

Research on immigration and Quebec's English- speaking communities: An overview

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Introduction

Acronyms:

- ESCQ = English-speaking communities of Quebec
 - Collectively, they constitute Quebec's official language minority community (OLMC)
- QUESCREN = Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network

Presentation plan:

- About QUESCREN
- Context: ESCQ and immigration
- State of the research: review of 4 QUESCREN research initiatives
- Final reflections

About QUESCREN

- QUESCREN = joint initiative of :
 - Concordia University's School of Extended Learning (Montreal)
 - Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities (Moncton)
- Launched in April, 2009
- Information: www.quescren.ca

QUESCREN's vision

- Develops research capacity on the English-speaking minority community of Quebec
- Supports networking between researchers and research users
- Develops, produces and shares research results
- Builds community vitality
- Positions the research community as an effective societal actor

Context: ESCQ and immigration

Some statistics (note these are from 2006 and 2011):

- Total population of Quebec, 2011: 7,732,520 (note 1)
- Quebec's official language minority or ESCQ, 2011: 1,058,250 (note 2)
 - =individuals with English as a first official language spoken (FOLS) and half of those with both English and French (note 3)
- Immigrants in Quebec, 2011: 974,895 (note 4)
 - Recent immigrants in Quebec (arrived 2006-2011), 2011: 223,400 (note 5)
- Immigrants in ESCQ, 2006: 323,272 (note 6)
- **Proportion of immigrant population within ESCQ, 2006: 32.5%** (note 7)
- **Comparisons** to proportion of immigrants within other populations:
 - Quebec's FOLS-Francophone population, 2006: **7.6%** (note 8)
 - Overall population in Canada, 2011: **20.6%** (note 9)
 - French-speaking population outside Quebec, 2006: **10%** (note 10)

Context: ESCQ and immigration

Reflections on these statistics:

- Compared to ROC, ROQ and French OLMC: the ESCQ has a high proportion of immigrants and resultant ethno-cultural diversity
- ESCQ = “community of communities”
- Maybe trends we see in the ESCQ population could be useful for study of these other populations

Context: ESCQ and immigration

Quebec's special environment:

- French = Official language
 - Charter of the French Language = Bill 101 (1977)
- Quebec responsible for immigration
 - 1968: Quebec established its own **department of immigration**
 - 1991: **Canada-Quebec Accord Relating to Immigration and Temporary Admission of Aliens:** gave Quebec the sole right to select 'independent' immigrants from abroad, and made Quebec solely responsible for the reception and the linguistic and cultural integration of permanent residents into Quebec society (CIC 1994) (note 1)
 - **The Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Diversité et de l'Inclusion (MIDI)** now leads the other government departments playing significant roles in immigrant reception, settlement and integration.

Context: ESCQ and immigration

Reflections on Quebec' special environment:

- ESCQ vitality depends in part on population renewal
- Challenge of encouraging renewal within context of Quebec's project to protect French and encourage immigrants to integrate into French-speaking society

State of the research

QUESCREN research on ESCQ & immigration:

1. For Metropolis: literature review and categorization of settlement services, 2010-12

Publications from this project:

Robineau, Anne, Karen Urtnowski, Lorraine O'Donnell, Eric Forgues, and Éric Shragge, with the participation of J. Guignard Noël. "Immigration, Settlement and Integration in Quebec's Anglophone Communities." Exploratory Study for Metropolis Canada. Moncton, Montreal: Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities, Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network, 2012. 83 p.

Urtnowski, Karen, Lorraine O'Donnell, Eric Shragge, Anne Robineau and Éric Forgues. "Immigration, settlement and integration in Quebec's Anglophone communities: A preliminary report." *Journal of Eastern Townships Studies* 38 (Spring 2012). pp 7-32.

1) For Metropolis: literature review and categorization of settlement services, 2010-12 (cont'd)

1a) Literature review:

- As of 2010, scarce literature on ESCQ immigration and settlement activities.
- Authors we reviewed (to 2010) included: Michelle Vatz-Laaroussi, Rachel Garber, Patricia Rimok, Jack Jedwab, Nicole Ives, Rita Legault, Frances Ravensbergen

1) For Metropolis: literature review and categorization of settlement services, 2010-12 (cont'd)

1a) Literature review cont'd:

Key findings

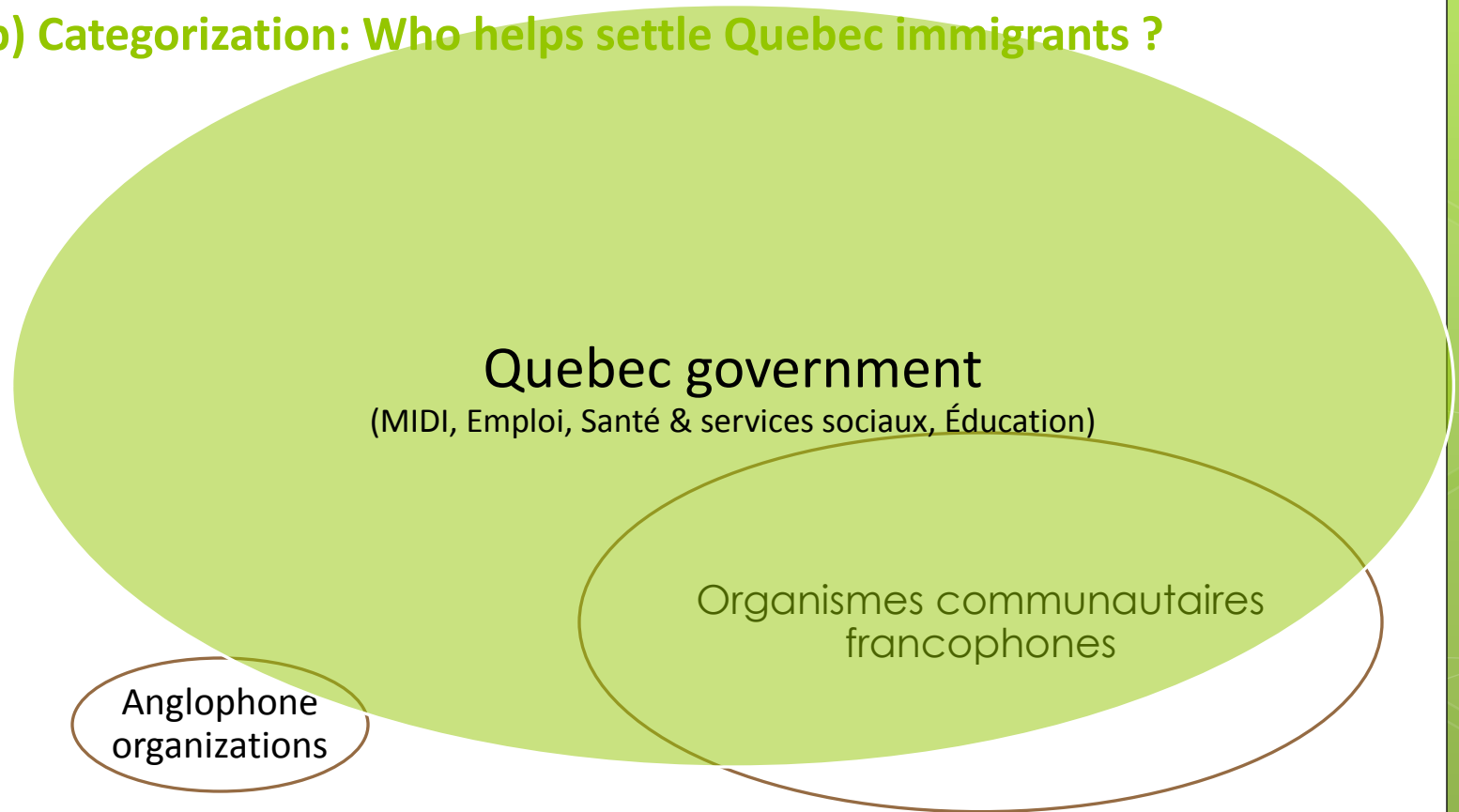
ESCQ settlement activities **benefit the following:**

- **Immigrants:** ESCQ = “**gateway**” for new immigrants. Assistance to English-speaking immigrants can decrease the strain of settlement while they master French.
- **The ESCQ itself:** helping immigrants increases OLMC numbers & vitality
- **Quebec’s majority Francophone society:**
 - Attracting immigrants to Quebec, by offering various forms of “capital” (e.g. economic, social, institutions) within the linguistic and cultural diversity of the ESCQ;
 - Providing newcomers with social entry points into Quebec;
 - Decreasing the strain immigrants experience on arrival, by welcoming them and providing services and information in the English language;
 - Serving as a “**bridge**” linking newcomers to the majority Francophone society, serving first as a welcoming group, and then encouraging immigrants to learn French and otherwise integrate into the majority.

Barriers to ESCQ settlement activities: lack of recognition and legitimacy, invisibility, absence in Quebec regional consultation bodies concerned with immigration.

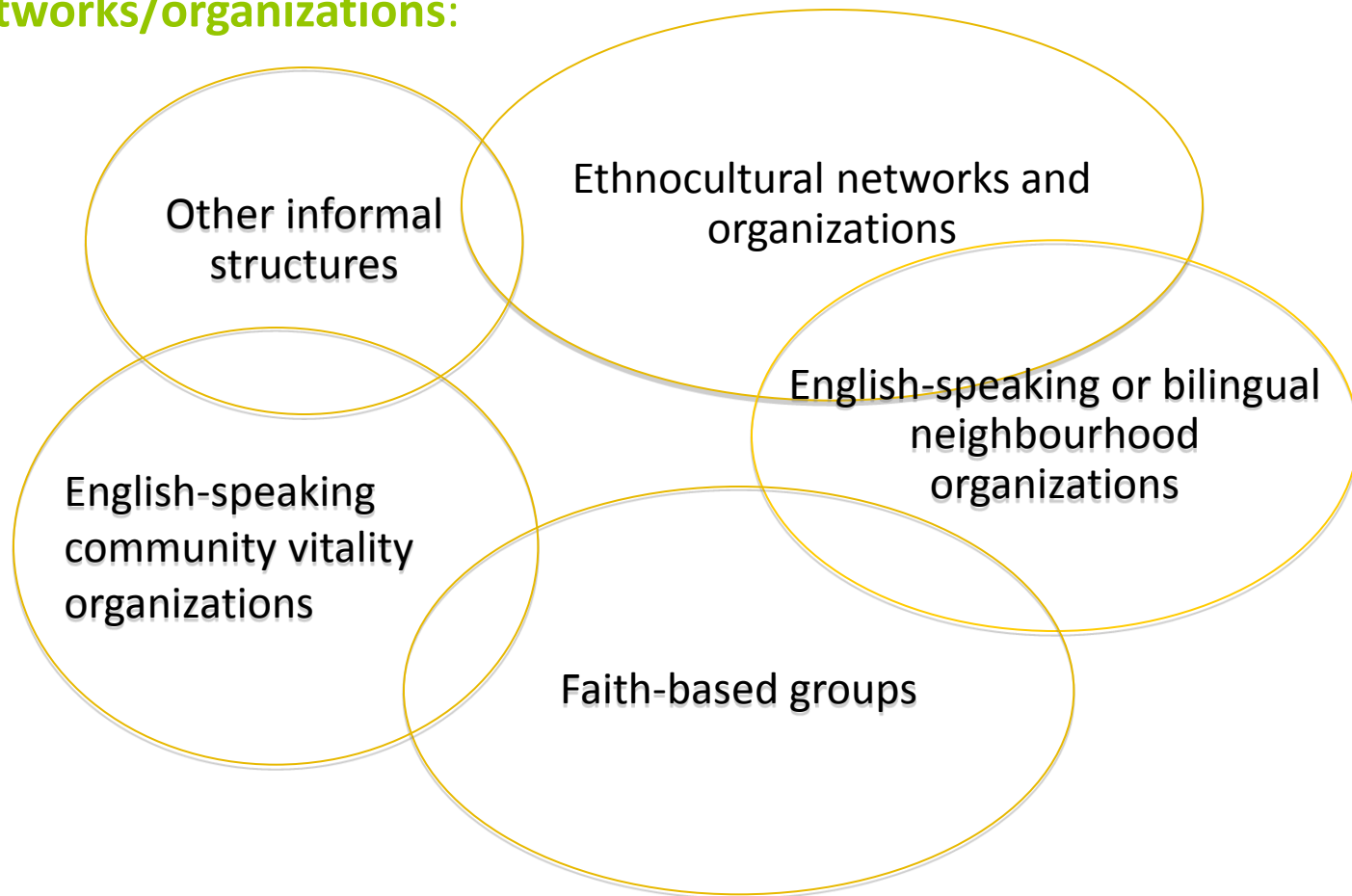
1) For Metropolis: literature review and categorization of settlement services, 2010-12 (cont'd)

1b) Categorization: Who helps settle Quebec immigrants ?



1) For Metropolis: literature review and categorization of settlement services, 2010-12 (cont'd)

1b) Categorization of ESCQ immigrant settlement networks/organizations:



1) For Metropolis: literature review and categorization of settlement services, 2010-12 (cont'd)

1c) Conclusions: suggestions emerging from the research:

- Conduct research on the experiences of English-speaking immigrants as they use Quebec's mainstream settlement services
- ESCQ should develop, in partnership with government, a strategy and communications plan for their function that would clarify the roles taken on by the groups and networks offering settlement and retention services
- Develop a government strategy, in partnership with the ESCQ, for supporting the chosen roles in immigrant settlement
- Improve communications and links between ESCQ and Quebec Francophone settlement service sectors

State of the research (cont'd)

QUESCREN research on ESCQ & immigration:

2. For Metropolis: historical capital concept, 2011-12

Publication:

O'Donnell, Lorraine. "La diversité, la pauvreté et le capital historique et social des communautés d'expression anglaise du Québec." *Les collectivités locales au cœur de l'intégration des immigrants*. Eds. Michèle Vatz-Laaroussi, Estelle Bernier and Lucille Guilbert. Québec: Presses de l'Université Laval, 2012. p.161-168.

- = critique of Michèle Vatz Laaroussi and Georges Liboy's discussion of the social and cultural capital that the ESCQ possess and mobilize for immigrant settlement activities. Published in *Les collectivités locales au cœur de l'intégration des immigrants* as "Quelle est la place des anglophones du Québec dans l'attraction et la rétention des immigrants dans leurs communautés ? Une analyse comparative de quatre régions du Québec," pp. 145-160.
- = part of a conference of November 3-4, 2011, by "domaine 4 du Centre Métropolis du Québec - Immigration et métropoles (CMQ-IM)." Information: http://www.im.metropolis.net/medias/Rapport-annuel-2011-2012_juin-2012.pdf pp. 245-46.
- Information on these publications: <https://www.pulaval.com/produit/les-collectivites-locales-au-coeur-de-l-integration-des-immigrants-questions-identitaires-et-strategies-regionales>

2) For Metropolis: historical capital concept, 2011-12

Vatz Laaroussi and Liboy's findings include:

- La communauté anglophone de Québec a une place importante dans le capital d'attraction et de rétention des immigrants de la ville [de Québec] à cause de :

- son dynamisme,

- sa vie économique,

- son potentiel linguistique (bilinguisme) et ses infrastructures solides,

- ainsi que son capital d'histoire et ses nombreux partenariats.

- La communauté anglophone ne dispose pas d'outils ni des stratégies pour attirer et retenir les immigrants anglophones dans la région.

2) For Metropolis: historical capital concept, 2011-12

I propose that:

- ESCQ heritage of poverty, immigration and the attendant social exclusion may help (and have helped) equip English-speakers to understand immigrants and help them settle.
- Some English-sub-communities mobilize their heritage to bolster their current immigrant settlement practices.
 - Egs.: St. Patrick's Society of Montreal's Irish immigrant reception project; the Noella Project (refugee sponsorship) of the Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral of Quebec City
 - Their heritage of immigration and poverty provides meaning, motivation & know-how for current ESCQ immigrant settlement initiatives. It serves as "**historical capital**"
- We can add this idea of "historical capital" to Vatz Laaroussi and Liboy's idea of ESCQ social capital enhancing community immigrant settlement activities

State of the research (cont'd)

QUESCREN research on ESCQ & immigration:

3. With COCo: Immigrants and poverty research capacity building, 2012

Report (unpublished):

O'Donnell, Lorraine and Karen Urtnowski. "Quebec's English-Speaking Immigrants and Poverty: Sharing our analysis and building a research agenda." Ed. Elena Popova. Workshop report, 2012.

●= report on a workshop jointly organized by QUESCREN and Centre for Community Organizations (COCo), Montreal, February 13, 2012

●Information: <http://www.quescren.ca/event/2012-02-13-000000/176>

3) With COCo: Immigrants and poverty research capacity building, 2012 (cont'd)

Research priorities identified by workshop participants for exploring immigrant realities:

- Poverty factors
- Issues with French language training
- Problems with education attestation
- Difficulties in the labour market
- Problems with service provision
- Mental health problems
- Factors in outmigration
- French language education required for children
- French language barriers

State of the research (cont'd)

QUESCREN research on ESCQ & immigration:

4. For CIC: Building knowledge about immigrants and ESCQ project, 2014

Report (unpublished):

O'Donnell, Lorraine, Karen Urtnowski and Patrick Donovan. "Immigration and Quebec's English-speaking Communities: Preliminary Literature Review and Resource List." Report submitted by Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2014.

● = part of the "Building knowledge about immigrants and community reception within an official language minority context" project run by QUESCREN and funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada

4) For CIC: Building knowledge about immigrants and ESCQ project, 2014 (cont'd)

Project activities:

- Creating a team of researchers and partners
- Conducting group meetings, including one at the 16th National Metropolis Conference
- Creating a preliminary literature review/resource guide
- Information: <http://www.quescren.ca/event/2014-03-15-000000/174>

Project aims:

- Build research capacity presently lacking in the field
- Create and share relevant new knowledge among the academic, government and community sectors

4) For CIC: Building knowledge about immigrants and ESCQ project, 2014 (cont'd)

Project researcher team

- **Belkhodja**, Chedly, Ph.D. Principal and Professor, School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University
- **Beneventi**, Domenic, PhD. Associate professor, Université de Sherbrooke
- **Canton**, Licia, PhD. Independent researcher for Accenti Magazine/Association of Italian Canadian Writers
- **Gosselin**, Cheryl, PhD. Associate professor, Bishop's University
- **Guignard** Noël, Josée. Research officer, CIRLM
- **Lewis**, Brian, Ph.D. Dean, School of Extended Learning, Concordia University
- **O'Donnell**, Lorraine, PhD. Coordinator-researcher, QUESCEN
- **Pépin-Filion**, Dominique, Researcher, Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities
- **Pichette**, Amanda. Lecturer, Bishop's University
- **Pocock**, Joanne, PhD. Adjunct researcher, Carleton University; researcher for Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN); research associate with CIRLM.
- **Ravensbergen**, Frances, PhD. Lecturer, Concordia University; independent researcher at Centre for Community Organizations
- **Reimer**, Bill, Ph.D. Professor, Concordia University and Pathways to Prosperity
- **Richardson**, Mary, Ph.D. Chercheur d'établissement, Institut national de santé publique du Québec
- **Robineau**, Anne, PhD. Associate director, Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities
- **Rothwell**, David, PhD. Assistant professor, McGill University
- **Thompson**, Stephen. Director of Policy, Research and Public Affairs, Quebec Community Groups Network
- **Vatz-Laaroussi**, Michèle, Ph.D. Professor, Université de Sherbrooke

4) For CIC: Building knowledge about immigrants and ESCQ project, 2014 (cont'd)

Project academic and community partners

- Seniors Action Quebec: represented by David Cassidy, President and Ruth Pelletier, Vice-President
- Quebec Community Groups Network: represented by Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General, and researcher Stephen Thompson
- Pathways to Prosperity – Quebec node: represented by researchers M.Vatz-Laaroussi and Bill Reimer)
- Voice of English-speaking Quebec: represented by Jean-Sebastien Jolin Gignac, Executive Director

4) For CIC: Building knowledge about immigrants and ESCQ project, 2014 (cont'd)

Literature review/resource guide

- Is based on publications and activities of the research group itself, rather than a survey of the broader literature. A broader review would have been preferable but project time/resources did not permit it

4) For CIC: Building knowledge about immigrants and ESCQ project, 2014 (cont'd)

Literature review/resource guide (cont'd)

Key findings:

1. Publications by our researcher team on English-speaking immigrants, reception and integration, Quebec

- Relatively few titles and few are very recent
- Several publications give voice to the experience of Italian immigration and its expression through art & literature

2. Publications by our researcher team on English-Speaking Communities of Quebec (ESCQ)

- **Premise:** Given that about one third of the population of the ESCQ is made up of immigrants, many studies of the ESCQ cover explicitly or implicitly the realities of immigrants

1. Publications by our researcher team on immigration, immigrants and reception, Quebec

- They include critical readings of public discourse (on multiculturalism); the literary study of minority writing; intercultural mediation and intergenerational cultural transmission.)

4) For CIC: Building knowledge about immigrants and ESCQ project, 2014 (cont'd)

Literature review/resource guide (cont'd)

Key findings (cont'd)

4. Publications by our researcher team on immigrants, immigration and integration, outside Quebec

- Subjects include: international comparisons, cultural diversity, economics, international students, language

5. Publications by our researcher team on ethno-cultural groups, Quebec

- =publications on ethnic groups historically been linked to English-speaking communities (Irish, British, Italians, Chinese, Jews, etc.) or that are currently composed of many English speakers (South Asians, Caribbean people, Filipinos, etc.).
- These studies de facto look at many immigrants.
- Gaps: no separate studies by group members on a host of ethno-cultural communities associated with the ESCQ including Filipinos, Chinese, South Asians. Black communities, including immigrants from the Caribbean, are also not represented in this section.

Final reflections on ESCQ & immigration research

Re: Francophone OLMC immigrant settlement activities

- How do they differ from ESCQ goal of “**bridging**” immigrants to Quebec’s Francophone majority society?

Re: ROC and immigration

- Do ethno-cultural sub-groups offer settlement services? If so, do they mobilize “**historical capital**” to provide meaning, motivation & know-how for the activities?
- Do community groups offer informal settlement services that need recognition and support?

Re: Quebec’s English-speaking communities

- The ESCQ is a **community of communities** making considerable efforts to welcome immigrants
- Support for community groups = support for immigrants
- Need for recognition, strategy and support for this role