

A stylized map of Canada is in the background, with provinces and territories colored in various shades of purple, blue, and teal. The map is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

Canadian Citizenship

From “*Harder to get and easier to lose*” to a new balance

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Conference Board of Canada Immigration Summit
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Agenda

- Policy context and history
- Statistics
- 2010 Changes and impact
- 2014 Changes and expected impact
- 2016 Partial reversal and expected impact
- Longer-term implications

Policy Context

Global vs Local

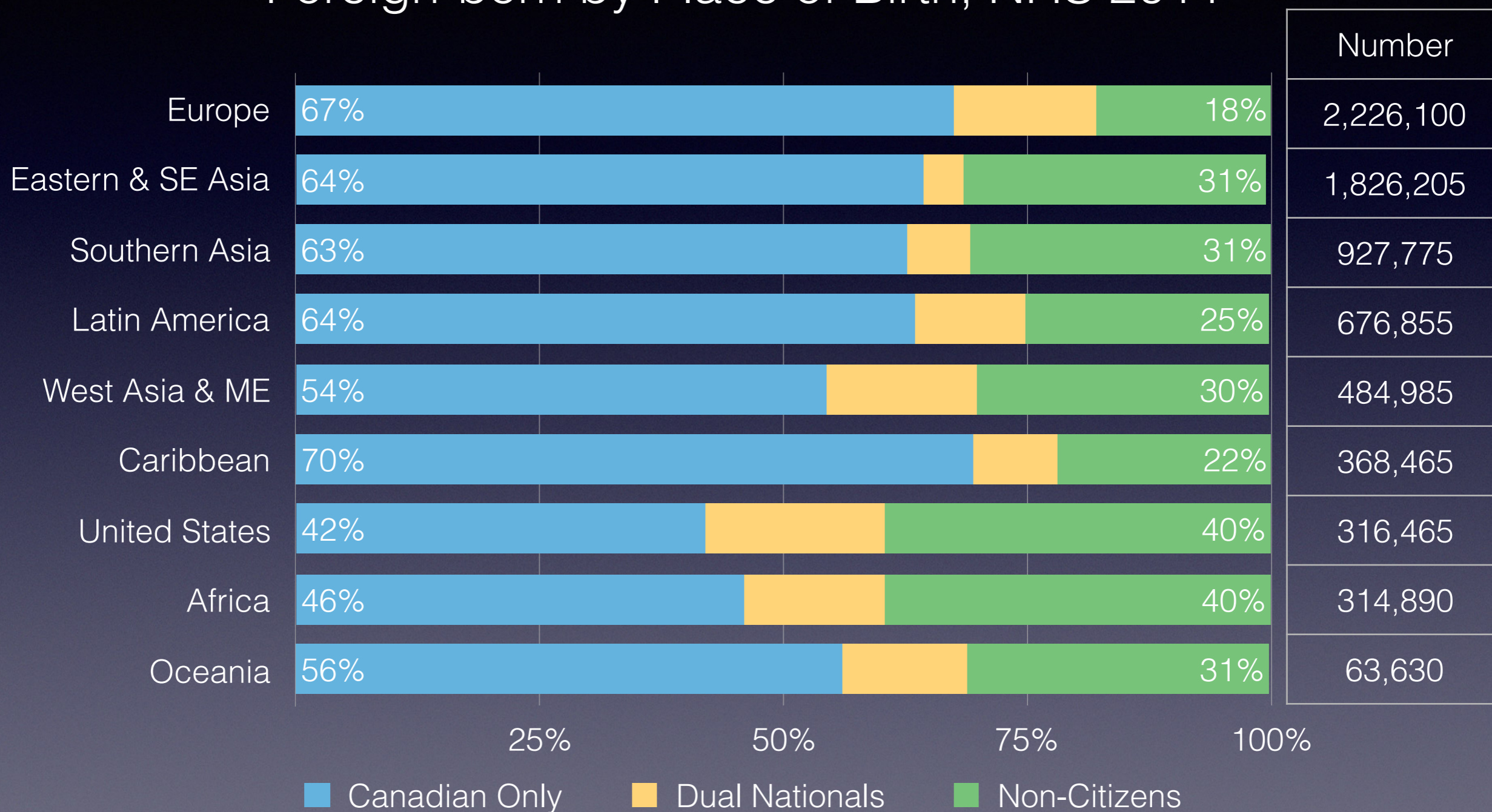
- Citizenship: Facilitation vs. Meaningfulness
- Multiculturalism: Accommodation vs. Integration
- Conservatives stress meaningfulness (value), integration
- Liberals stress facilitation and accommodation (diversity and inclusion)

History

- Pre-1947: British subjects
- 1947: Canadian *Citizenship Act*
 - Legal recognition
 - Preference British subjects
 - Dual nationality not recognized
- 1977: Equity
 - British preference removed
 - Dual nationality recognized
 - Gender and wedlock discrimination removed
 - Second generation limit
- 2007 & 2009: Adoption facilitation (removal PR requirement) and addressing 'Lost Canadians' historic discrimination
- 2014: Major revamp making citizenship “harder to get and easier to lose”
- 2016: Partial reversal

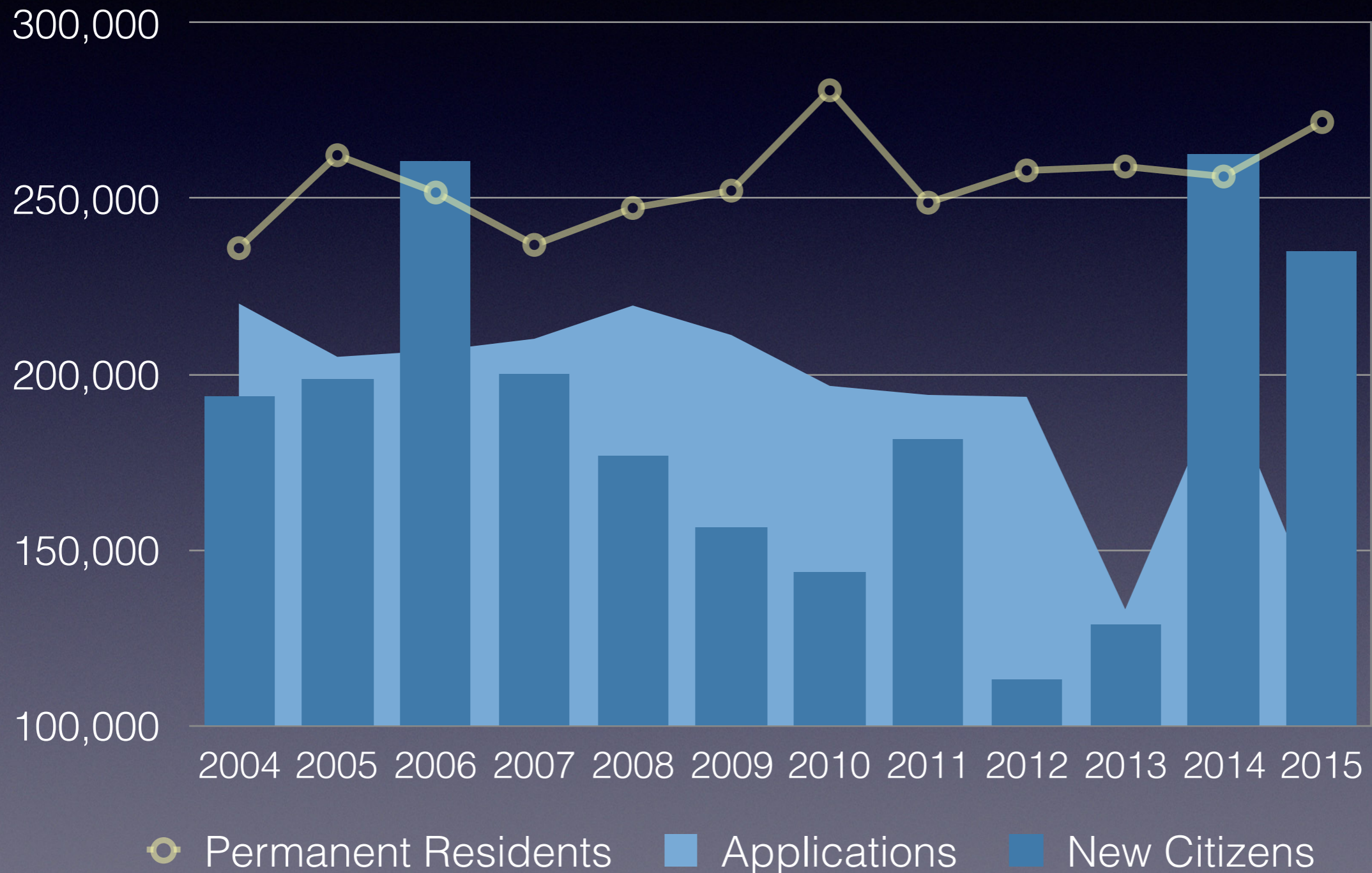
Citizenship Take-up

Foreign-born by Place of Birth, NHS 2011



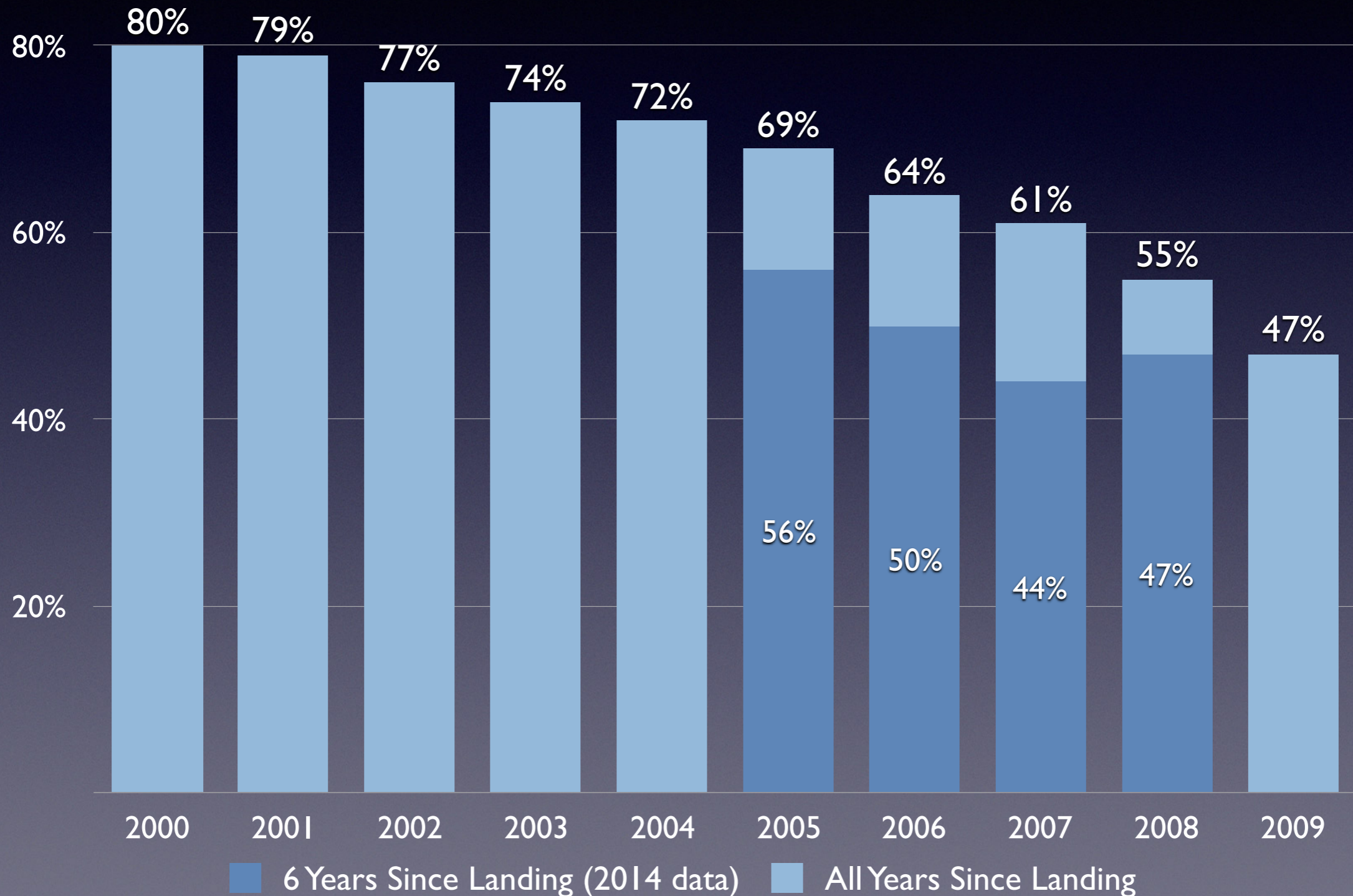
PRs, Applications, Citizens

2004 to 2015 IRCC Operational Data



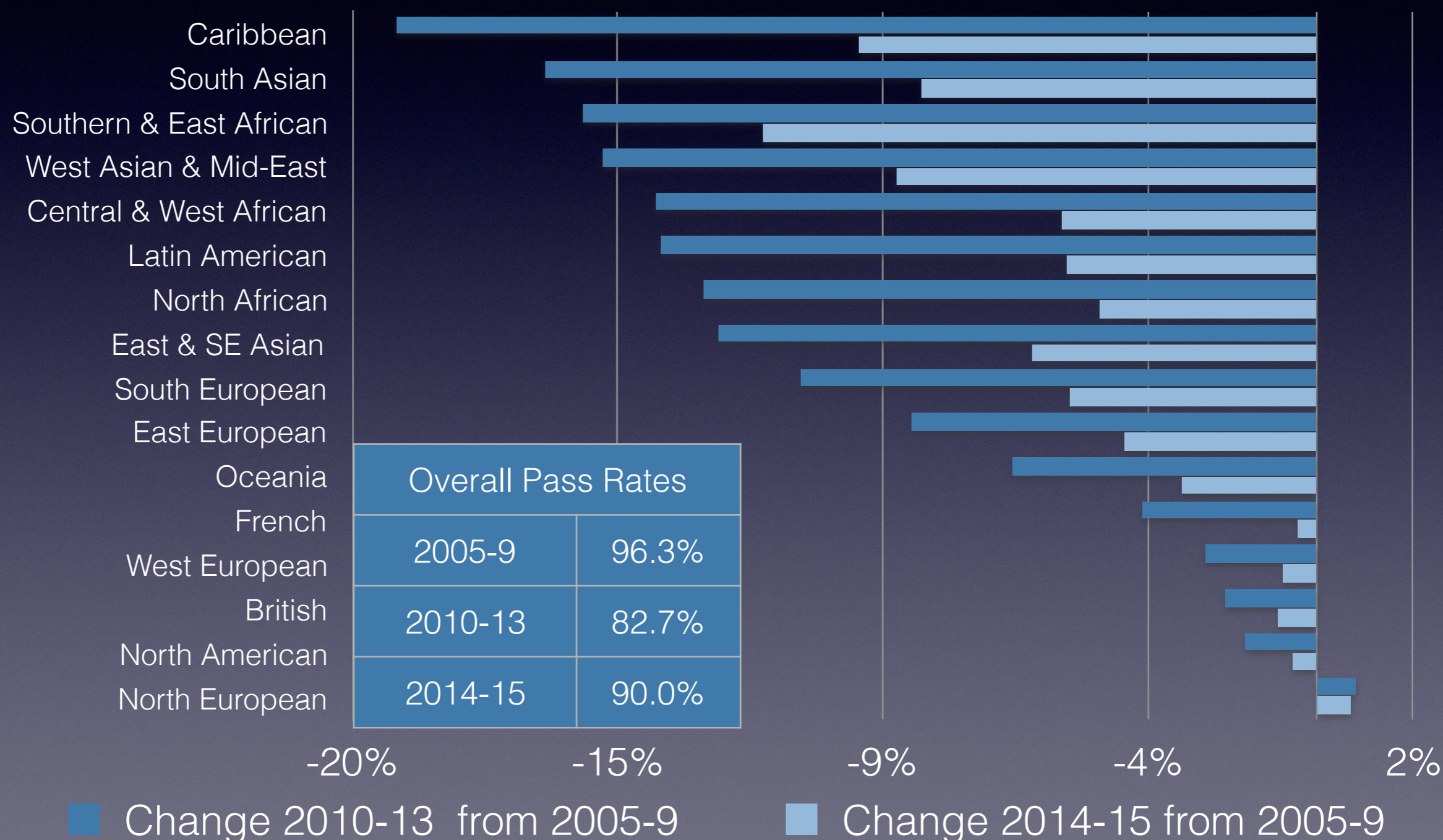
Citizenship Take-Up

6 Years Since Landing vs All Years Since Landing 2015



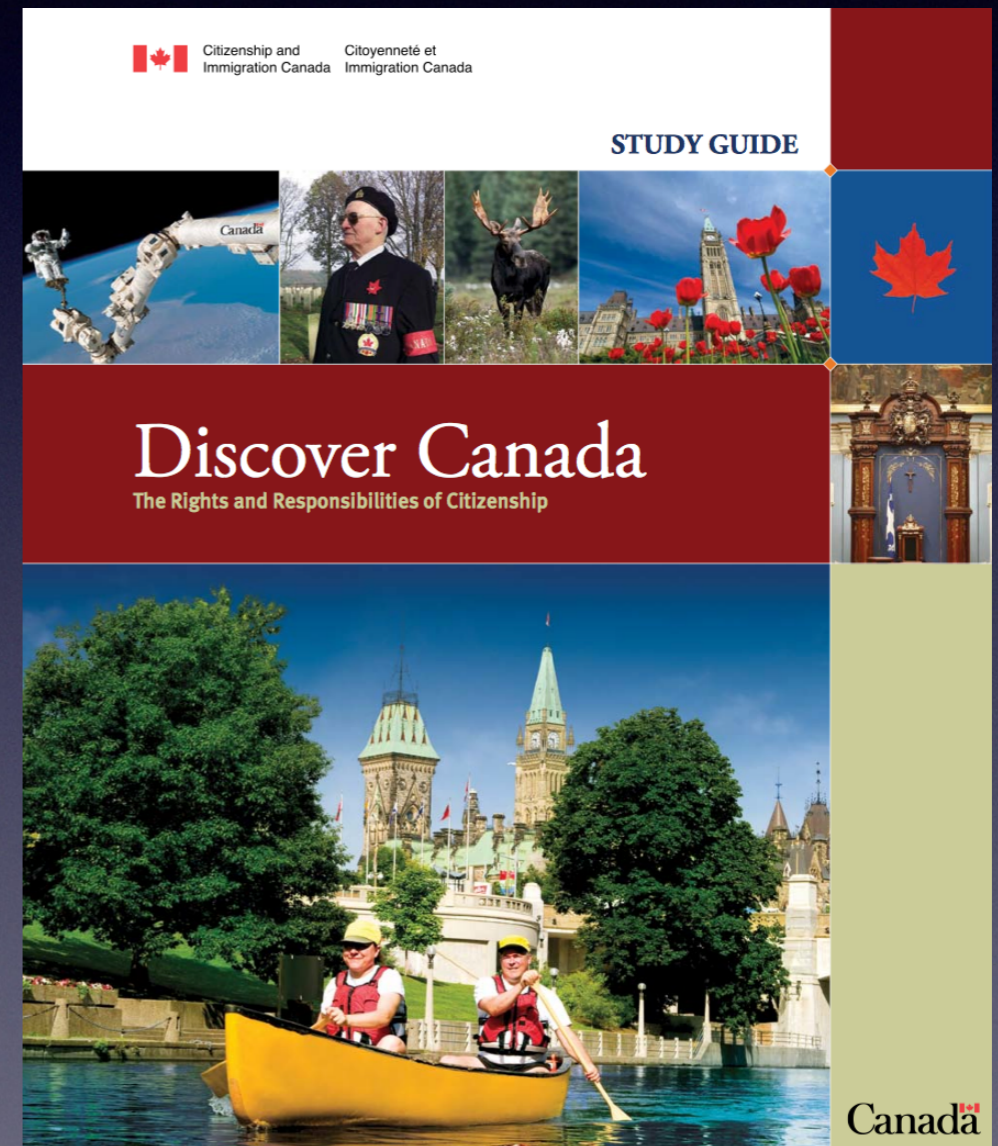
Impact 2010 Changes

Percentage Decline by Country of Birth
2010-13 and 2014-15 Compared to 2005-9



Changes 2010

- Emphasis on history, military, responsibilities
- More rigorous knowledge test
- Language “pre-assessment”
- Anti-fraud



2014 Citizenship Act

Residency and Testing

- Longer residency (4 out of 6), physical presence
 - From “honour system” to residency questionnaire
- “Intent to reside”
- Knowledge and language required 14-65
- Tax returns

2014 Citizenship Act

Business Processes

- Removal of citizenship judges
- Ability to cancel incomplete applications
- Electronic means to verify citizenship.
- “Soft” commitment one year processing

2014 Citizenship Act

Fairness

- “Lost Canadians” fix
- Fees from \$100 to \$530, plus language testing (~ \$200)
- Revocation
 - Fraud: Ministerial discretion
 - “Terror and Treason” and dual nationals

Implications Conservative Changes

- Burden on low-income, less educated and refugees
- Further reduction in naturalization rate
- Weaker due process
- Revocation measures meant differential treatment for single and dual nationals for the same crime

Liberal Changes 2016

Adjustments, not full repeal

- Principle: “*A Canadian is a Canadian is a Canadian*”
 - Repeal revocation for dual nationals for terror or treason
- Remove barriers
 - Restore the previous age limits for knowledge and language testing to 18-54 (~ 10 percent of applicants)
 - Repeal the “intent to reside”
 - Restore pre-permanent residency time 50 percent credit
 - Maintain physical presence but reduce time required to 3 out of 5 years
 - New citizenship study guide (replace *Discover Canada*)

Liberal Changes 2016 (2)

No changes to integrity measures

Maintain Conservative integrity improvements

- Physical presence, not just legal residency
- Knowledge requirement met in English or French, not through an interpreter
- Bar granting citizenship to those with foreign criminal charges and convictions
- Regulations for citizenship consultants
- Increased fines and penalties for fraud
- Requirement for adult applicants to file Canadian income taxes

New integrity measures

- No longer counting time spent under a conditional sentence order towards meeting physical presence
- Retroactive application of prohibition of applicants from taking oath if never met/no longer meet requirements
- Authority to seize fraudulent documents of those used fraudulently

Liberal Changes 2016 (3)

No changes to efficiency measures

Efficiency

- Ministerial authority to revoke citizenship for routine cases (previously, Governor in Council)
- Ministerial authority on discretionary grants of citizenship (previously, Governor in Council)
- Departmental authority to decide what is a complete application (streamlines processing)
- Single-step processing (previously three-step), ceremonial role for citizenship judges

Other

- No change to “lost Canadians” provisions
- Fast-track mechanism for Permanent Residents serving in the Canadian Forces

Implications Liberal Changes

- Revocation repeal ensures consistent treatment for all
- Removal of testing for 55-64 greater impact than 14-17
- Reduced residency requirement small impact
- More welcoming approach (inclusive language in citizenship study guide and related materials)
- No weakening of integrity

Gaps

- Due process in revocation for fraud
 - Provide right for oral hearing as with permanent residency revocation
- Review of citizenship fees
 - Refugee waiver?
- Lack of lower cost language assessment
- Absence of service standards

Competitiveness

Country	Residency	Fee CAD	Rate	MIPEX
UK	5 years	\$1,740	42%	60
Netherlands	5 years	\$1,250	70%	66
USA	5 years	\$905	49%	61
Canada	3 of 5 years	\$630	75%	67
New Zealand	5 years	\$420	78%	71
Germany	8 years	\$380	33%	72
Australia	3 of 4 years	\$300	70%	69
France	5 years	\$82	56%	61

MIPEX Indicator is 'Access to Nationality'

Overall

- Conservative integrity improvements with Liberal facilitation measures
- Restoring the Diefenbaker policy of not stripping Canadians of citizenship
- Common language on 'real and meaningful' commitment to Canada
- Should reverse declining naturalization rate

Broader Issues

- Dual nationality, diaspora politics and loyalty
- Global mobility vs. belonging — competitiveness
- Declining naturalization rate and increased proportion of non-citizens
- Other: Voting rights, Birth tourism

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