

Canada as a successful immigrant nation

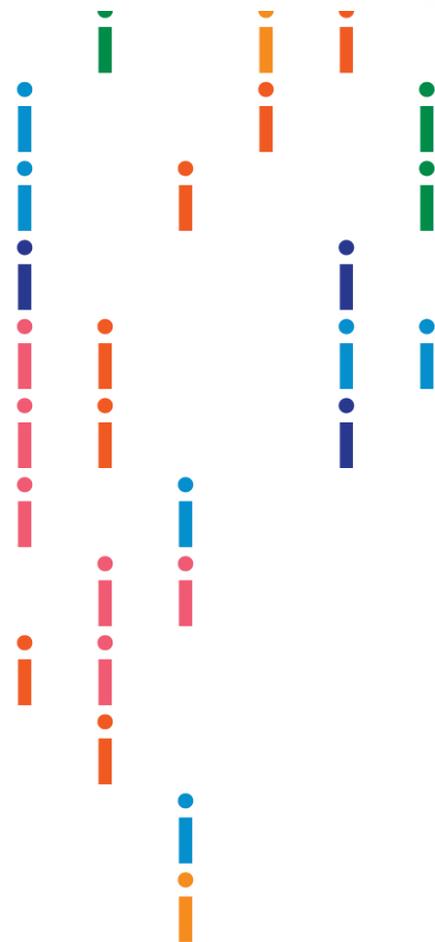
Can we make it last?

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Pathways to Prosperity 2021 National Conference

November 9, 2021



Canada has done well as an immigrant nation

- Not all Canadians are on the same page on immigration and refugee issues, but the country has passed a critical threshold of acceptance, reflected in our social norms, political discourse and public policy
- The 2021 Federal Election provides yet another important litmus test
- Canada stands out among western nations in providing little space for anti-immigrant political movements

In 2019 Canada ranked first among OECD countries in terms of public support for immigration

Most-Accepting Countries for Migrants

Migrant Acceptance Index

Canada	8.46
Iceland	8.41
New Zealand	8.32
Australia	8.28
Sierra Leone	8.14
United States	7.95
Burkina Faso*	7.93
Sweden	7.92
Chad*	7.91
Ireland*	7.88
Rwanda	7.88

*Countries not on the list in 2016/2017

Where do we stand in today's pandemic world?

- The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented disruption and stresses to institutions, communities and individuals
- How has this affected Canadians' capacity to be open to newcomers?

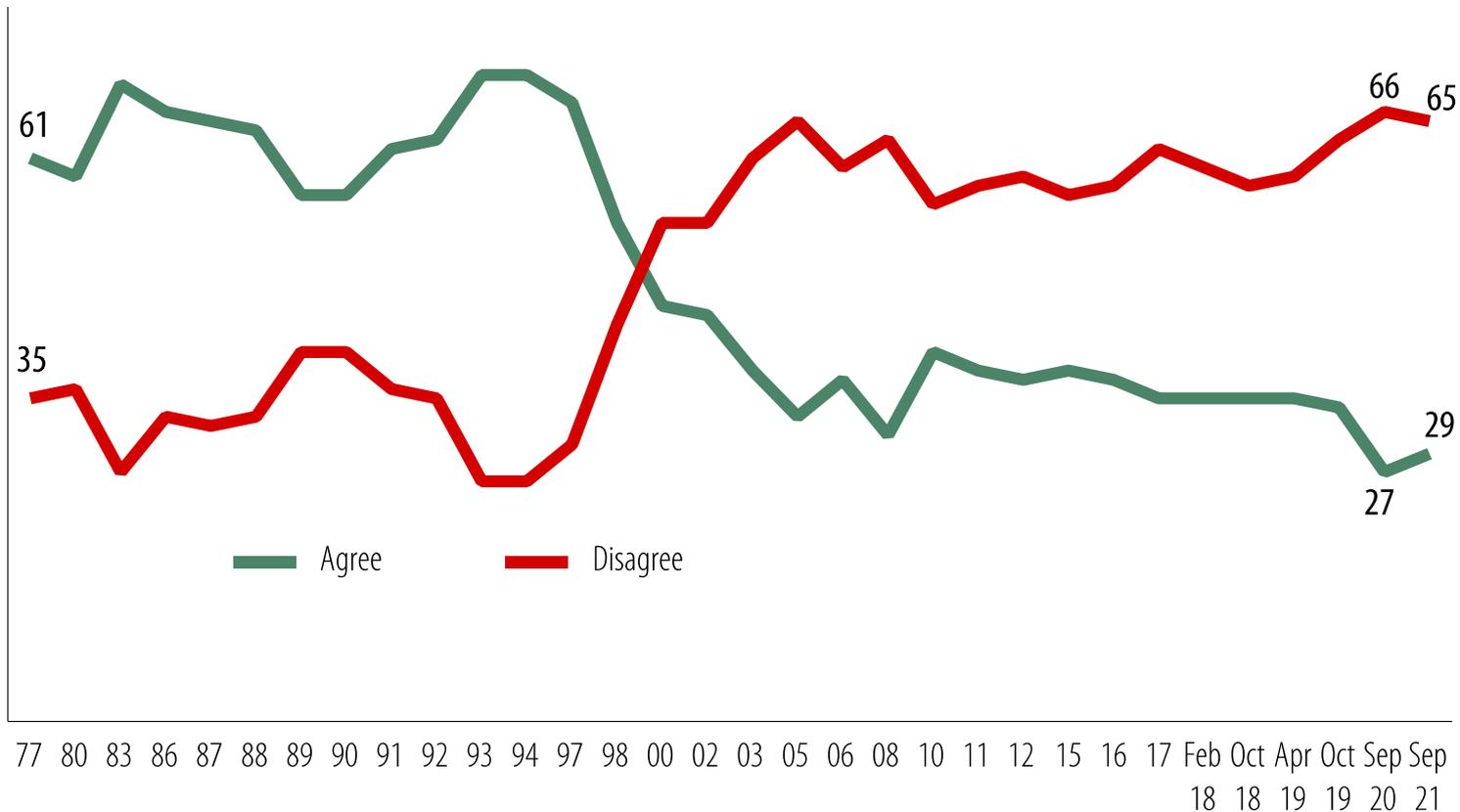
A high-angle, top-down photograph of a very large, dense crowd of people. The individuals are packed closely together, filling the entire frame. Many people are wearing backpacks, suggesting they might be hikers, tourists, or participants in a large-scale event. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance.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

**Current public opinion about
immigration and refugees**

A defining majority of Canadians continue to endorse current levels of immigration, even after 18 months of the pandemic

1977 - 2021

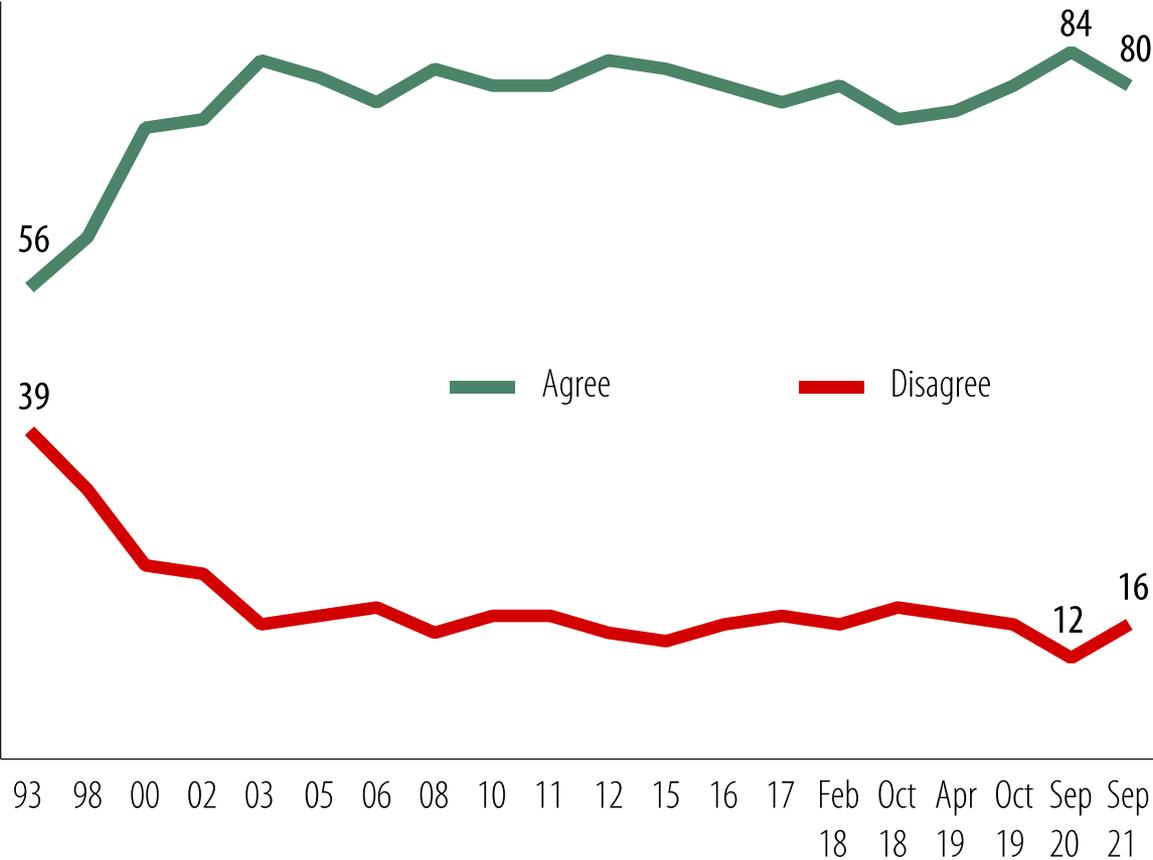
Agree or disagree: "There is too much immigration in Canada"



There is now an established consensus that immigrants help rather than hurt the economy and job creation

1977 - 2021

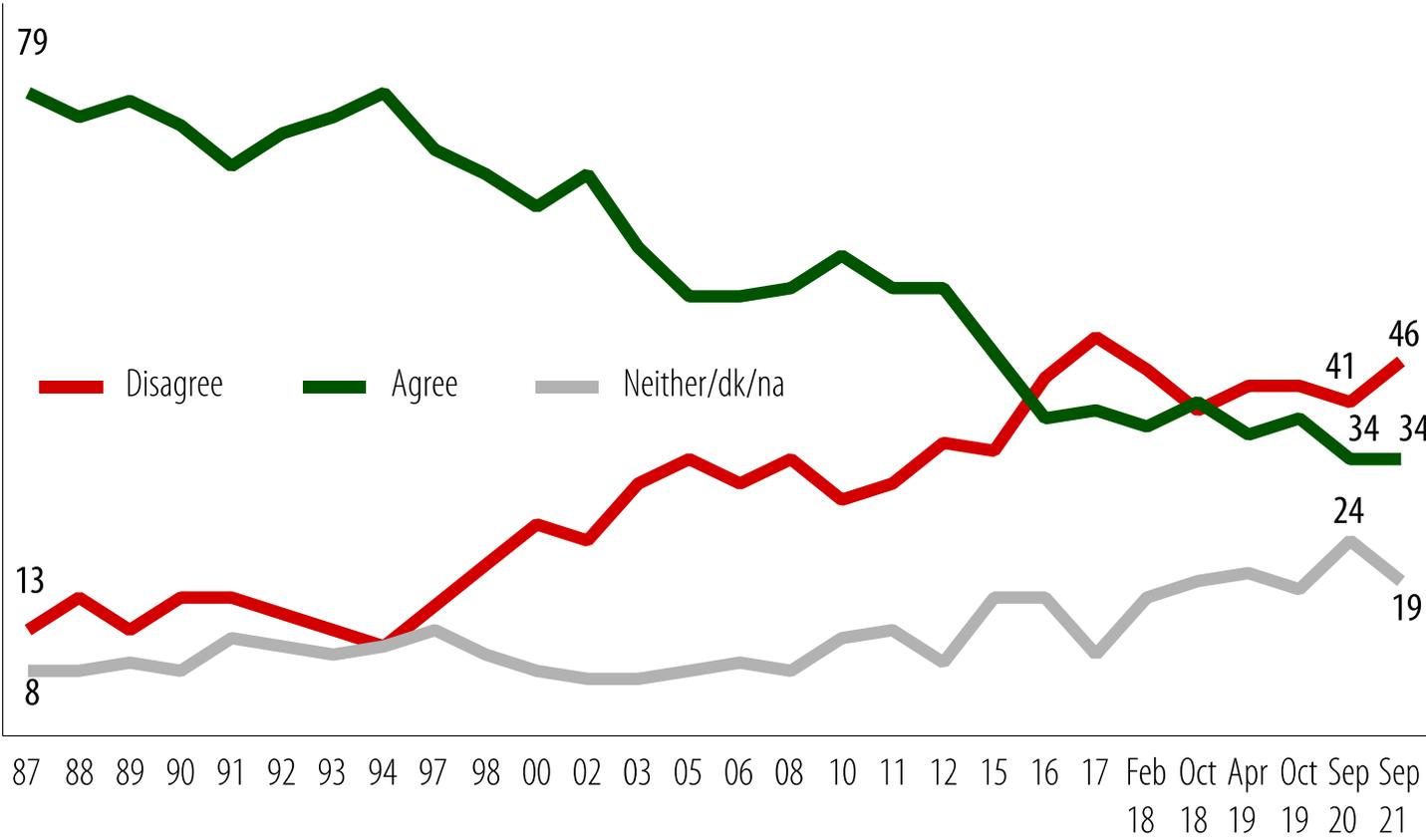
Agree or disagree: "The economic impact of immigrants is positive"



Fewer Canadians subscribe to the idea that many refugee claimants are not legitimate

1987 - 2021

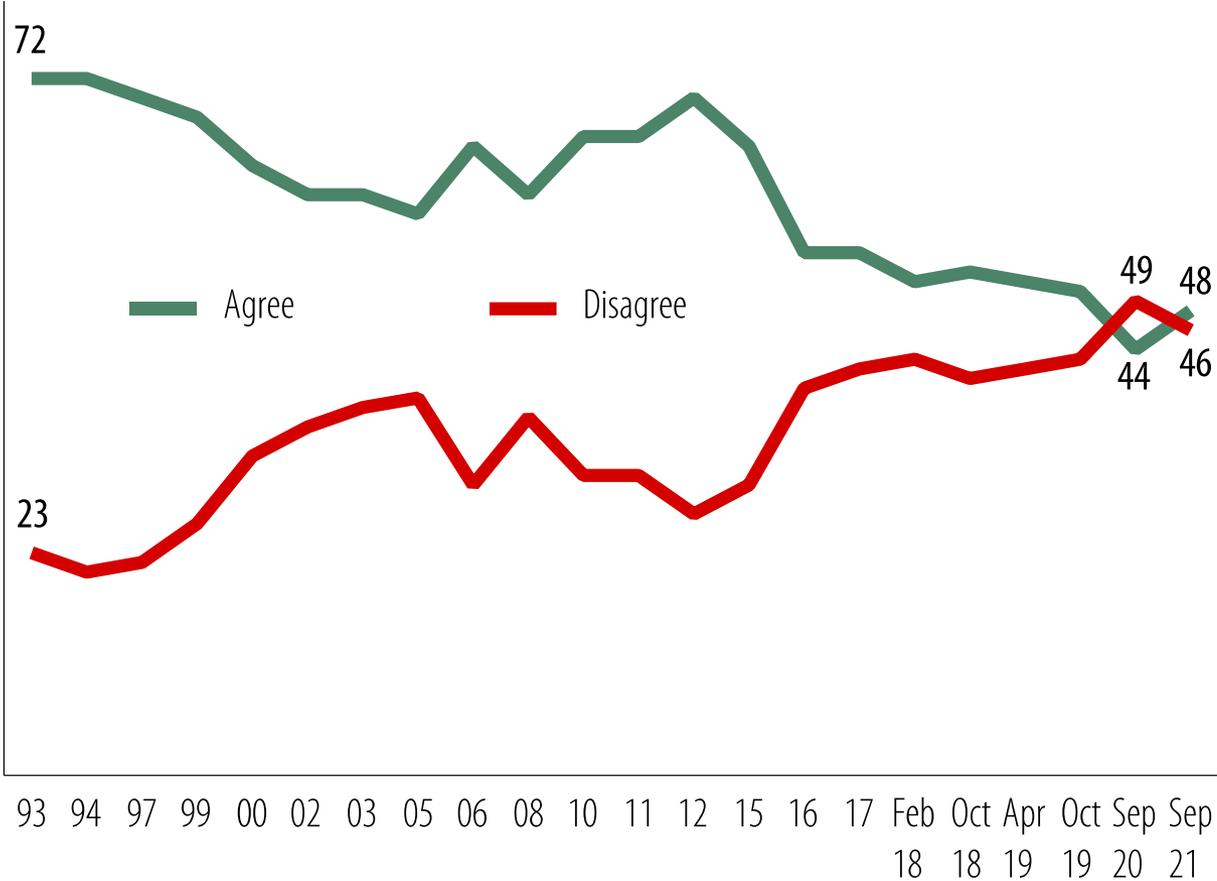
Agree or disagree: "Many refugee claimants are not legitimate"



The most common public concern is about some newcomers not integrating into Canadian society

1993 - 2021

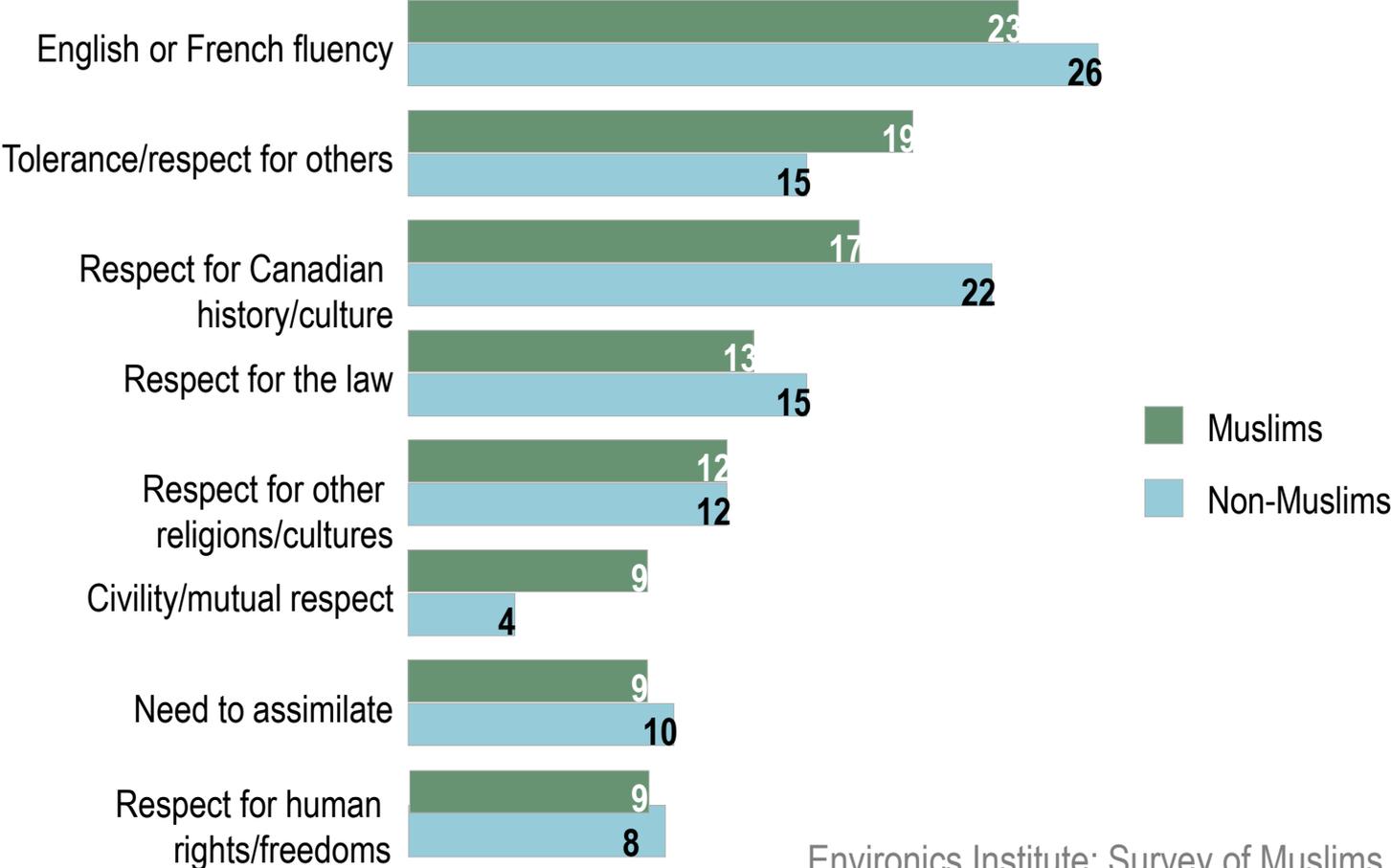
Agree or disagree: "Too many immigrants do not adopt Canadian Values"



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 are now most likely to define their country through its multiculturalism and inclusion

2021

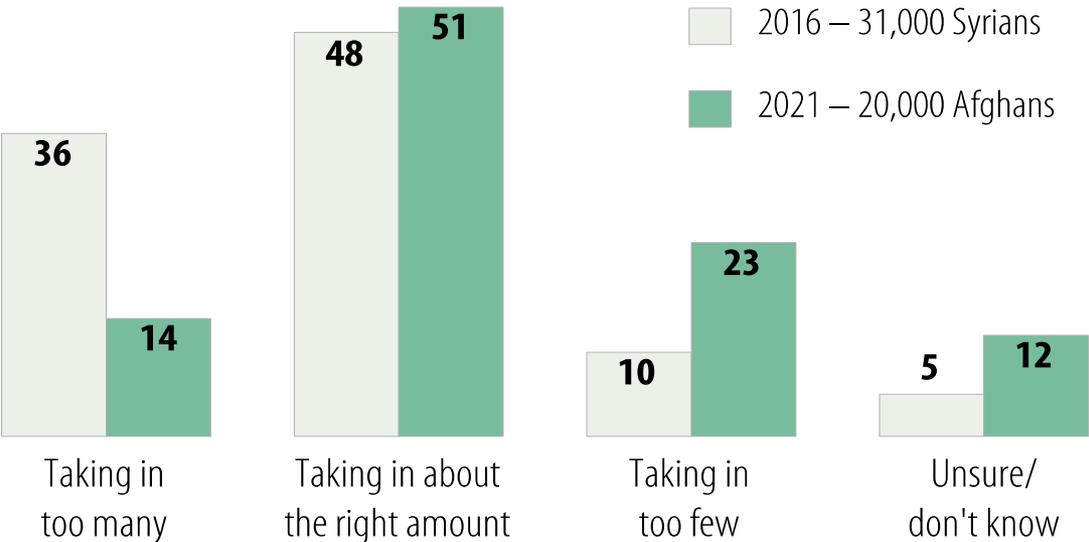
What makes Canada unique? (main themes)

	%
Multiculturalism / identity / inclusive (net)	48
Multiculturalism / diversity	31
Accepts immigrants / refugees	5
Accepts everyone / inclusive	4
Indigenous Peoples / culture	3
Bilingualism / English and French	3
Tolerance	2
Political system (freedom / democracy / safety / peaceful)	25
Land / geography (natural resources / weather / the North)	21
Qualities of the people (friendly, nice)	15
Social programs (health care / public education)	10
Economic opportunity	5
Other attributes	5

There is broad support for accepting refugees from conflict zones – most recently from Afghanistan

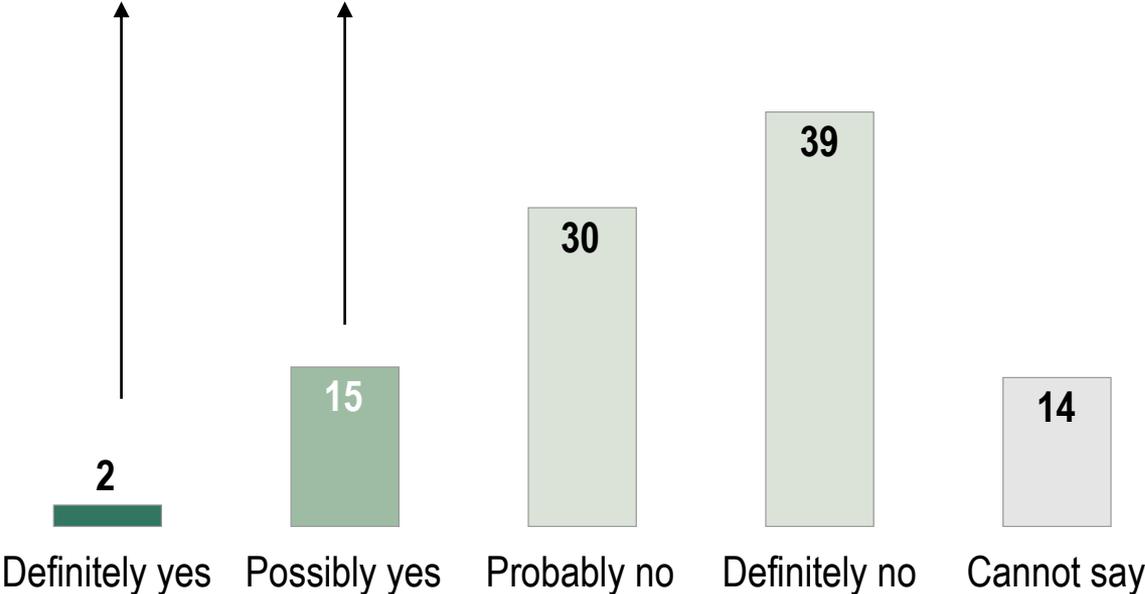
2016 - 2021

Number of refugees coming to Canada



And a significant number of Canadians express interest in participating in private refugee sponsorship

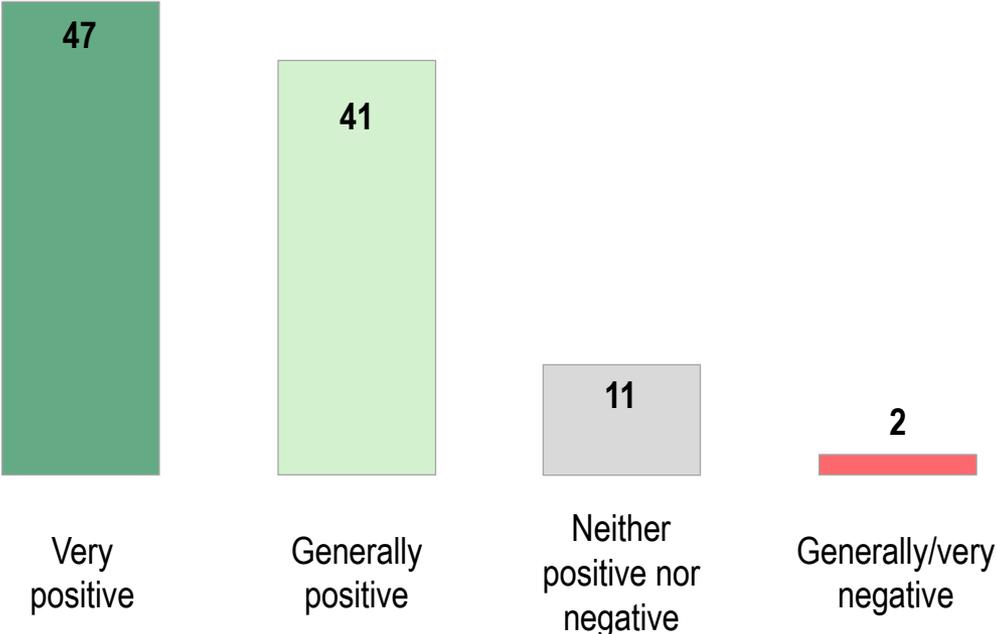
17% of target population = 4 million Canadians (450k in “definitely yes” category)



*Excludes 4% who have already participated in private refugee sponsorship

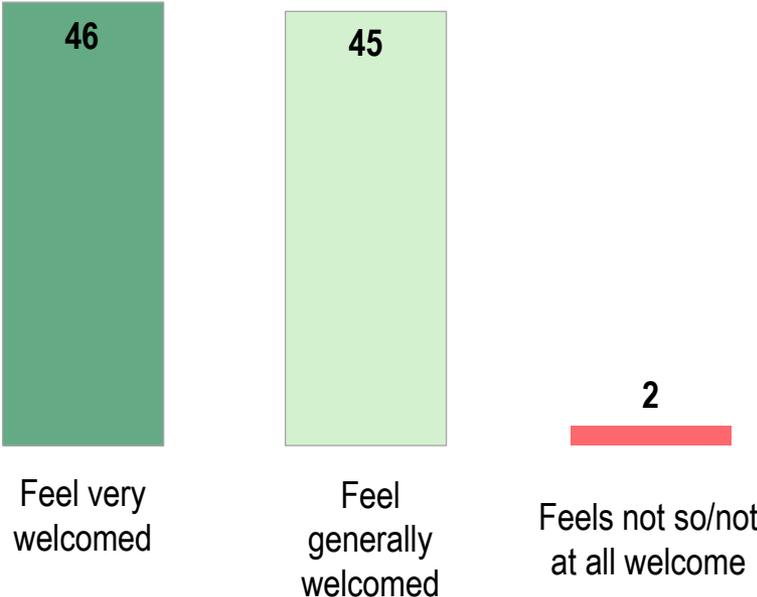
Most Syrian refugees who arrived in 2015-16 say they are doing well in their adopted home

Now that you have been in the country for a few years, how do you feel overall about living in Canada?



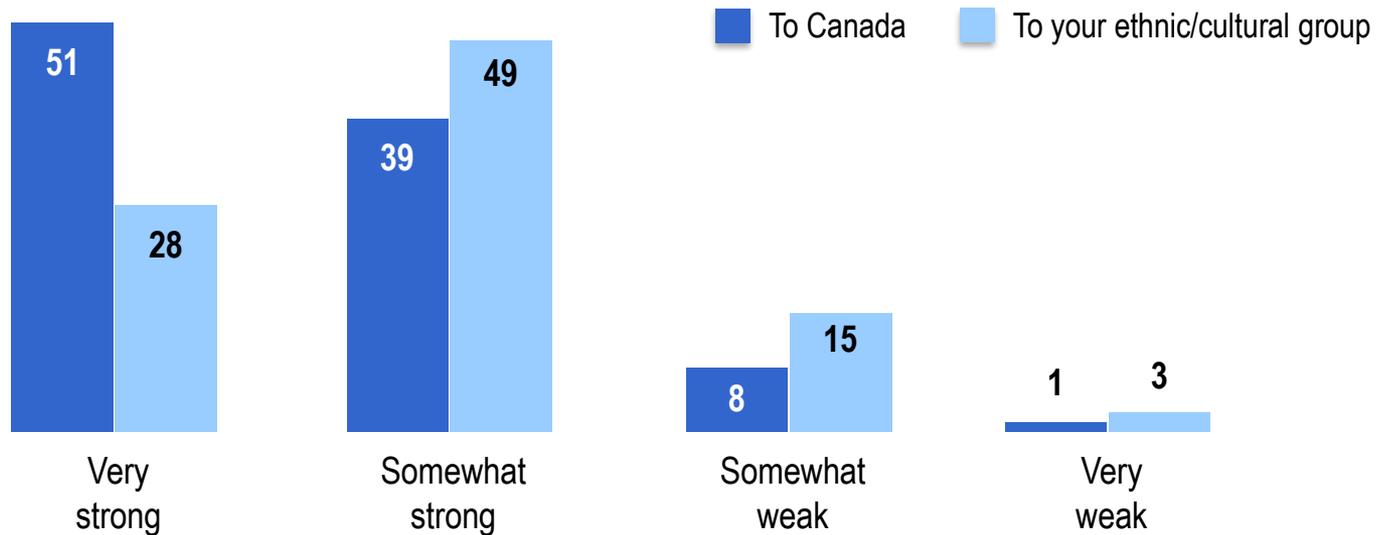
Most feel they feel welcomed by others where they live . . .

To what extent do you feel you and your family have been made to feel welcome by other people in your local community?

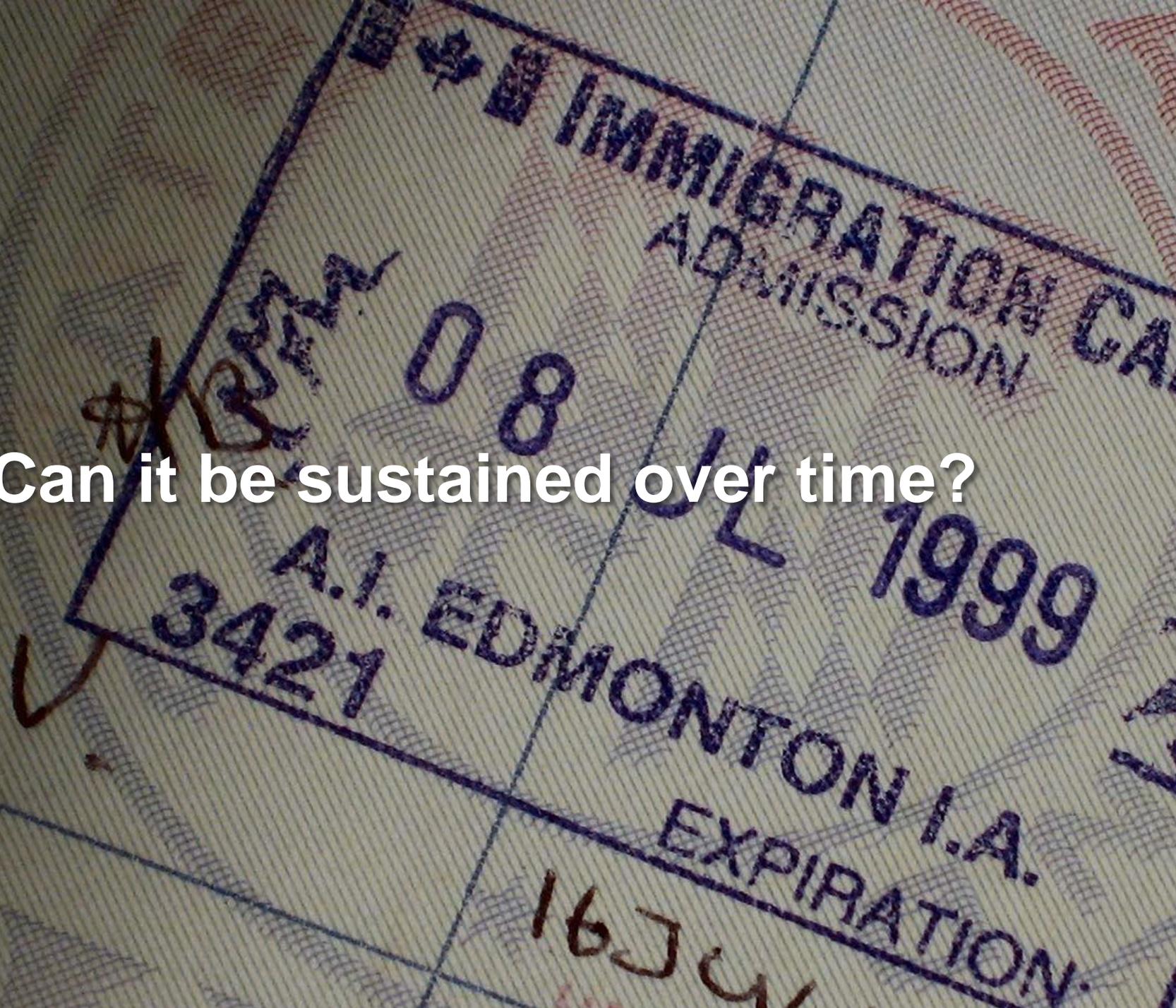


. . . and now feel strongly connected to Canada

How would you describe your sense of belonging . . . ?



Can it be sustained over time?

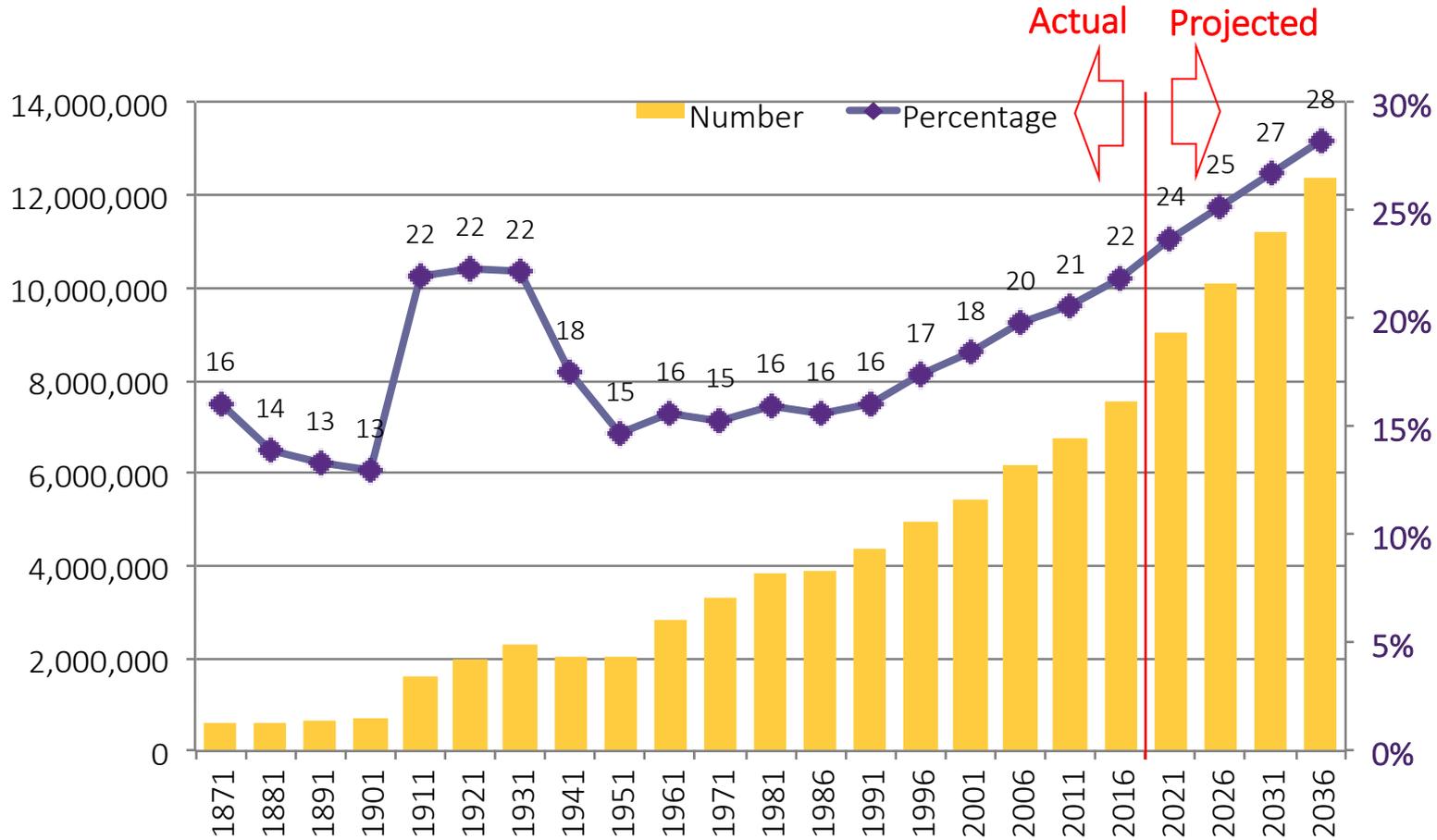


Basis for optimism

1. Population and economic imperatives
2. Demographic trends and social dynamics
3. Political landscape
4. Social attitudes and values

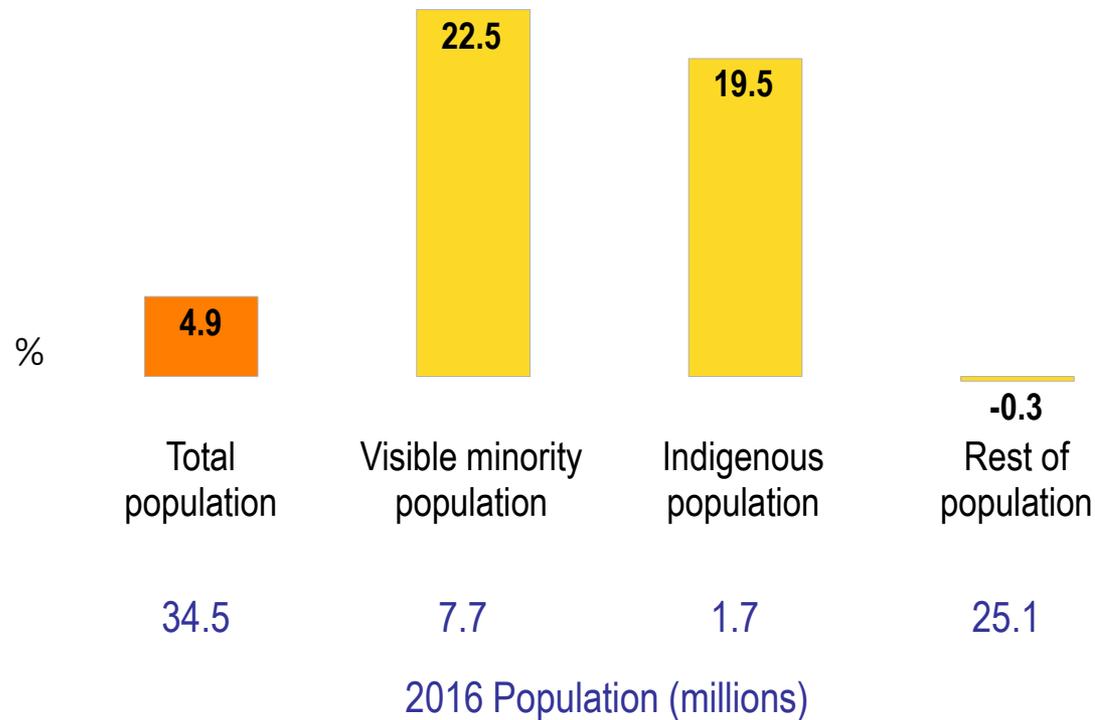
Close to one in four Canadians is now foreign-born, and this proportion will continue to rise

1871 - 2036



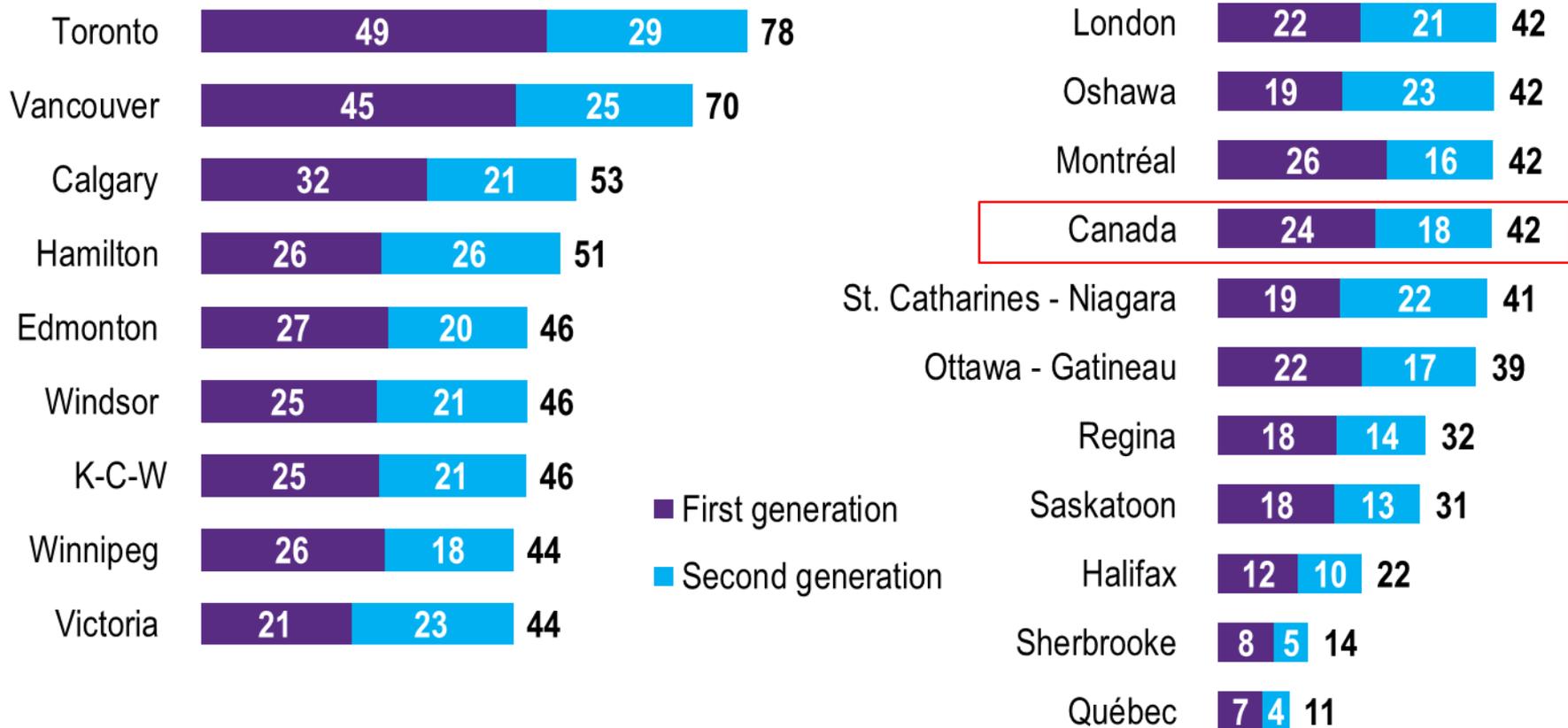
Since 2011, visible minority and Indigenous populations account for **all** of Canada's total population growth

% Population Growth 2011-2016, Canada



Four in ten Canadians are first or second generation, and make up the majority in Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary – that was 5 years ago

Percent of population by generation, Canada, 2016



[Executive Summary](#) / [Executive](#)

Posthaste: The labour shortage in Canada is getting worse, companies say

Not even higher pay is drawing people to fill vacant positions

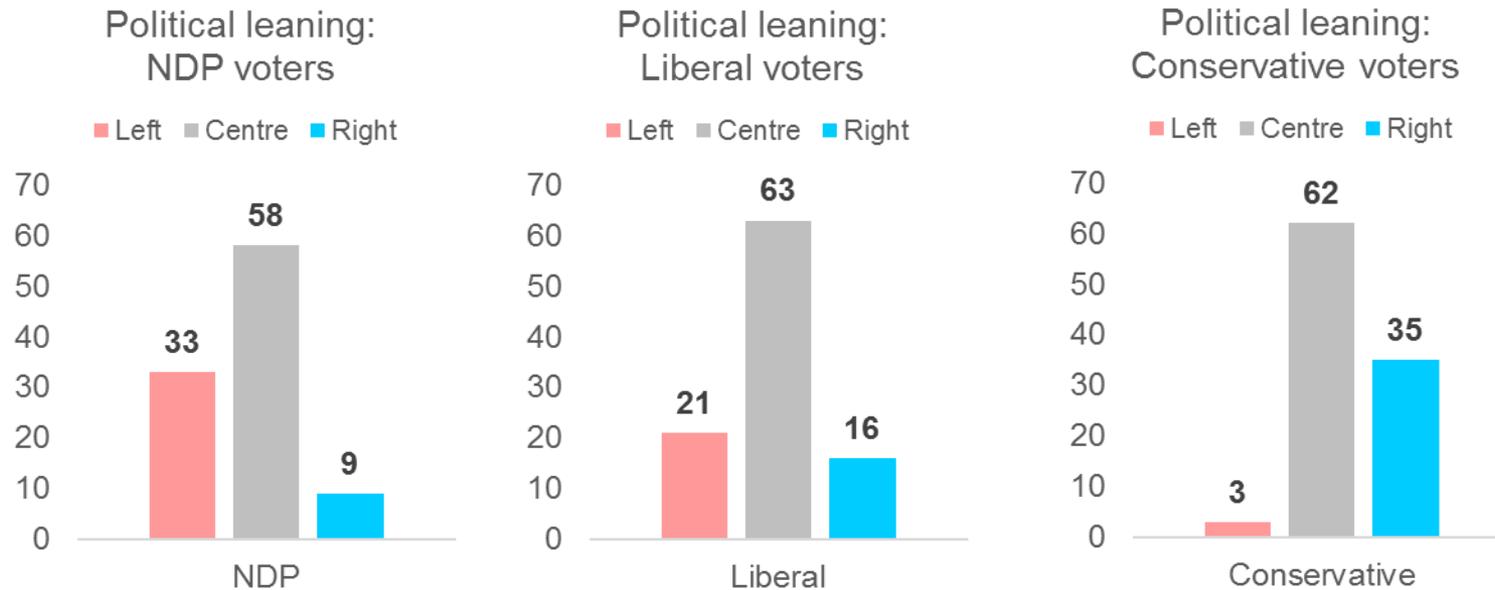
Victoria Wells

Sep 24, 2021 • September 24, 2021 • 5 minute read • [164 Comments](#)



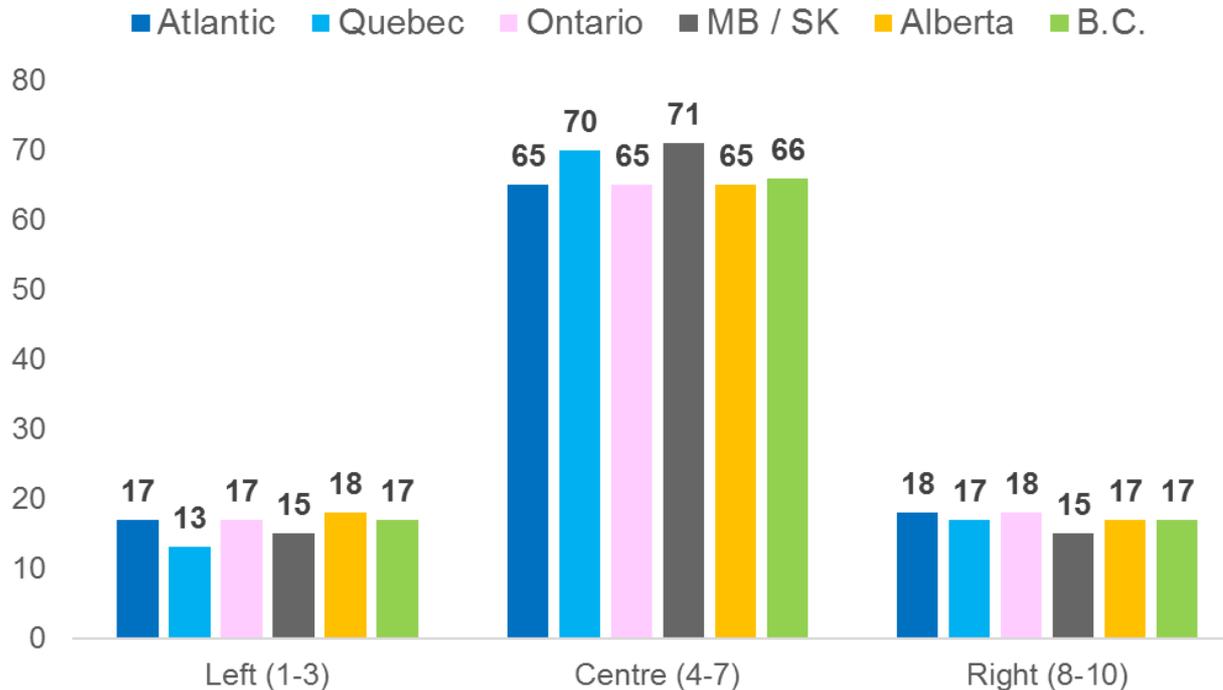
Most Canadians are political centrists – regardless of which major party they support . . .

Political ideology by party support 2021



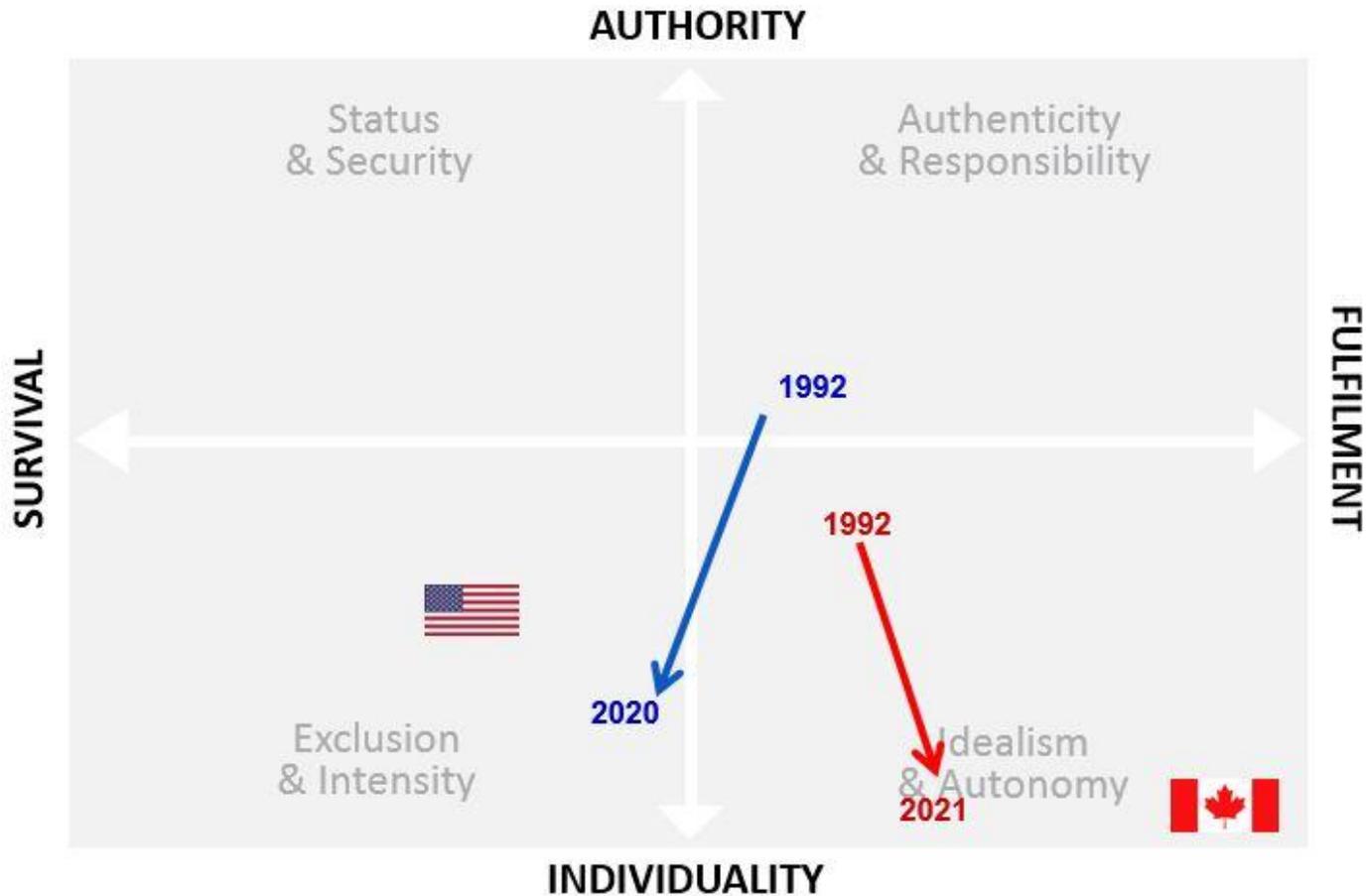
. . . And this political centrism extends across regions of the country

Political ideology by region in Canada 2021



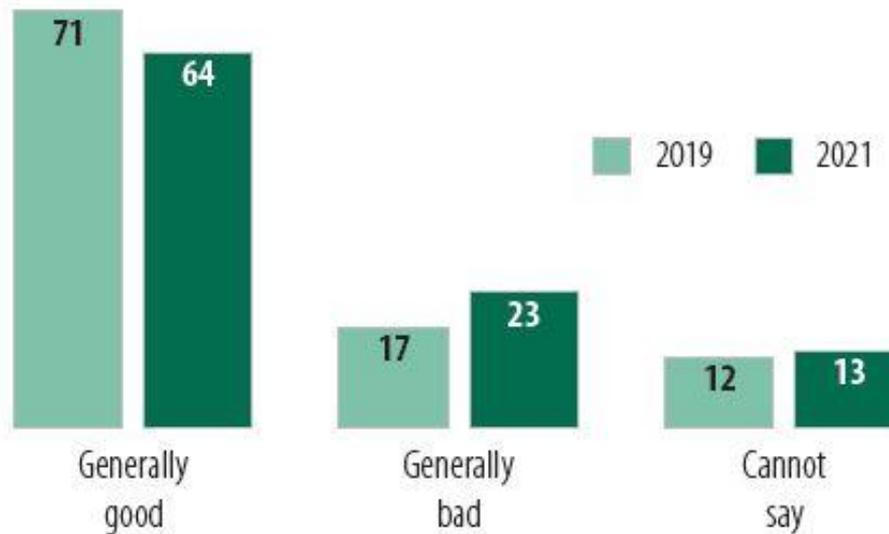
The social values of Canadians – as a whole – are evolving in a progressive direction; a different trajectory from Americans

Social values axis Canada and USA 1992 - 2021



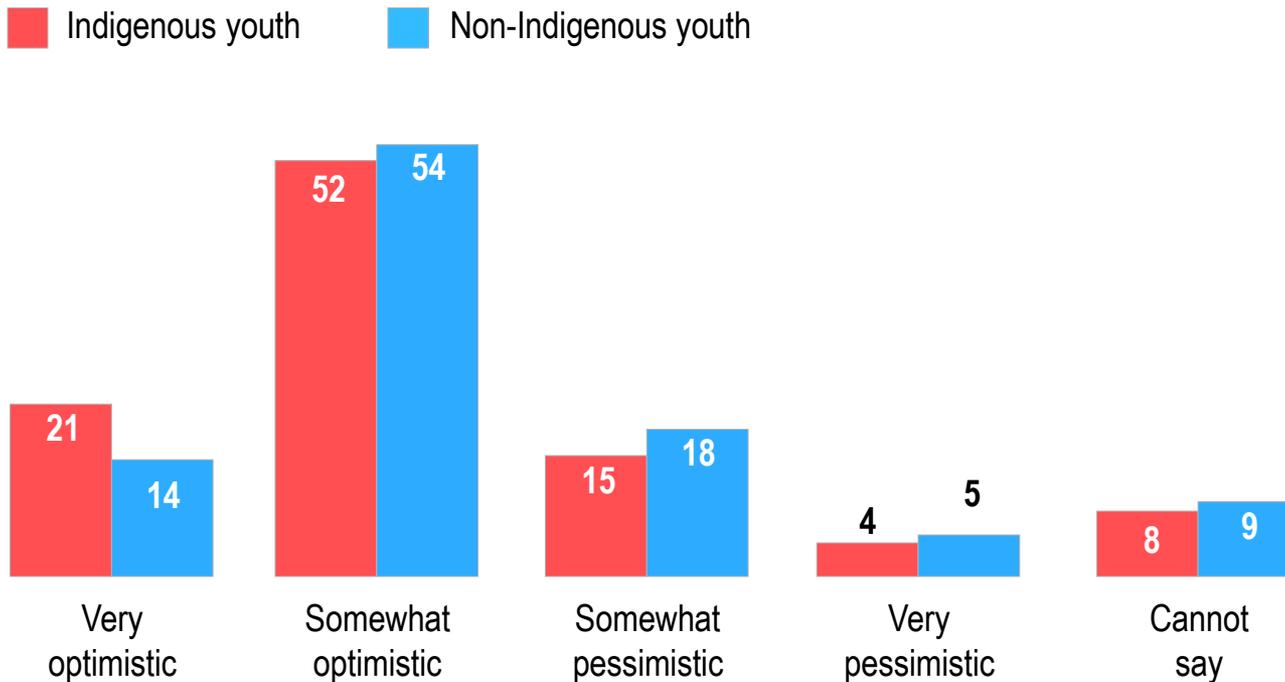
Race relations is not a major fault line, but Canadians are increasingly recognizing the extent of racism in society

How well people from different races get along in Canada
2019 - 2021



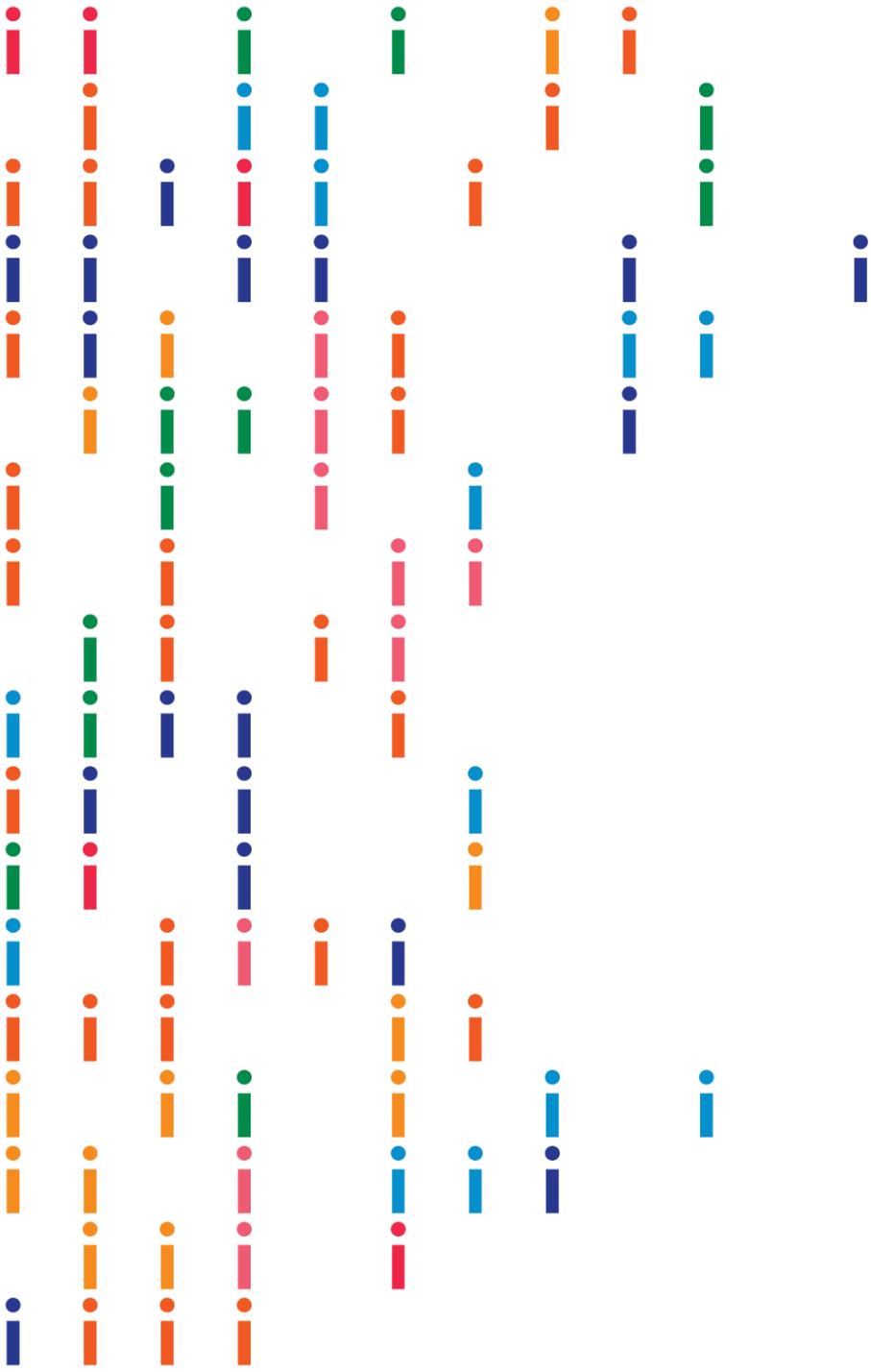
Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth express optimism about meaningful reconciliation in their lifetimes

Thinking about the future, are you optimistic or pessimistic that there will be meaningful reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in your lifetime?



Concluding thoughts

- The current evidence does not allow room for complacency -- problems and challenges on the ground are very real and persistent
- Important to keep the bigger picture in mind – to balance against the negativity pervading public discourse that can distort our perspective
- The society we are labouring to build in Canada is something truly new – it's never existed here before, or anywhere else
- This will take time to achieve, and for us to recognize what *is* being accomplished



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