



IMMIGRATION

A perspective from Quebec's English-speaking communities

Prepared for the special
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1. Introduction

The Quebec Community Groups Network welcomes the opportunity to participate in the public consultation around planning with respect to the desired numbers of immigrants that Quebec seeks to admit over the period 2008-2010. This important consultation also provides an opportunity to examine the challenges arising from the reception and integration of immigrants.

The **Quebec Community Groups Network** is a not-for-profit organization currently groups more than 20 English-language community organizations across Quebec for the purposes of supporting and assisting the development and enhancing the vitality of the English-language minority communities, as well as to promote and support the use of the English language in Quebec. This is undertaken principally through cooperation in the prioritization and development of projects and through the promotion of an effective coordinated approach.

The issue of immigration is important to all Quebecers as our collective demographic challenges require that we both attract newcomers and identify means to reduce the number of people that leave Quebec. Quebec's English-speaking communities understand these challenges and share with other Quebecers the desire for our society to be culturally and economically dynamic. It is with these objectives in mind that the Quebec Community Groups Network submits its views on the issues of immigration and integration.

Historically immigration has played a fundamental role in shaping the English-speaking communities of Quebec. This is particularly the case in the Montreal region where the ethno-cultural and ethno-racial diversity of the population testify to the continued importance of immigration which is a defining characteristic of the English-speaking community. The English-speaking communities of Quebec value the ethno-cultural and ethno-racial diversity arising from immigration and generally view these newcomers as providers of cultural and economic benefit to the communities and in turn to Quebec society.

Over the last century, the English-speaking communities have developed considerable experience in the process of integrating persons of diverse backgrounds. Quebec's English-speaking community well understands the importance of speaking the French language as reflected in the considerable increase in the percentage of Anglophones that report an ability to speak the French language. By extension, we see too the need for new arrivals to speak the French language is a necessary step towards successful integration. Furthermore, this reality is well understood by those immigrants coming to Quebec whose first or second language is English.

That said we believe the adoption of the French language on the part of immigrants whose principal language is English can be achieved while they maintain identification with the

English-speaking community. Indeed, we believe that the sense of community belonging represents an important dimension of successful integration. It is on this basis that the English-speaking community wishes to work with partners across Quebec in ensuring that immigrants can successfully meet the conditions of integration. To do otherwise and potentially work at cross purposes risks encouraging to contemplate a move elsewhere-also known as secondary migration-which would represent a loss both to Quebec society and to its English-speaking communities.

The QCGN encourages and promotes participation by government departments and agencies for the development of the English-language minority communities. QCGN promotes cooperation with provincial, regional and municipal government authorities in order to support and assist the development and enhance the vitality of the English-language minority communities. The QCGN also aims to promote dialogue and mutual understanding between the linguistic communities in Canada.

2. The Demographic Importance of Immigration in Quebec's English-speaking community

According to the 2001 census, some one in ten Quebecers are foreign-born. In Quebec's English-speaking communities some one in four persons are foreign-born when defined on the basis of their principal official language. Many of these individuals speak English as a second language yet is safe to assume that they secure services in the English language.

Language Status of Quebec Immigrants and Non-immigrants, Defined According to Mother Tongue or First Official Language Spoken, 2001								
	FOLS - English		FOLS - English and French		Mother tongue English		Mother tongue English and French	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Non-immigrant 2001	588,785	72.3	57,860	32.7	482,400	87.4	41,350	93.7
Immigrant 2001	224,870	27.7	118,490	67.3	69,685	12.6	2,795	6.3

Source: Statistics Canada, *Census of Canada*, 2001.

Because most English-language immigrants settle on the Island of Montréal, the share they represent within that group rises considerably, compared with the percentage it represents in the rest of Quebec. On the basis of mother tongue, nearly one out of five members of Montreal's English-speaking community is foreign-born. When using the criterion of first official language spoken, the foreign-born portion of Montréal's English-speaking community rises by about 40 percent.

As observed in the table below between 1997 and 2006 over 60 000 immigrants that settled in Quebec spoke English only upon arrival. They represent one in five total immigrants arriving in Quebec each year.

Knowledge of French and/or English among Immigrants Admitted to Quebec, 1997-2006										
	French only		French and English		Knowledge of French		English only		Neither French nor English	
Year	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1997	6 927	24.8	3 013	10.8	9 940	35.6	5 984	21.4	12 011	43.0
1998	7,140	26.9	3,538	13.3	10,678	40.3	4,641	17.5	11,190	42.2
1999	8,087	27.7	4,428	15.2	12,515	42.8	5,557	19.0	11,142	38.1
2000	8,735	26.9	5,965	18.4	14,700	45.2	5,994	18.4	11,808	36.3
2001	9,538	25.4	8,098	21.6	17,636	47.0	5,982	15.9	13,919	37.1
2002	9,181	24.4	9,291	24.7	18,472	49.1	5,953	15.8	13,194	35.1
2003	8 613	21.8	11488	29.0	20 101	50.8	6 638	16.8	12 814	32.4
2004	9 732	22.0	14 741	33.3	24 473	55.3	7 841	17.7	11 929	27.0
2005	10239	23.6	14 599	33.7	24 838	57.3	8 045	18.6	10 429	24.1
2006	10697	23.9	15 098	33.8	25 795	57.7	8 793	19.7	10 089	22.6

Source: Government of Quebec, Minister of Relations with Citizens and Immigration, 2006.

3. Categories of Immigrants

As observed below between 2002 and 2006 of the immigrants settling in Quebec that speak English only upon arrival some one in four are refugees compared to just over one in ten overall that fall within that category. In the case of immigrants speaking English upon arrival nearly one in three were being reunited with their family as compared with just over one in five Quebecers that fall into that category. A majority of the immigrants that report knowledge of English only upon arrival fall into the family and refugee classes. In short given the profile of the immigrants that speak English only it is very likely that they are more vulnerable and may require additional longer-term support through the adjustment process such immigrants are more vulnerable and may require greater support through the process of adjustment to Quebec society. Organizations that offer services in the English language where immigrants use the service require that a proper evaluation of their needs be conducted so as to ensure that immigrants be adequately equipped to meet the challenges of adapting to Quebec society.

Language	Economic Immigration	Family	Refugee	Other	Total
French only	27 264	10 993	8 937	1 277	48 471
English and French	54 967	6 869	2 851	544	65 231
English only	15 559	11 831	9 040	841	37 271
Neither English nor French	28 321	16 425	13 449	288	58 483
Total	126 111	46 118	34 277	2 950	209 456

Source: MRCI, Tableaux sur l'immigration au Québec, 2007.

4. Integration of Immigrants

According to a 2006 survey conducted by Decima Research, nearly 80% of Anglophones say that English-speakers from outside of Canada are welcome in their community. Moreover, when it comes to assisting economic immigrants with adaptation some one in four Quebecers believe that communities should be most responsible (about 30% think it should be government and another 25% the immigrants themselves). In Quebec, there is a tendency to assign greater responsibility for immigrant adaptation to communities rather than employers while in the rest of Canada the view is that employers should have more responsibility than communities when it comes to adaptation.

There is a relationship between the public perception on the desired level of immigrants and the resources available for integration. Higher rates of success in the process of integration can ease concerns about the numbers of immigrants Quebec receives which will in turn permit the government to raise the levels of new arrivals. In our view immigrant integration cannot be based on a one-size fits all approach as those who come here have varying needs based on their language skills, economic situation and their established support networks. There are ongoing debates in Quebec and elsewhere about the key elements of immigrant integration and the varying conditions of adaptation. When asked about the key hurdles facing immigrants, two-thirds of Quebecers identify language/cultural barriers. Another 40% point to employment, recognizing educational background and other economic/financial issues.

What follows are findings from a survey conducted by the CROP for the Community Health and Social Services Network in 2005 where 3 000 Quebec English-speakers were surveyed (1 000 of whom were immigrants). English-speaking non-immigrants report a higher degree of knowledge of English and French than do immigrants though, in each instance, the majority reports an ability to communicate in both languages. Not surprisingly non-immigrants (63%) are more likely to be able to read French well compared to immigrants (52%). Non-immigrants are also more likely to report an ability to write in the French language than immigrant Anglophones. As observed the ability to read and write in the French language is much greater amongst English-speakers under the age of 35 than it is amongst their elders.

How well do you read French? Is it... * Born in Canada

% How well do you read French? Is it...

		Non-Immigrant	Immigrant
less than 35	very well	44.1%	31.6%
	quite well	36.1%	29.9%
	not very well	13.7%	23.8%
	not at all well	6.1%	14.7%
Total		100.0%	100.0%
35-64	very well	35.3%	21.0%
	quite well	35.2%	26.4%
	not very well	23.9%	37.2%
	not at all well	5.5%	15.4%
	Refusal	.1%	
Total		100.0%	100.0%

**And how well can you write French? Is it...
% within Born in Canada**

		Non-Immigrant	Immigrant
less than 35	very well	24.4%	17.6%
	quite well	30.9%	21.0%
	not very well	35.5%	38.6%
	not at all well	9.3%	22.7%
Total		100.0%	100.0%
35-64	very well	15.7%	11.8%
	quite well	29.3%	16.8%
	not very well	41.1%	43.5%
	not at all well	13.6%	28.0%
	Refusal	.2%	.0%
Total		100.0%	100.0%

Non-immigrant Anglophones are somewhat more likely to use French in the workplace than immigrant Anglophones. This is the case both for those under the age of 35 and those between the ages of 35 and 64.

As to the issue of French language instruction a slight majority of immigrants under the age of 35 express satisfaction with the extent and quality of such instruction. However, in the 35-64 age group only one in four express satisfaction with nearly 42% expressing dissatisfaction and over one in four saying they did not receive instruction at all.

Language of work/school		Non-Immigrant	Immigrant
less than 35	English	60.6%	64.5%
	French	16.9%	16.0%
	Other	1.8%	
	English and French	14.8%	14.7%
	not applicable/not available	5.9%	4.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%
35-64	English	48.4%	57.9%
	French	14.1%	10.8%
	Other	.2%	1.9%
	English and French	16.3%	11.2%
	not applicable/not available	21.0%	18.3%
Total		100.0%	100.0%

Did the extent and quality of French language instruction that you received prepare you to be successful in Quebec?

	Non-Immigrant	Immigrant
(Less than 35) yes	49.8%	51.3%
more or less	5.8%	4.3%
no	40.3%	28.4%
did not learn French	3.2%	15.5%
DNK/Refusal	.9%	.4%
(35-64) yes	28.2%	27.2%
more or less	7.2%	3.3%
no	61.1%	41.9%
did not learn French	2.7%	25.9%
DNK/Refusal	.8%	1.7%
(65 and over) yes	23.9%	22.6%
more or less	5.2%	9.0%
no	56.3%	25.4%
did not learn French	11.3%	38.4%
DNK/Refusal	3.4%	4.5%

With the above in mind it is important to point that nearly all anglophones regard language training services as important.

Language training services

	Non-Immigrant	Immigrant
less than 35 extremely important	59.3%	63.7%
important	38.1%	36.3%
35-64 extremely important	59.8%	54.3%
important	37.4%	42.9%
not very important	1.4%	1.5%
65 and over extremely important	55.6%	54.3%
important	36.8%	41.7%

Nearly all anglophone immigrants surveyed agree that services for immigrants are important

Services for immigrants

	Non-Immigrant	Immigrant
(less than 35 years of age) extremely important	43.4%	63.4%
important	44.7%	35.6%
35-64 extremely important	44.2%	51.7%
important	45.1%	41.8%
65 and over extremely important	32.9%	56.7%
important	50.9%	33.1%

When it comes to employment services nearly one-third of anglophones between the ages of 35 and 64 are very satisfied with local employment centers.

Employment services (local employment centers)

		Non-Immigrant	Immigrant
less than 35 years of age	not satisfied at all		
Employment services (local employment centers)		8.7%	14.2%
	2	13.9%	14.2%
	3	25.9%	23.7%
	4	18.6%	19.4%
	totally satisfied	12.3%	13.8%
	did not use	14.6%	13.8%
	DNK/Refusal	6.1%	.9%
Total		100.0%	100.0%
Between 35-64 years of age	not satisfied at all		
Employment services (local employment centers)		9.3%	12.1%
	2	14.6%	16.8%
	3	21.4%	15.7%
	4	16.1%	13.9%
	totally satisfied	9.7%	9.8%
	did not use	18.1%	19.0%
	DNK/Refusal	10.7%	12.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%

Not surprisingly Anglophone immigrants are more aware than non-immigrants of local resources aimed at helping them find jobs and develop their skills.

Do not know about local resources which help people find jobs and develop their skills	Non-Immigrant	Immigrant
Less than 35	46.0%	60.3%
35-64	51.4%	61.5%
65 and over	69.0%	70.8%

5. Recruitment and Retention

Federal-provincial agreements on immigration in 1978 and 1990 enhanced Quebec’s efforts at recruiting immigrants from French-speaking countries and their increased role in the process of integration. The QCGN respects the government’s desire to recruit immigrants that are able to speak French. It is important to the English-speaking communities, in their desire to maintain their vitality, that immigration continue to be part of its demographic evolution. More attention needs to be paid to addressing the needs of the English-speaking immigrants that choose to settle in Quebec and properly assess their integration needs and their expectations around the adaptation process.

There has been some evidence both empirical and anecdotal that a somewhat higher than average number of immigrants that are primarily English-speakers leave Quebec within five years after settlement. Since Quebec supports that desire to establish themselves here it is important to gain further insight into the causes of what is referred to as secondary migration and see how best to prevent this phenomenon which erodes the sustainability of Quebec’s demographic vitality. The QCGN is a willing partner in helping to understand how best to join forces to identify the needs of these immigrants and thereby support the much desired demographic renewal.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Quebec Parliamentary Commission on Immigration Levels has proposed several scenarios upon which they seek opinion from various sectors of Quebec society. As noted previously Quebec's English-speakers welcome immigrants and it is safe to assume that they support levels that will maximize growth and help Quebec meet its demographic challenges. However, with that objective in mind it is important to determine whether the resources being allocated towards immigrant adjustment are sufficient and whether the needs of immigrants in this regard have been carefully assessed.

As mentioned previously, going to higher levels of immigration requires that we invest more in integration and involve all relevant partners in the process. The QCGN is ready to work in tandem with the government and various institutions to help assist these needs and also to participate in campaigns aimed at helping potential migrants understand the challenges and opportunities that Quebec presents.