

# **Immigration and official languages: Challenges in research**

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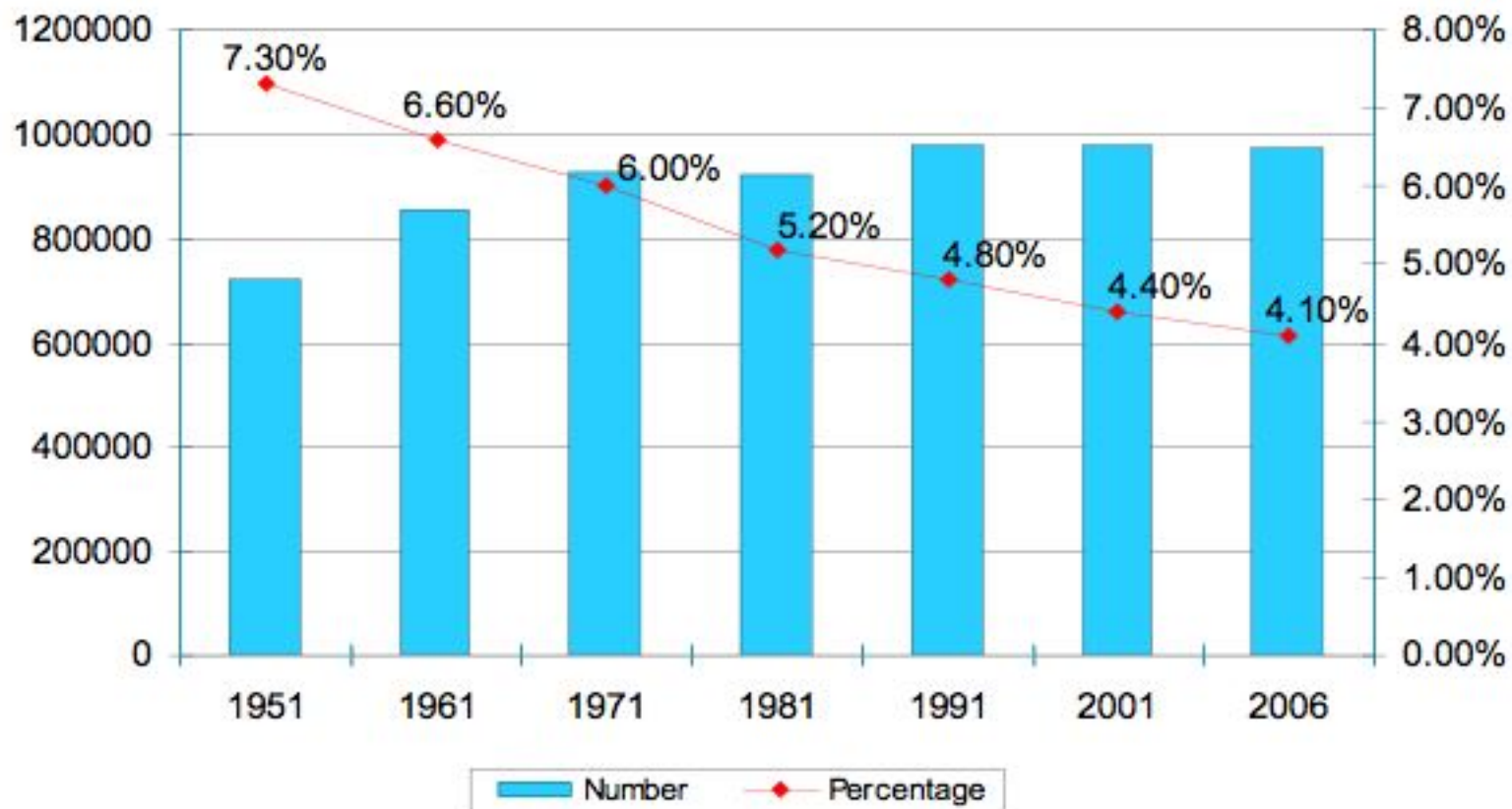
## Purpose of the presentation

- Provide an update on the challenges in research on immigration and official languages
- Generate discussion on issues of immigration in Francophone minority communities

## A new landscape

- Opening up Francophone communities: we have to take ownership of immigration!
- FCFA: *Face au pluralisme* [dealing with pluralism] (1991); *Parlons en! Dialogue* [let's talk about it: dialogue](1999-2001); June 2007 Summit
- CIC-Francophone Minority Communities Steering Committee: Strategic Framework (2003) Strategic Plan (2006-2011)
- Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages: 2002 reports
- Provincial initiatives: governments and civil society

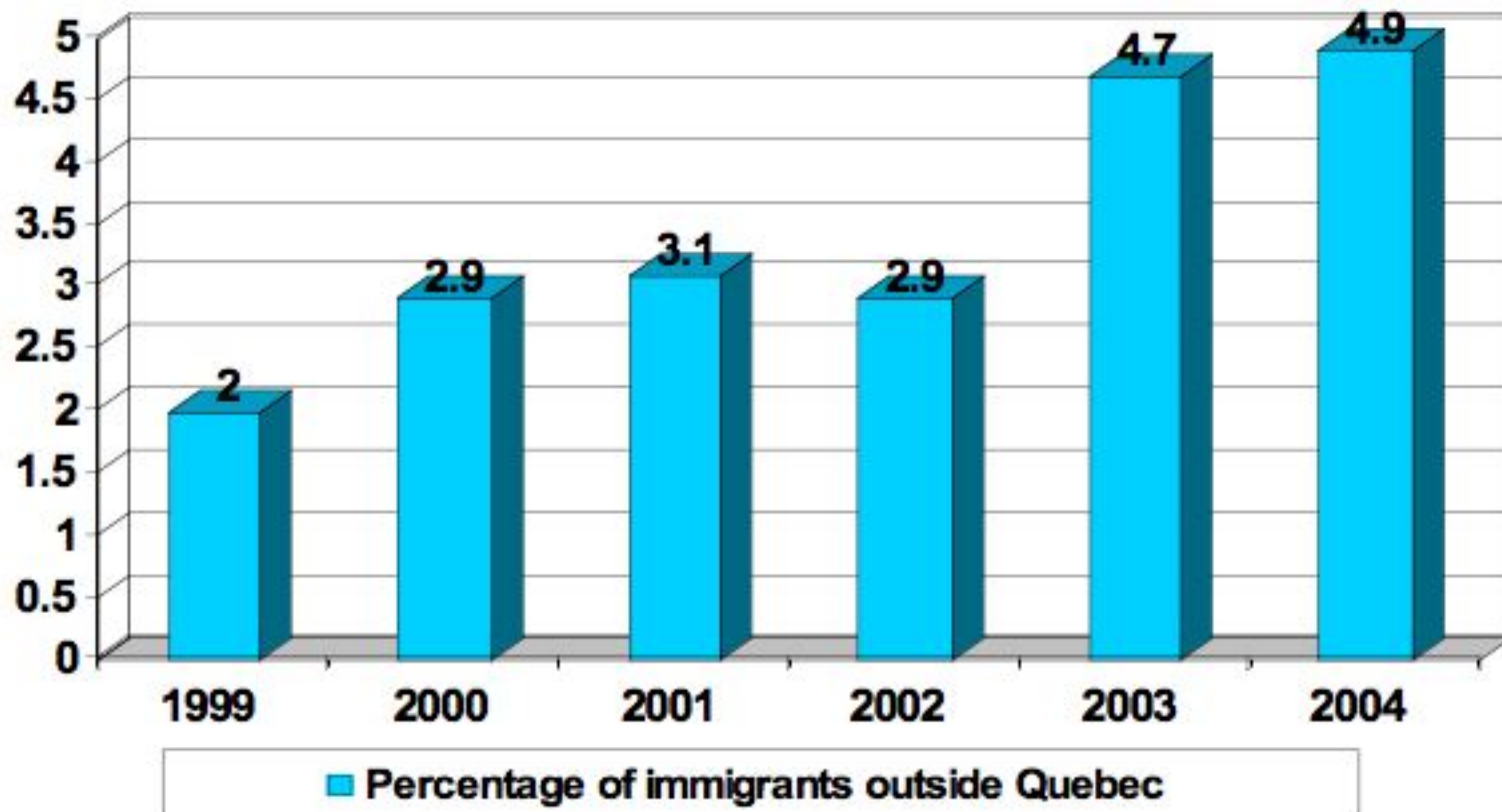
# Francophones in minority communities



Source: Statistic Canada, 2001 Census



# Francophone immigration in minority communities



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

## Immigrants whose mother tongue is French 2002-2006: a snapshot of several provinces

Province	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*
Ontario	532	531	738	898	836
British Columbia	95	74	118	146	227
Alberta	50	42	85	133	171
Manitoba	21	29	41	142	71
New Brunswick	34	24	47	67	47
Nova Scotia	14	11	17	12	41
Canada	757	728	1079	1435	1446

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

\*Data for 2006 based on preliminary statistics

## Key research topics

- Mobility and transnationalism: gaining a better understanding of the dynamics of migration flows
- Regionalization of immigration policies
- Identity and diversity within the Canadian Francophonie
- The new modalities of governance: stakeholder discourse and collaboration



## Two principal fields of research

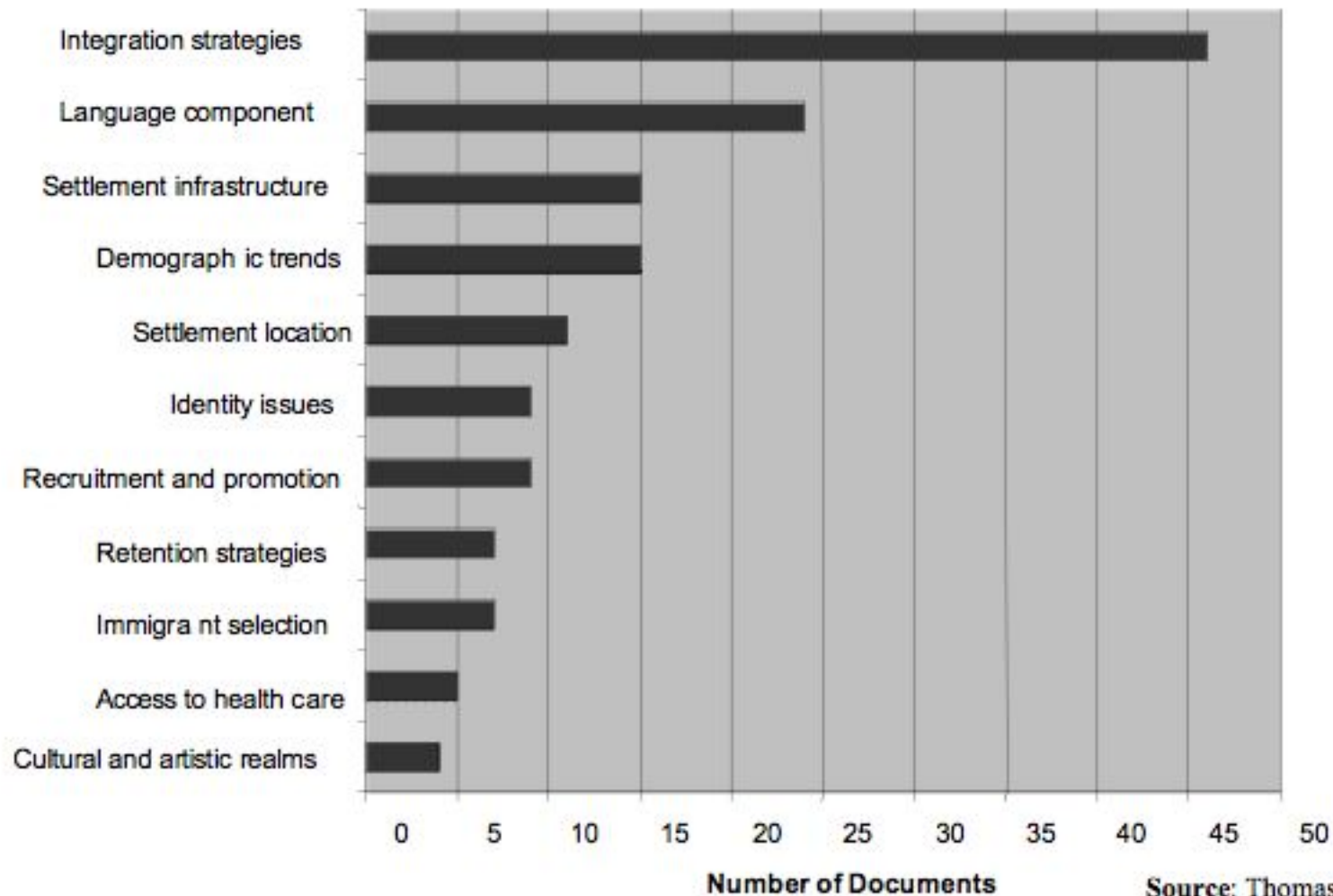
- **How to grow?** challenges of attraction and retention
  - Selection process: source countries
  - Provincial Nominee Program
  - Promote linguistic duality
- **How to integrate?** challenges related to the reception and integration of Francophone newcomers
  - Concept of host communities
  - Develop sustainable settlement infrastructures
  - Credential recognition
  - Raise awareness among economic players
  - Raise awareness in the communities



# Major research themes

- Demographic trends
- Promotion and recruitment
- Immigrant selection
- Settlement location
- Language component
- Identity issues
- Reception strategies
- Retention strategies
- Integration strategies
- Cultural and artistic realms
- Access to health care

# Incidence of issues discussed in research on Francophone immigration in minority communities



Source: Thomassin, 2007

## Atlantic Metropolis Centre—Research

- Ability of Francophone minority communities to integrate non-Francophones (Gallant and Belkhodja)
- Managing ethnic and religious diversity in urban and rural settings + capacity of networks (Andrew, Belkhodja, Poirier, Trainsnel, Vatz-Laaroussi)
- Attracting and integrating Francophone international students (Belkhodja)
- Integration and diversity in educational institutions (Bouchama, Gallant)

## In conclusion...

- Opening Canada's Francophone community to immigration
- Demystifying preconceptions: Is diversity threatening the gains made by Francophone communities?
- Measuring progress
- Covering all the bases: recruitment, integration and retention