



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

WELCOMING REFUGEES
Yemen: An Opportunity to
do Better

Briefing and Recommendations from the
Inter-Departmental/Agency ADM Level Group

February 23, 2019





Problem Statement

How should the federal government respond to the United Nations' request to welcome Yemeni refugees in the current context of **tense intergovernmental relations** and previous **operational challenges** ?



Contextual Considerations

Humanitarian Crisis & Canadian Experiences

Humanitarian Crisis

Request from the UN to welcome **75 000 refugees** affected by the Saudi surge

Yemen to face worst humanitarian crisis of 2019: UN



Yemen crisis: 85,000 children 'dead from malnutrition'



Yemen
The war the world ignores

Key Figures:

January 2019



24M People in need



3.9M People displaced



13M People at risk of death by starvation

Canada's Legal Obligations



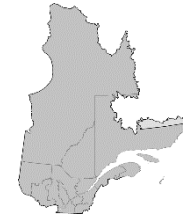
International

Convention Relating to the
Status of Refugees



Federal

Immigration and Refugee
Protection Act



Provincial

Canada-Quebec
Immigration Agreement

Administrative & Budgetary Considerations

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Departmental Plan 2018–2019



Annual expenditures
\$ 1,79 billion



2 701 employes
Represent 300 more
than the previous year



Min: **43 000** refugees
Max: **58 500** refugees

Refugee Funding Programs



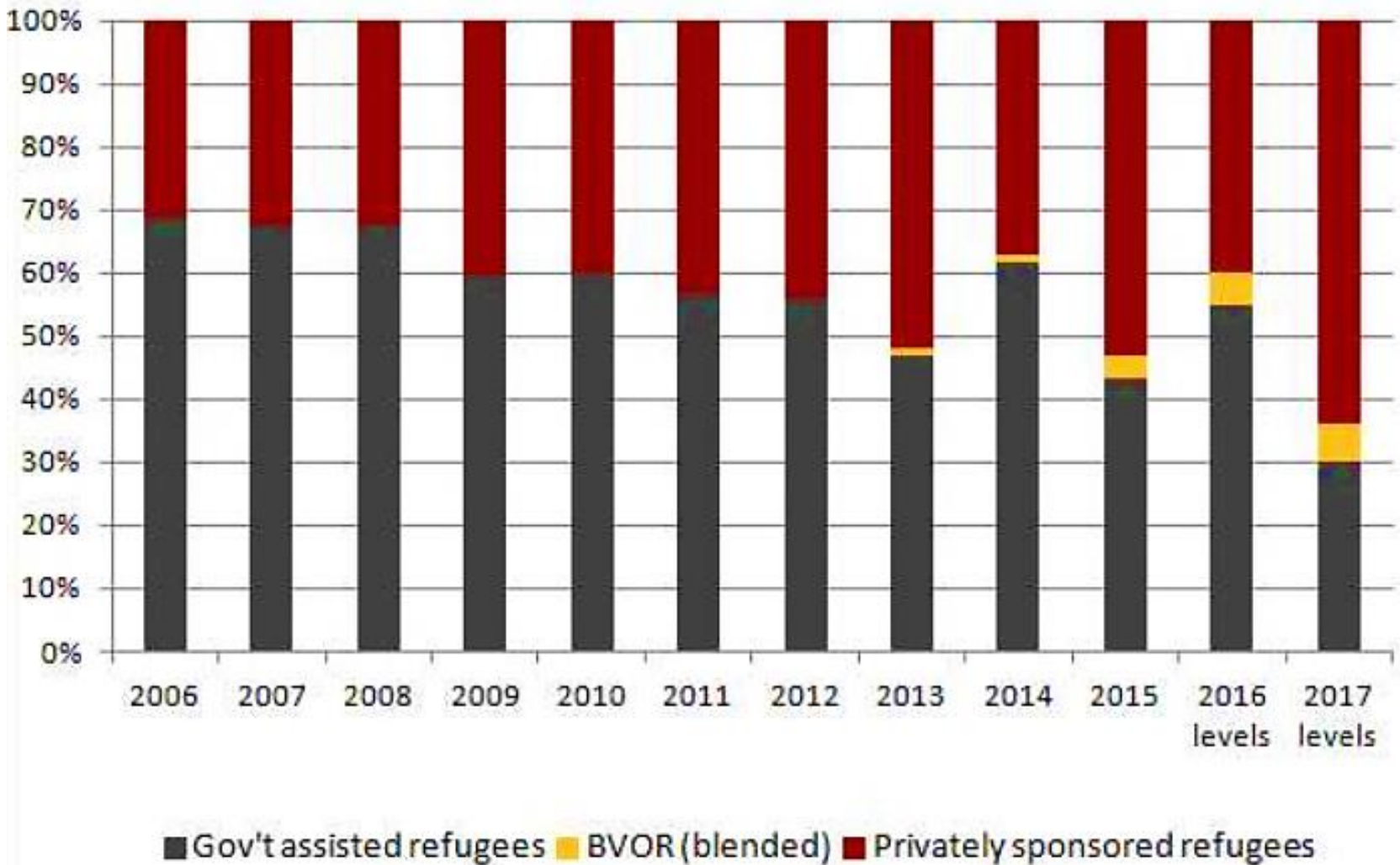
1 year: Support from private groups



6 months: Income support provided by the government
6 months: Financial support by private sponsors



1 year: Support from provincial government with federal transfers



Public Opinion Considerations

5 % believe that immigration/refugee issues are the most important problem facing Canada



68 %

Refugees are a cultural threat

76 %

Refugees are an economic strength for the country

61 %

The resettlement process went well with Syrians refugees



Policy Learning

Lessons from the Syrian Experience

What was missing in 2015-2016 ?



Funding delays



Language training wait lists



Lack of consistent service provision



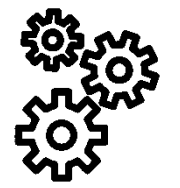
Monitoring issues

Childcare services

Mental health services

Housing shortage

Lack of coordination



Syria & Yemen: Similar Cases

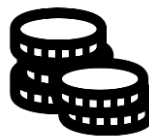
Syria



Languages spoken: Arabic, English, Russian and Razihi



Religious affiliation: 74% are Sunni Muslim, and 13% are Alawi, Ismaili and Shia Muslim



Economic activity: Construction and agriculture



Average age: 20.2 years

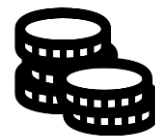
Yemen



Languages spoken: Arabic, English, Kurdish, Assyrian and Aramaic



Religious affiliation: 65% are Sunni and 35% are Shia Muslim



Economic activity: Fishing and agriculture



Average age: 19.2 years

Why not responding is not a policy option ?

**Failure to meet
policy & budget
commitments**

**Failure to meet
international
obligations**

Reputational risks

Three Target Options

Option 1. Greater Flexibility

10 000

Option 2. Policy Learning from the Syrian Experience

25 000

Option 3. Leader on Refugee Reception

40 000

Options Evaluation Criteria

1
**Government
Coherence**

2
Feasibility

3
**Social
Acceptability**

TARGETS



Ministerial *Between 43 000 to 58 500 refugees*

UNHCR Request *A proportion of the 75 000 Yemeni refugees*

Criterion 1: Governmental Coherence

| EVALUATION CRITERIA | OPTION 1 10 000 | OPTION 2 25 000 | OPTION 3 40 000 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| International target (75 000 Yeminis) | 13% | 33% | 53% |
| National Target (43 000 to 58 500 refugees) | 23% | 58% | 93% |
| Provincial Targets (Quebec: 7 500 refugees) | 30% | 78% | 120% |

Criterion 2. Feasibility

| EVALUATION CRITERIA | OPTION 1 10 000 | OPTION 2 25 000 | OPTION 3 40 000 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Financial pressure (% of the ministerial budget) | 3,9 % | 9,7 % | 15,5 % |
| Pressure on resources | Low | Moderate | Strong |

Criterion 3. Social Acceptability

| EVALUATION CRITERIA | OPTION 1 10 000 | OPTION 2 25 000 | OPTION 3 40 000 |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Canada & Provinces | Moderate | Moderate | Low |
| International | Low | Moderate | High |

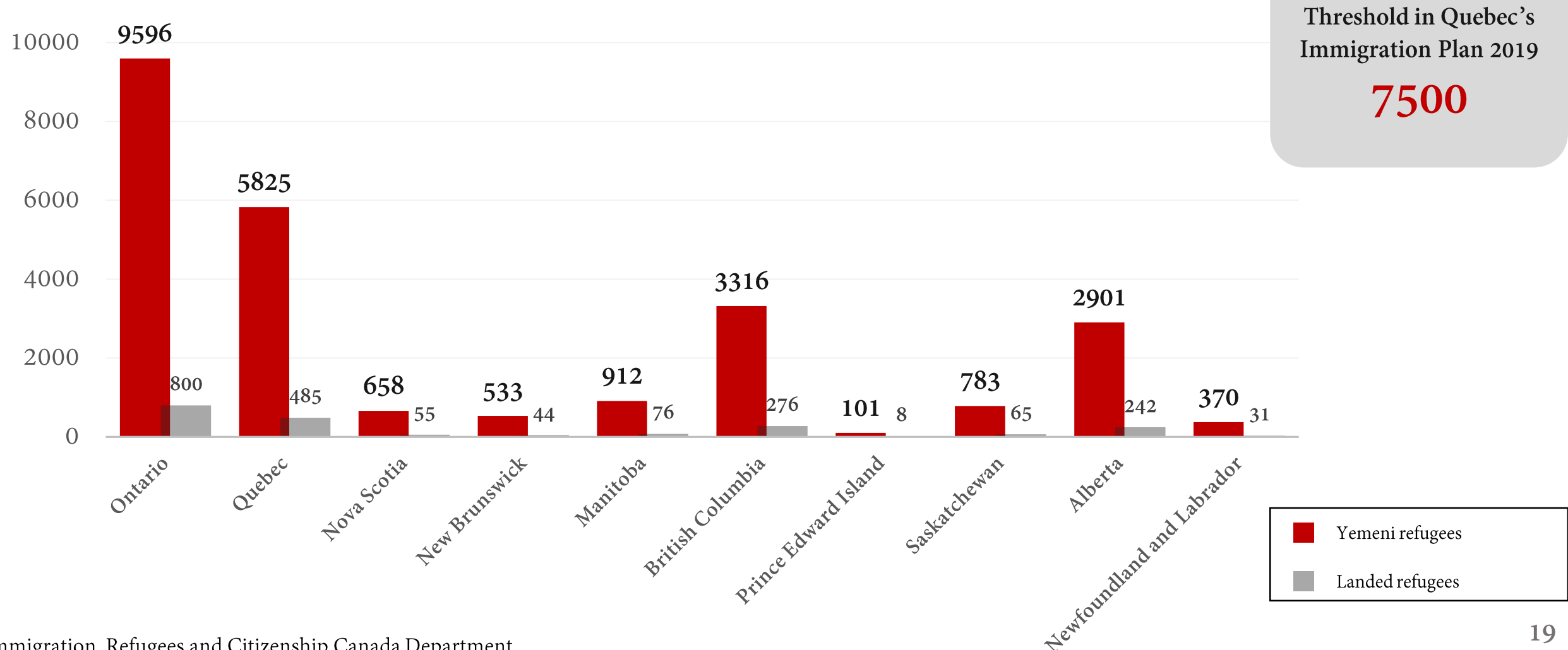


Doing Better

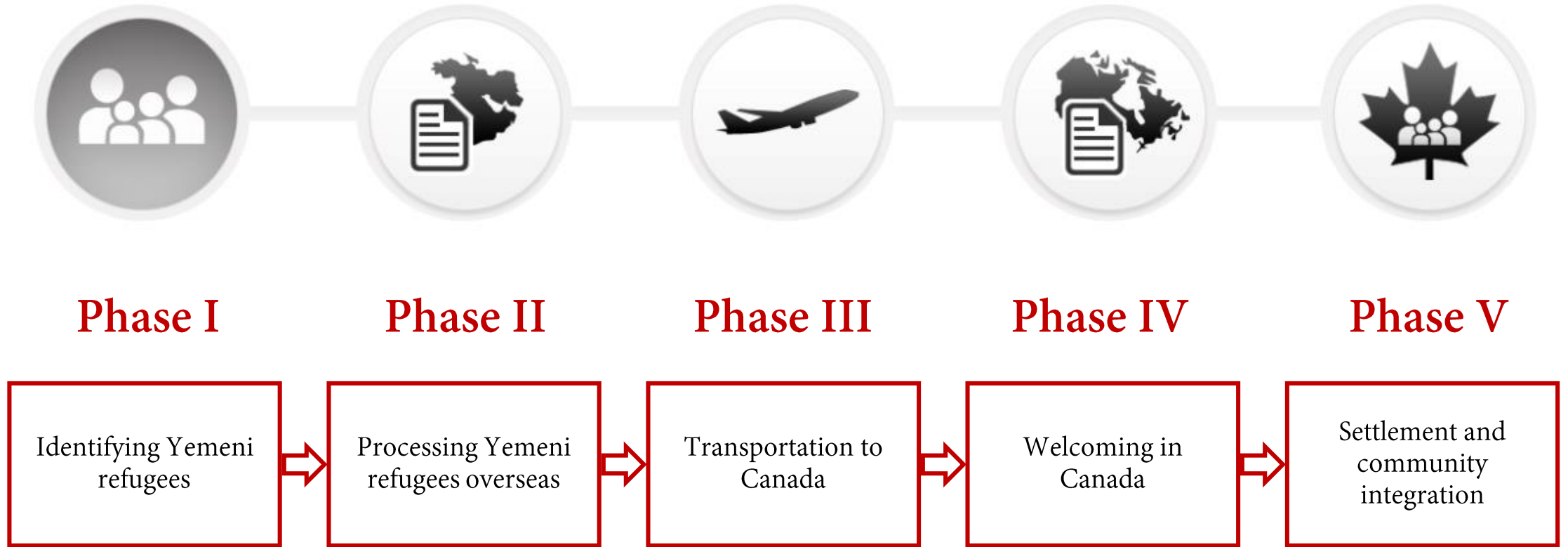
Building on the Syrian Experience

Implementation Plan

Projected distribution of refugees by provincial demographic weight



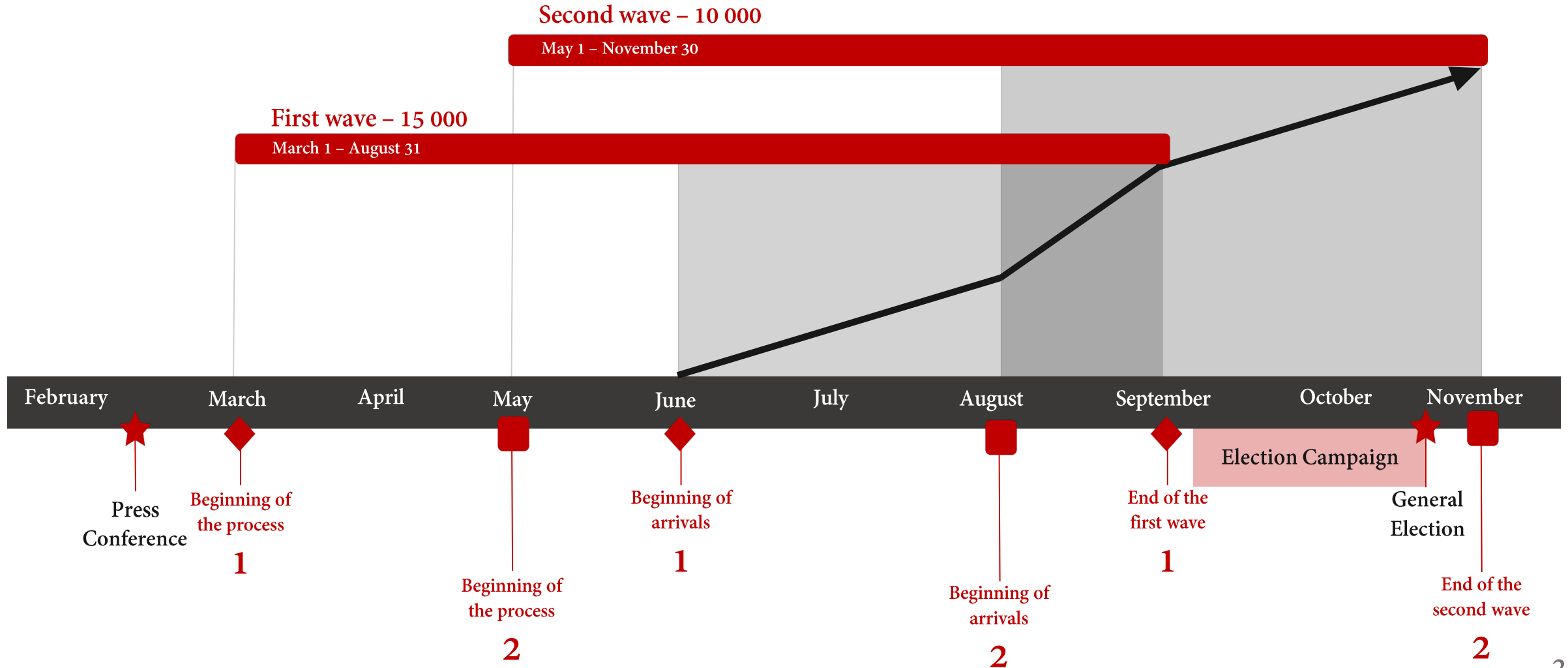
Implementation Plan



Average duration: 3 to 6 months

Implementation

Timeline – 8-Month Plan



Fiscal Projections

First Year Expenditures by Refugee Category

| REFUGEE CATEGORIES | ANNUAL COSTS BY REFUGEE | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|---|
| | 2015 | 2019 | Total (2019) | |
| Government-Assisted Refugees | \$ 16 230 | \$ 20 000 | \$ 165 M | Annual Government Spending \$ 174,88 M |
| Blended Visa Office-Referred | \$ 6 600 | \$ 7 900 | \$ 9,88 M | |
| | \$ 9 900 | \$ 9 900 | \$ 12,375 M | Total difference (2019-2015) \$ 32,73 M |
| Private Sponsorship of Refugees | \$ 16 200 | \$ 16 200 | \$ 251,1 M | |

Lessons Learned

Extra Support where it Matters Most

Couple childcare services
with language training
classes



Establish a monitoring
framework to evaluate
refugee integration



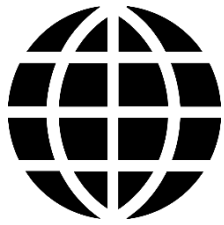
Invest in adapted mental
health services



Invest in social housing
with units reserved for
Yemeni refugees



Implementation Plan



Management of selection and territorial distribution

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat

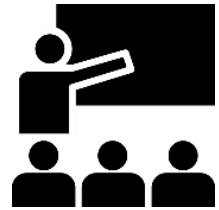


Management of services and integration

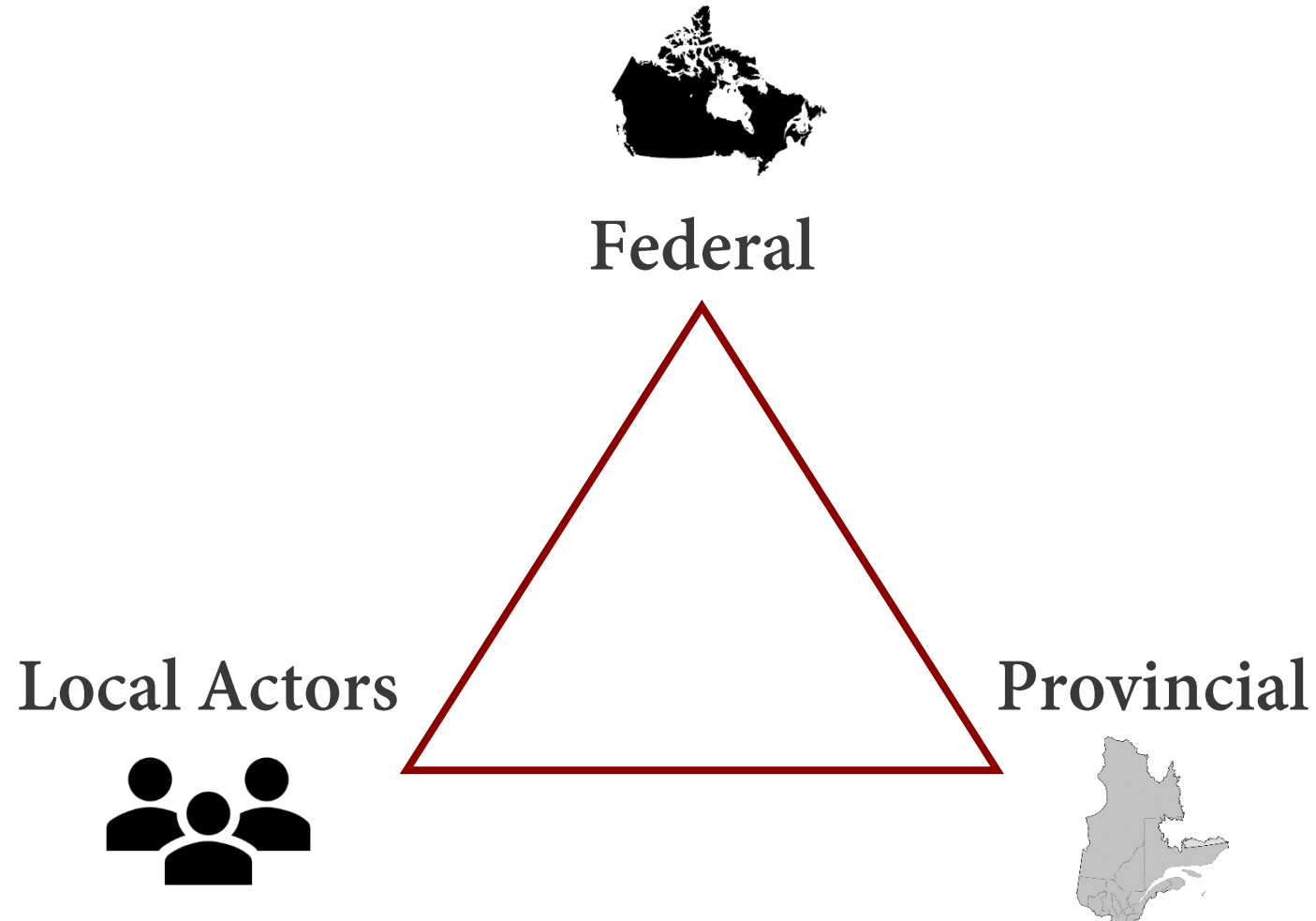
Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

Minister of Public Services and Procurement



Intergovernmental Coordination



Communication Plan

INTERNAL & INTERGOVERNMENTAL

EXTERNAL



Target Groups

- Government cabinet
- Provinces and municipalities
- Civil servants

- Canadian citizens
- Service providers



Key Messages

Doing better: Strong administrative experience

Proud **partners** in humanitarian action & reassuring message about learning

Doing better: Building from experiences

Proud **leader** in humanitarian action & reassuring message about learning



Communication Channels

- Briefing sessions
- Internal emails and communications

- Press conference
- Press release
- Social media
- Websites



Questions

Inter-Departmental/Agency ADM Level Group

February 23, 2019

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Departmental Plan

Planned Spending for 2018-2019 (% of the Budget)

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Immigrant and Refugee Selection and Integration | \$ 1 799,1 M |
| Expended Costs per refugee | \$ 20 000 |
| Total Costs for 25 000 Refugees | \$ 500 M |
| Approximate Private Sponsorship Spending | \$ 263,48 M (50 %) |
| Government Spending | \$ 174,88 M (35 %) |

Fiscal Considerations

| Syrian Refugee Horizontal Initiative | |
|---|------------------|
| November 2015 to December 2018 - (End : March 2019) | |
| Total federal funding allocated (start to end date) | \$ 959 908 977 |
| Total federal planned spending to date | \$ 861 339 330 |
| Planned costs per refugee | \$ 17 227 |
| Total federal actual spending to date | \$ 664 769 661 |
| Actual costs per refugee | \$ 13 035 |

Fiscal Considerations

Tableau 2 – Subventions versées au Québec en vertu de l'Accord Canada-Québec de 2012-2013 à 2016-2017

| Exercice | Subvention versée en vertu de l'Accord Canada-Québec (en millions de dollars) |
|-----------|--|
| 2012-2013 | 284,5 |
| 2013-2014 | 320,0 |
| 2014-2015 | 340,5 |
| 2015-2016 | 345,0 |
| 2016-2017 | 378,2 |

Number of Immigrants and Refugees Admitted to Quebec

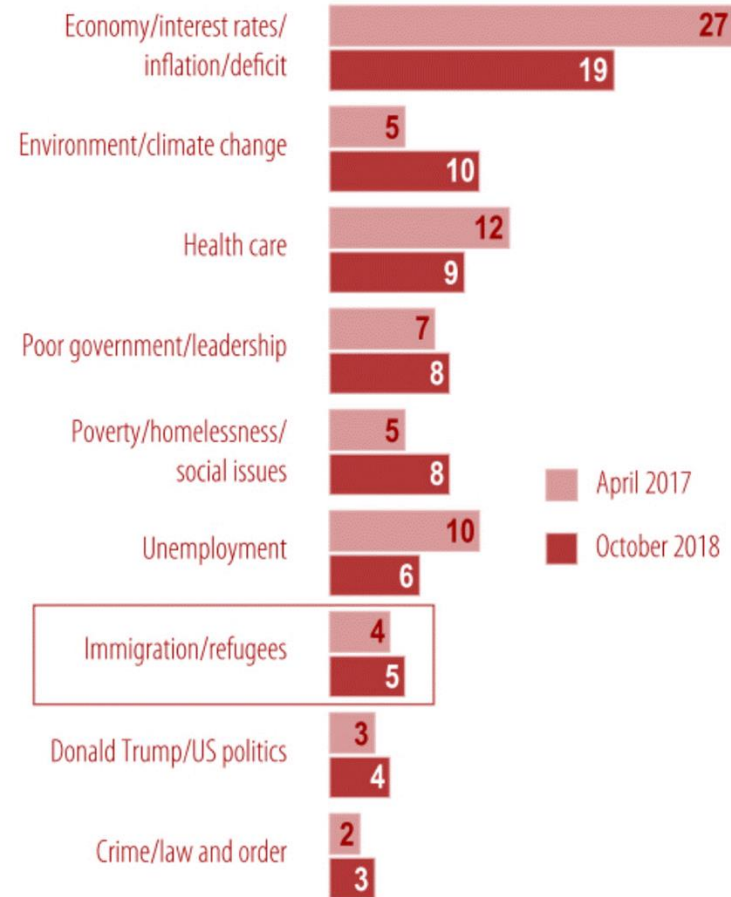
Le nombre de personnes admises au Québec ^a

| | Résultats ^b | | Plan 2018 | | Prévisions 2018 ^c | | Plan 2019 ^d | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | Min. | Max. | Min. | Max. | Min. | Cible | Max. |
| Immigration économique | 31 600 | 30 262 | 28 700 | 31 300 | 29 200 | 31 200 | 21 700 | 23 450 | 24 300 |
| Travailleurs qualifiés | 25 858 | 24 862 | 24 200 | 26 300 | 24 300 | 25 900 | 18 000 | 19 500 | 20 100 |
| Gens d'affaires | 4 634 | 4 589 | 4 000 | 4 300 | 4 000 | 4 300 | 3 100 | 3 200 | 3 400 |
| Autres catégories économiques ¹ | 1 108 | 811 | 500 | 700 | 900 | 1 000 | 600 | 750 | 800 |
| Regroupement familial | 11 124 | 12 136 | 11 600 | 12 100 | 11 300 | 11 700 | 8 900 | 8 900 | 9 400 |
| Réfugiés et personnes en situation semblable | 9 274 | 9 148 | 8 100 | 8 800 | 8 600 | 9 400 | 6 800 | 6 950 | 7 500 |
| Réfugiés sélectionnés à l'étranger ² | 6 993 | 6 329 | 5 600 | 6 000 | 5 600 | 6 000 | 4 400 | 4 500 | 4 800 |
| Réfugiés pris en charge par l'État | 2 813 | 1 523 | 1 550 | 1 600 | 1 500 | 1 600 | 1 150 | 1 150 | 1 200 |
| Réfugiés parrainés | 4 180 | 4 806 | 4 050 | 4 400 | 4 100 | 4 500 | 3 250 | 3 350 | 3 600 |
| Réfugiés reconnus sur place ³ | 2 281 | 2 819 | 2 500 | 2 800 | 2 900 | 3 300 | 2 400 | 2 450 | 2 700 |
| Autres immigrants ⁴ | 1 086 | 842 | 600 | 800 | 900 | 1 000 | 600 | 700 | 800 |
| Ensemble de l'immigration | 53 084 | 52 388 | 49 000 | 53 000 | 50 000 | 53 300 | 38 000 | 40 000 | 42 000 |
| Part de la sélection québécoise ⁵ | 75 % | 71 % | 71 % | 72 % | 71 % | 72 % | 70 % | 72 % | 71 % |
| Part de l'immigration économique | 60 % | 58 % | 59 % | 59 % | 58 % | 59 % | 57 % | 59 % | 58 % |
| Proportion d'immigrants connaissant le français ⁶ | 48 % | 42 % | 44% ⁷ | 44% ⁷ | 42 % | 42 % | 41% ⁷ | 41% ⁷ | 41% ⁷ |

Appendix 5

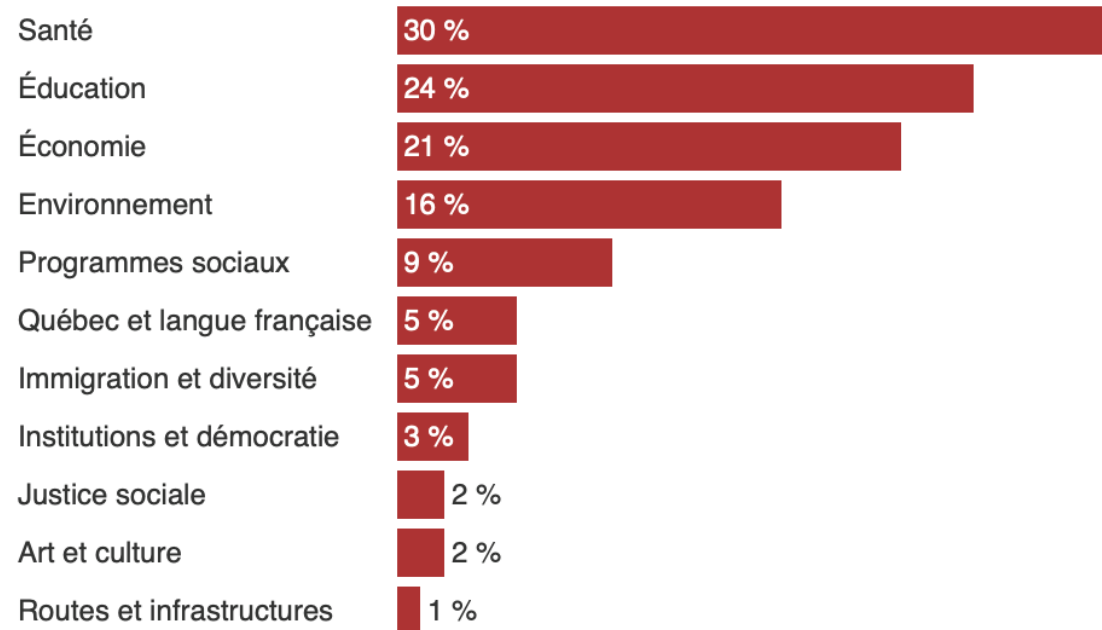
Wedge Issue in Canada?

Most important problem facing Canada today
2017 – 2018 Top mentions (unprompted)



Wedge Issue in Quebec?

L'enjeu le plus important selon les répondants de la Boussole



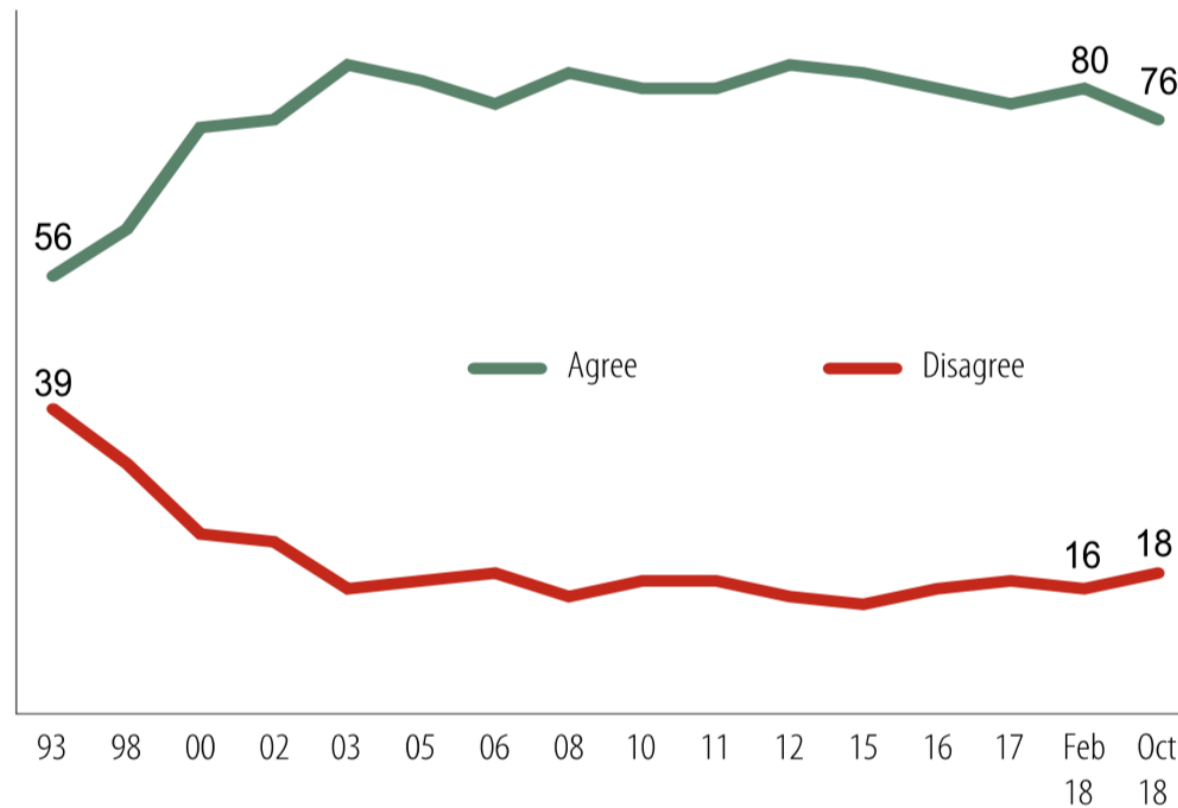
Source: Boussole électorale

Appendix 7

Opinion on Economic Impact in Canada

Economic impact of immigration is positive

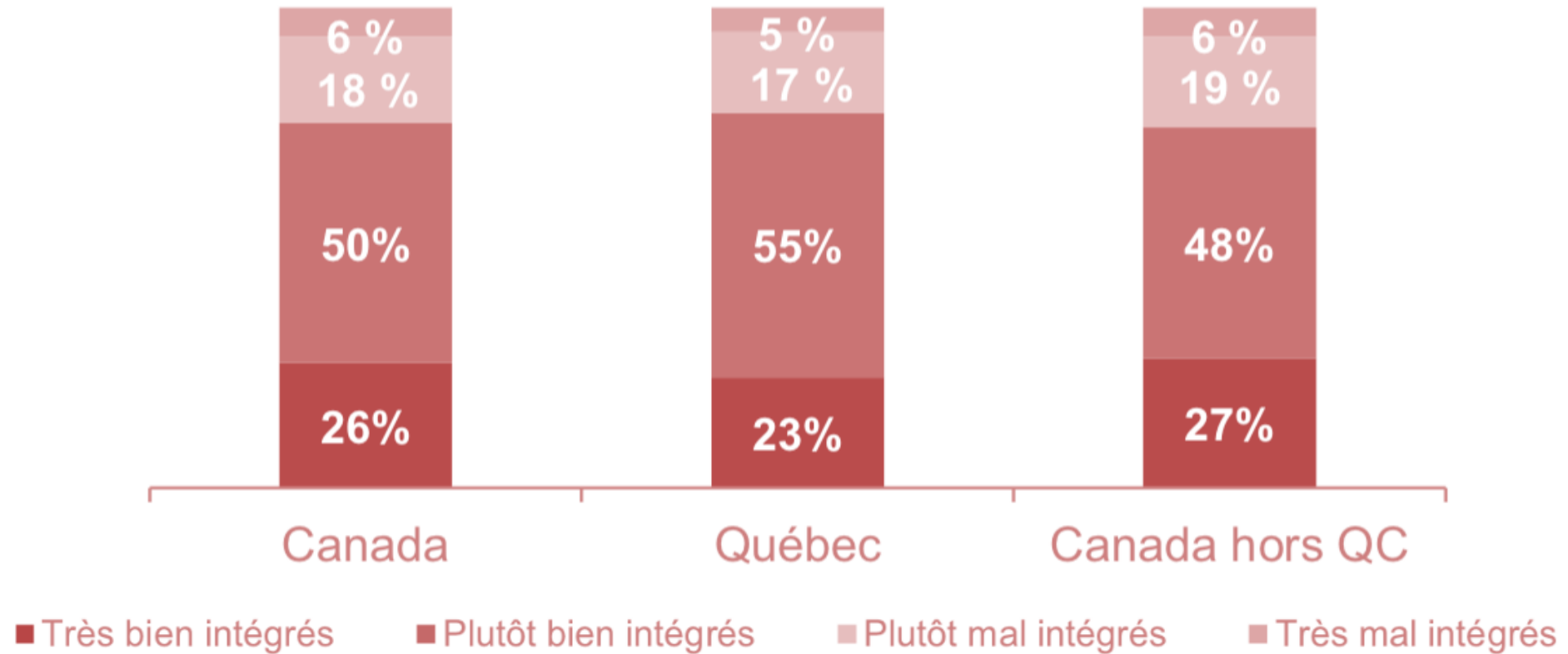
1993 – 2018



Appendix 8

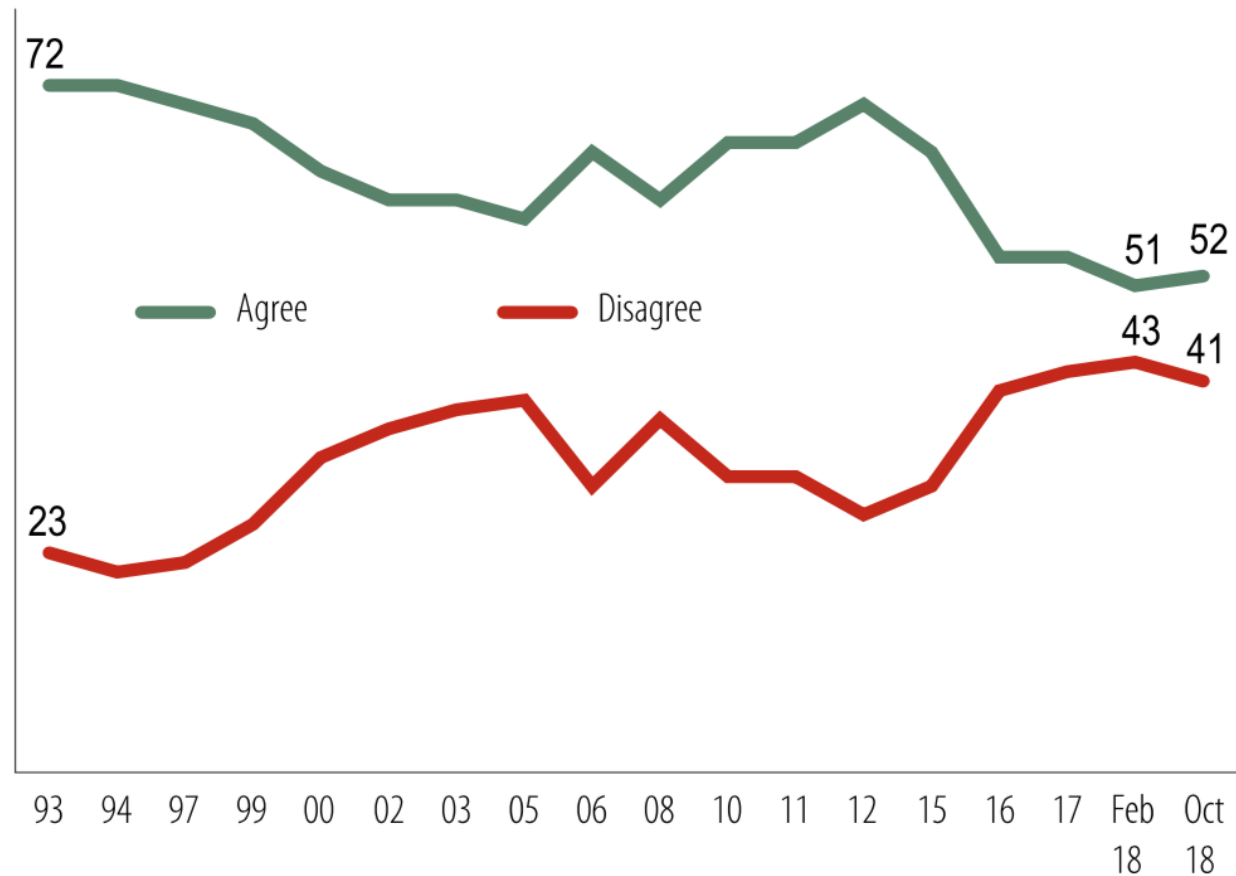
Opinion on Economic Impact in Quebec

Les réfugiés que nous accueillons vont finir par se trouver des emplois et contribuer à notre économie



Too many immigrants do not adopt Canadian values

1993 – 2018

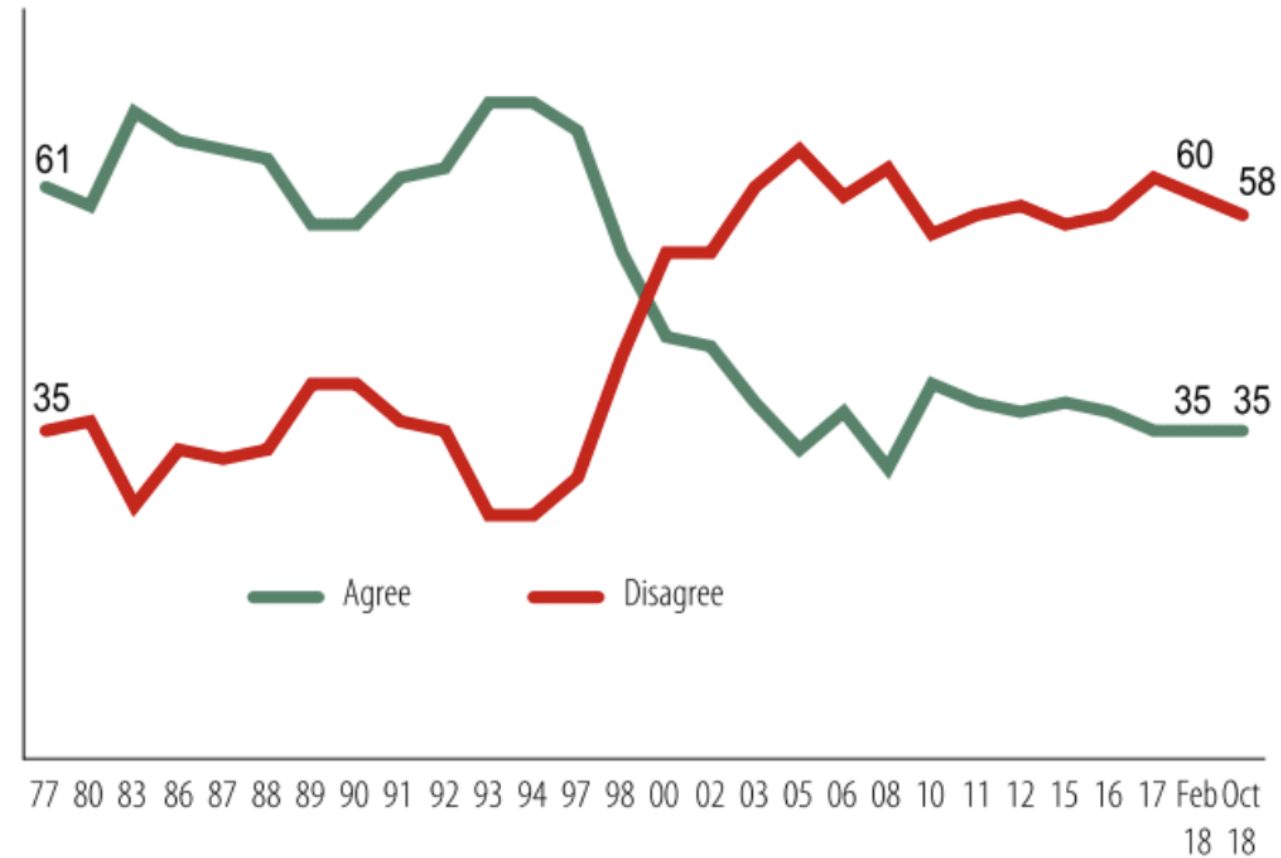


Appendix 10

Opinion on Immigration Level in Canada

Immigration levels are too high

1977 – 2018



Integration Difficulties According to Syrian Refugees

Table 3-1: Difficulties since Arriving in Canada

| | Syrian GARs | Syrian PSRs |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Finding a good job | 34.3% | 62.6% |
| Adapting to a new culture or new values | 12.5% | 12.4% |
| Learning English and/or French and facing language barrier | 55.1% | 32.7% |
| Getting education or work experience recognized | 19.0% | 40.1% |
| Finding good quality housing (e.g., good price, good quality, good neighbourhood) | 37.0% | 19.4% |
| Coping with financial constraints | 24.5% | 12.2% |

Source: Rapid Impact Evaluation of the Syrian Refugee Initiative – Survey of GARs and PSRs.

Integration Difficulties According to Syrian Refugees

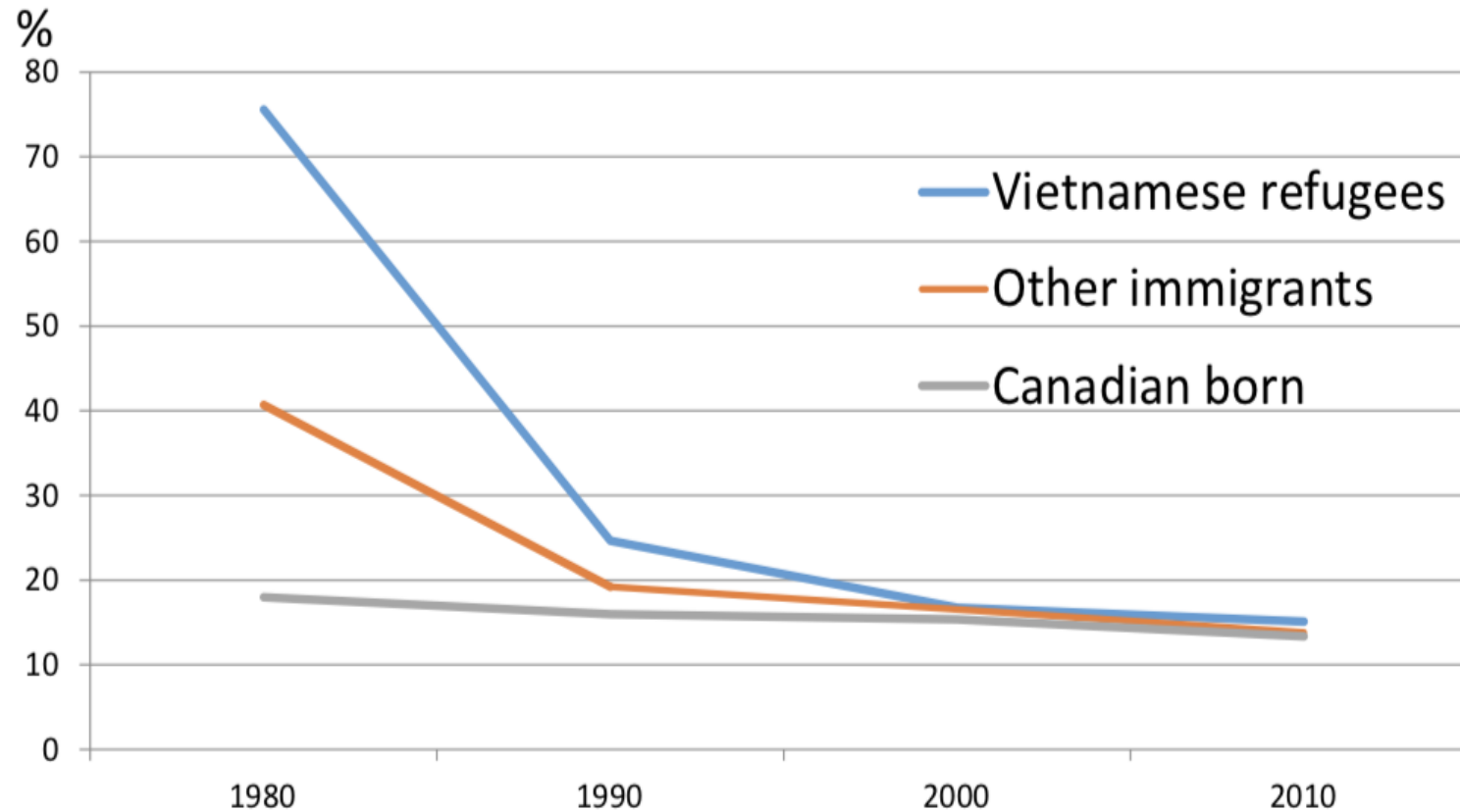
Table 3-4: Reasons for Not Taking Language Classes

| | Syrian GARs | Syrian PSRs |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Classes are full, or there is a waitlist | 38.5% | 7.1% |
| No childcare offered | 23.1% | 4.3% |
| Childcare offered, but no spaces | 15.4% | 3.6% |
| I do not need to improve my English/French | 15.4% | 38.6% |
| I do not want to improve my English/French | 0.0% | 4.3% |
| I am too busy taking other courses or classes | 7.7% | 5.7% |
| I am working | 0.0% | 39.3% |
| Classes are too far away from home | 23.1% | 4.3% |
| Classes are not offered at convenient times | 15.4% | 9.3% |

Source: Rapid Impact Evaluation of the Syrian Refugee Initiative – Survey of GARs and PSRs.

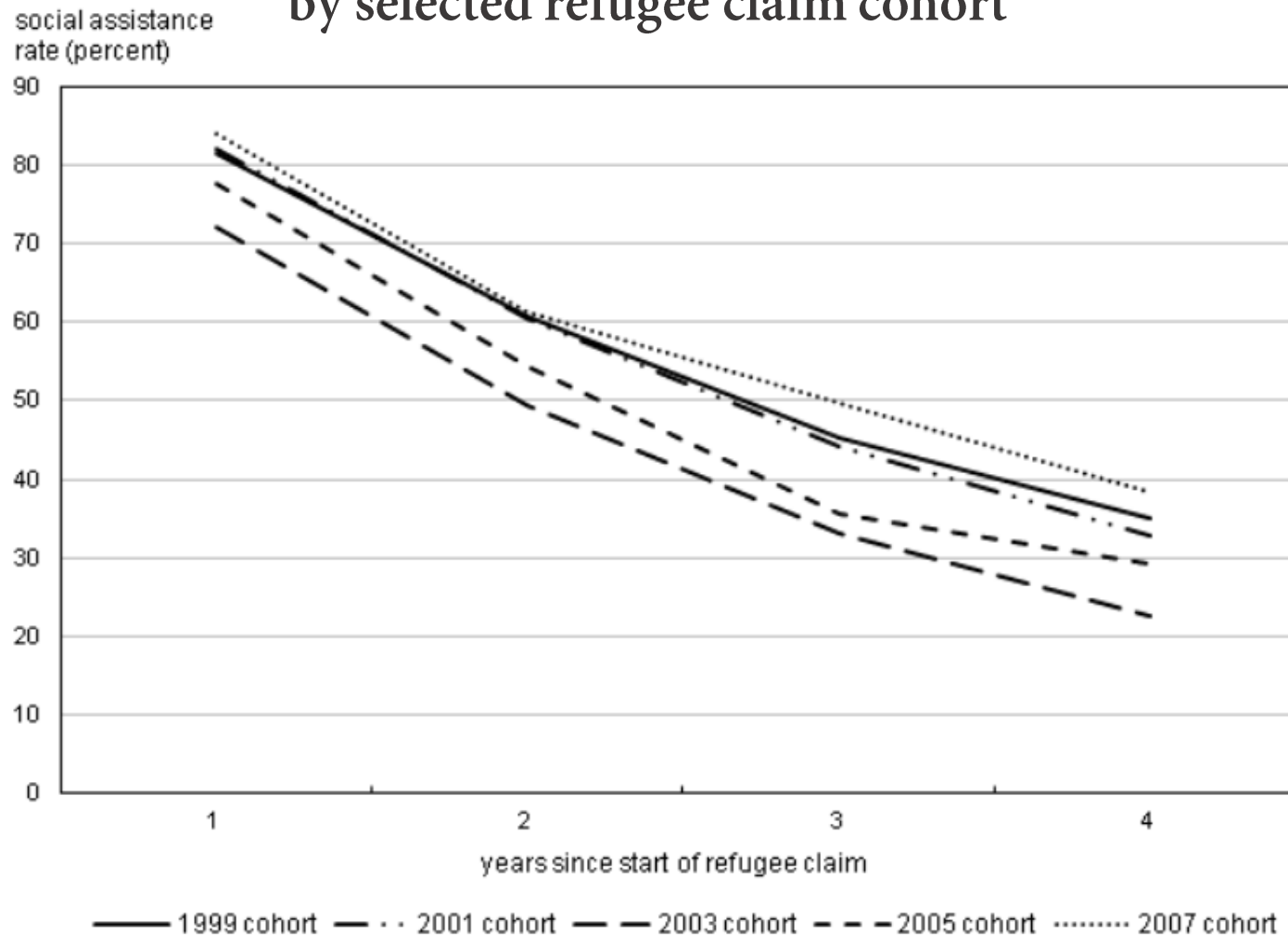
Vietnamese Refugee Profile – Where are they Now ?

Poverty Rates, 1980 to 2010



Social Assistance Rates

Annual social assistance rates since the start of refugee claim,
by selected refugee claim cohort



Fiscal Grievances Demanded by the Province of Quebec

Dépenses du Québec pour l'accueil des demandeurs d'asile

| Services | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Hébergement temporaire | 53,4 M\$ | 54,5 M\$ |
| Aide sociale | 71,7 M\$ | 73,1 M\$ |
| Scolarisation | 19,1 M\$ | 19,5 M\$ |
| Autres | 1,8 M\$ | 1,8 M\$ |
| Total | 146 M\$ | 148,9 M\$ |