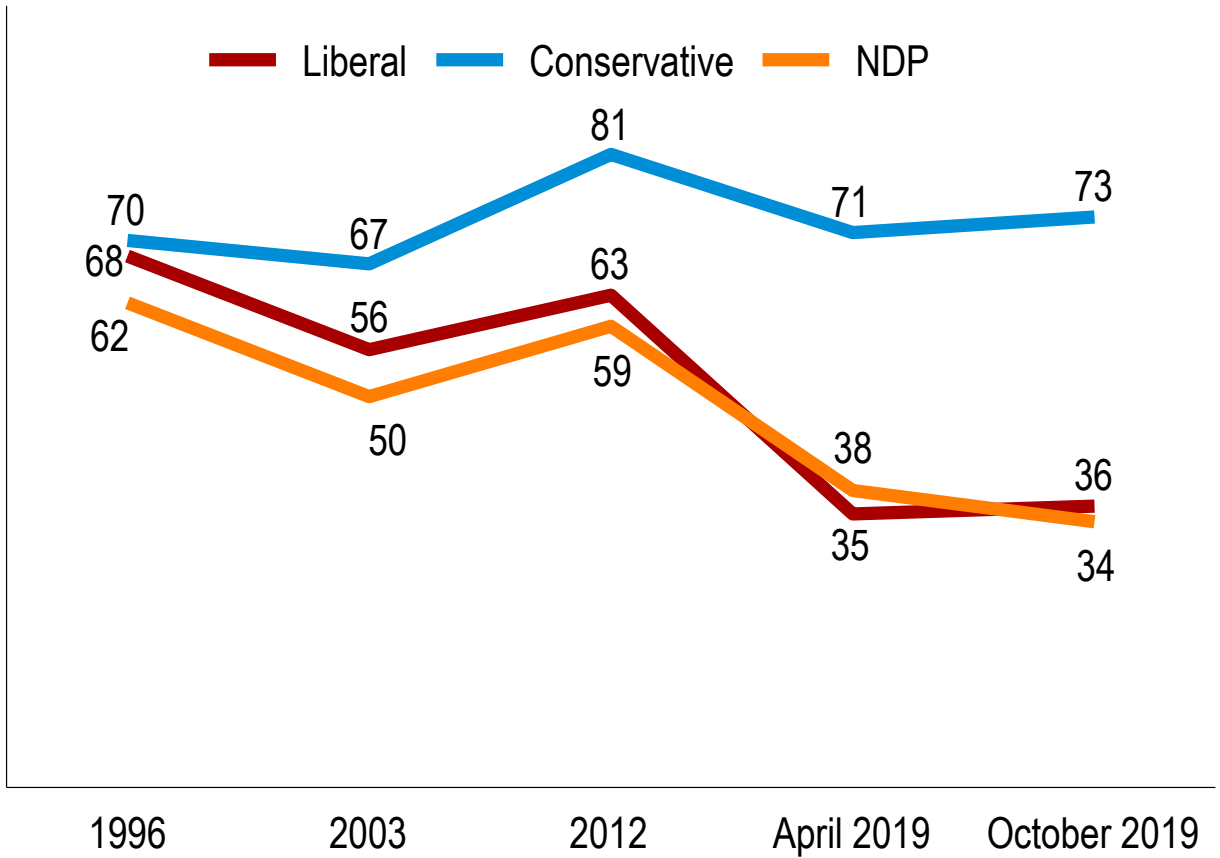
Agree or disagree: "There is too much immigration in Canada"



And a similar trend for concerns about the lack of integration by some newcomers

1996 - 2019 By political party support

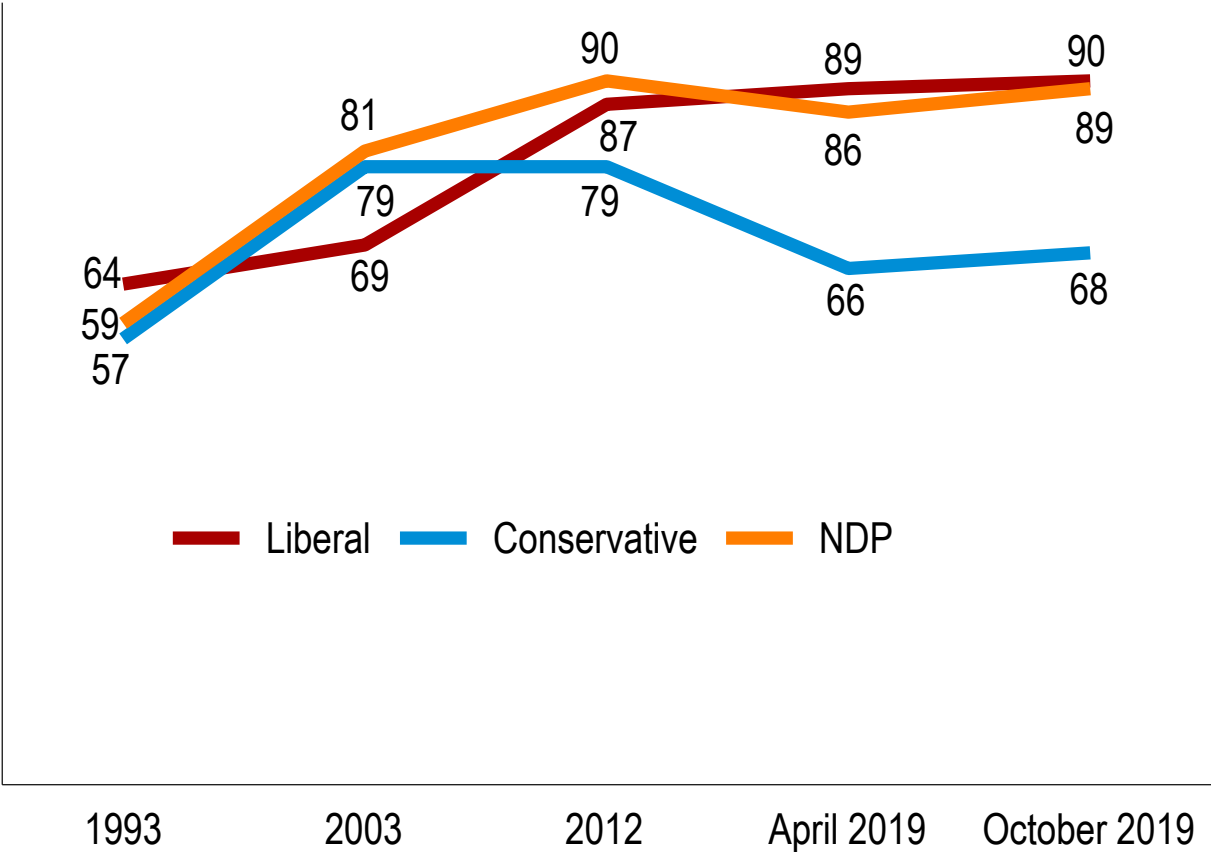
Agree or disagree: "Too many immigrants do not adopt Canadian values."



And the growing political divide extends to views about the impact of immigration on the Canadian economy

1993 - 2019 By political party support

Agree or disagree: "The economic impact of immigrants is positive"



Concluding insights

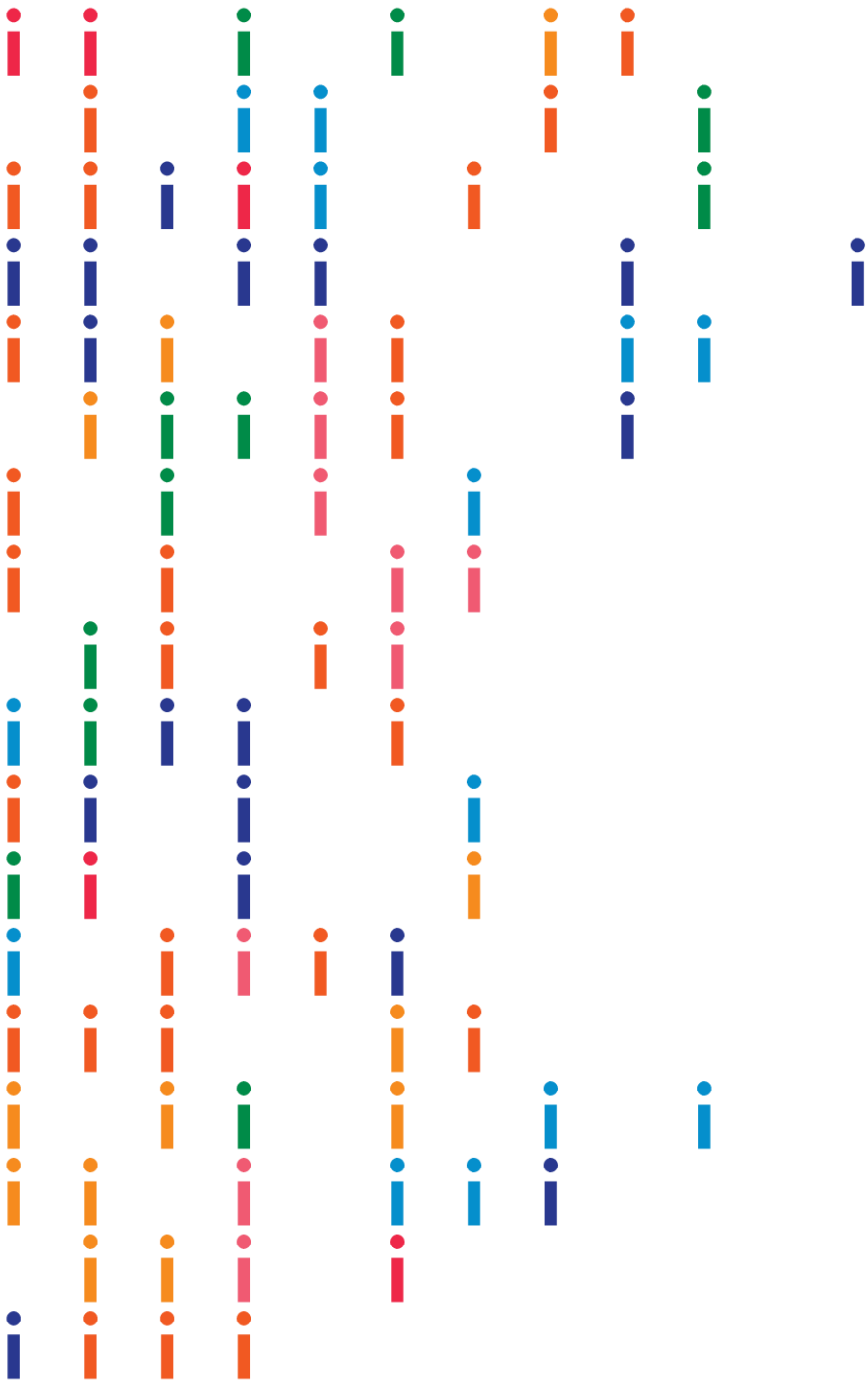
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EXPIRATI
16 JUL

Canada today – from the research

- Newcomers have always been a contentious issue in this land and country
- There is no public consensus on immigration and refugee issues, but we have passed a critical threshold of acceptance, reflected in our social norms, political discourse and public policy
- The 2019 Federal Election provides a revealing litmus test
- Canada stands out among western nations in providing little space for anti-immigrant political movements

What we can take away

- The research does not provide the basis for complacency; problems and challenges on the ground are very real and persistent
- But the bigger picture is essential to keep in mind – to balance against the prevalence of negativity pervading the media and public discourse that threatens to distort our thinking and understanding
- We have a great foundation on which to build – and a well-deserved international reputation for acceptance in a world beset by growing intolerance



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