

Riding profiles: A visible minority view

How does Canada's political map of 338 ridings look in terms of the percentage of visible minorities? How do visible minority rich ridings compare to ridings with fewer visible minorities in terms of demographic, economic and social characteristics, and electoral results?

By looking at ridings, grouped by their percentage of visible minorities, the changing nature of Canada's political landscape can be seen. Given that much of the focus of party electoral strategy is with respect to visible minority and immigrant rich ridings, having a comprehensive look at the demographic, economic and social characteristics helps one understand the various factors at play in electoral strategies. Political parties, of course, have their own more detailed at the polling station level; this analysis aims to level the playing field, so to speak, for the rest of us.

This analysis provides a visible minority lens to ridings and their relation demographic, economic, social and political characteristics. Given the ongoing trend of increasing immigration levels, that close to 80 percent of immigrants are visible minority, and the increased number of Canadian-born visible minorities, this approach provides a future-centred perspective to the political map.

While political parties collect some of this and other data at a much more granular level (postal code and polling station), the riding level provides a good sense of the diversity between ridings, and helps explain some of the political strategies employed to reach voters.

The higher unemployment rates, lower median incomes and greater prevalence of low income, suggest that economic issues are as significant as immigration-related issues such as family reunification in visible minority majority ridings. Their younger age profile and larger number of families, family-friendly policies are also important but childcare may be seen more through a family reunification perspective (parents and grandparents) than through government programs.

Identity politics play out differently depending on the percentage of visible minorities as the experience of the last election shows. Efforts by the Conservatives with respect to the “barbaric cultural practices” tip line and the effective distinction between Canadian-only and dual citizens in their citizenship revocation provisions, while appealing to many, created unease among visible minorities, and provided an opening for the Liberal “a Canadian is a Canadian is a Canadian” language.

However, a likely common thread among most Canadians, whatever their origins, is that immigration and citizenship need to be managed and that the fairness and integrity of the processes is maintained. Public concern regarding irregular arrivals (“queue jumping”) and increased numbers of birth tourists are but the obvious examples. While for some, expressing these concerns may be driven by xenophobia, for most it is more likely driven by concerns over fairness and people taking advantage of policies and processes.

Tables and analysis

This article uses 2016 Census Profile federal electoral district along with Elections Canada Voting results by electoral district to highlight similarities and differences. The three broad groups of ridings — ridings in which visible minorities form the majority (41 ridings visible minority majority), 93 ridings in which visible minorities form between 20 to 50 percent of the population, and 169 ridings with less than 20 percent visible minority — are subdivided to provide greater granularity. The groupings with the smallest number of ridings have the lowest variation or range in any of the indicators.

	<i>Percentage visible minorities</i>						Total
	> 70 %	50-70 %	35-50 %	20-35 %	5-20 %	0-5 %	
ON	13	14	10	28	27	29	121
QC		2	7	13	18	38	78
BC	4	5	8	5	16	4	42
AB		2	5	12	11	4	34
MB		1	2	1	5	5	14
SK				2	8	4	14
Atlantic					9	23	32
North					2	1	3
Canada	17	24	32	61	85	84	338

TABLE 1

Table 1 shows the number of ridings for each province, broken down into the six categories of percentage of visible minorities, highlighting the contrast between provinces with the largest and most dispersed urban centres and those that are more rural. Of the largest provinces, Quebec also stands out given that visible minorities are overwhelmingly in greater Montreal with relatively few elsewhere. Given increased immigration, and relaxed citizenship residency and related requirements, a number of ridings with 35 to 50 percent visible minorities will become visible minority majority ridings in the 2021 Census (eight ridings have between 45 and 50 percent visible minorities).

Table 2 provides examples of ridings within each grouping (the top and bottom three). Visible minority majority ridings can either be predominantly of one visible minority group (e.g., Brampton East, predominantly South Asian, or Richmond Centre, not in the top three, predominantly Chinese) or have a number of large visible minority groups. Ridings with the least number of visible minorities are mainly rural anglophone or francophone ridings, with more significant Indigenous populations.

	Maximum	Minimum
> 70 %	Scarborough North ON Brampton East ON Markham-Thornhill ON	Scarborough-Guildwood ON Mississauga Centre ON Don Valley North ON
50 to 70 %	Scarborough Centre ON Vancouver Kingsway BC Calgary Skyview AB	Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill ON New Westminster-Burnaby BC Saint-Léonard-Saint-Michel QC
35 to 50 %	Toronto Centre ON Edmonton Mill Woods AB Vancouver Granville BC	Pickering-Uxbridge ON Delta BC Vancouver Centre BC
20 to 35 %	Edmonton West AB Windsor West ON Beaches-East York ON	Longueuil-Charles-LeMoyne QC Laurier-Sainte-Marie QC Ottawa Centre ON
5 to 20 %	Fort McMurray-Cold Lake AB West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country BC London-Fanshawe ON	Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner AB Skeena-Bulkley Valley BC Sarnia-Lambton ON
< 5 %	Peterborough-Kawartha ON Peace River-Westlock AB Yorkton-Melville SK	Montmagny-L'Islet-Kamouraska-Rivière- du-Loup QC Gaspésie-Les îles-de-la-Madeleine QC Bonavista-Burin-Trinity NL

TABLE 2

Demographics

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
Population	108,037	31,604	115,340	41,151	112,833	46,046	111,234	75,038	107,464	100,418	95,654	109,095
Growth	1.9%	30.9%	5.6%	24.0%	4.4%	41.3%	4.9%	45.3%	4.2%	32.1%	2.1%	33.2%
Density km2	2,471	4,249	2,594	6,409	2,082	17,612	1,970	10,753	203	10,371	14	10,371
Female	51.6%	3.0%	51.3%	4.3%	51.0%	7.1%	51.2%	7.8%	51.0%	6.3%	50.5%	4.9%
OL Minority	1.1%	1.2%	1.4%	40.0%	2.0%	58.1%	2.3%	66.4%	1.9%	34.6%	1.7%	35.1%
Immigrants	58.9%	15.4%	49.4%	22.0%	37.0%	28.9%	26.0%	24.8%	12.6%	24.7%	4.1%	27.8%
VisMin	77.8%	21.8%	58.4%	19.8%	39.8%	14.2%	25.9%	14.8%	9.6%	14.8%	2.1%	19.2%
Age												
0 to 14	16.0%	10.2%	18.0%	12.0%	16.1%	19.4%	16.2%	13.4%	17.2%	12.7%	15.8%	11.3%
15 to 64	68.1%	5.7%	69.2%	11.1%	68.8%	24.1%	68.0%	17.3%	66.3%	15.1%	63.5%	16.2%
65 plus	15.5%	13.5%	13.6%	10.6%	14.7%	14.4%	15.4%	17.5%	16.6%	24.0%	20.4%	25.1%
Median	40.8	11.1	39.3	11.4	40.2	12.1	39.9	14.4	41.3	19.6	45.8	27.6

TABLE 3

Table 3 contrasts the demographics of the different riding groupings: population, growth, density, and the percentages women, official language minorities, immigrants and visible minorities, along with age.

In general, ridings with the most visible minorities are the flip image of those with the least: larger population, higher growth, greater population density, smallest number of official language minorities but largest numbers of immigrants and visible minorities, and the youngest population. The large variation (range) of the official language minority groups the differences between mainly anglophone and francophone ridings.

Ridings with the largest number of official language minorities are: Acadie-Bathurst (NB), Madawaska-Restigouche (NB) and Lac Saint-Louis (QC) and with the least: Avalon, Coast of Bays-Central-Notre Dame and Bonavista-Burin-Trinity, all in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Ridings with the largest number of children are: Nunavut, Churchill-Keewatinook Aski (MB) and Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River (SK), all majority Indigenous ridings, and with the least: Toronto Centre, Spadina-Fort York and Vancouver Centre, all downtown urban ridings. In contrast, ridings with the largest number of seniors are in British Columbia: Courtenay-Alberni, Saanich-Gulf Islands and South Okanagan-West Kootenay, which are all majority senior ridings. Ridings with the least number of seniors are: Spadina-Fort York (ON), Fort McMurray-Cold Lake (AB) and Nunavut.

Indigenous peoples

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
Number	590	2,555	1,165	16,655	1,470	15,060	1,925	14,900	4,055	29,460	3,588	29,395
% Pop	0.5%	2.2%	0.9%	17.3%	1.3%	18.0%	1.7%	18.0%	3.8%	49.4%	4.1%	49.6%
First Nations	0.3%	1.4%	0.6%	10.5%	0.7%	11.1%	1.0%	10.7%	1.9%	31.7%	2.1%	31.8%
Métis	0.2%	0.8%	0.3%	6.9%	0.5%	6.8%	0.5%	8.0%	1.5%	13.0%	1.3%	13.0%
Inuit	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.10%	0.02%	0.19%	0.02%	0.37%	0.04%	9.91%	0.04%	9.91%

TABLE 4

Table 4 provides the breakdown of Indigenous peoples by riding grouping. The same overall demographic pattern prevails: ridings with the fewest visible minorities are the mirror image of ridings with the most visible minorities, with rural and Northern ridings having the largest percentage of Indigenous peoples.

Ridings with the largest numbers of Indigenous peoples are the same three ridings with the largest number of children, with First Nations being the majority in Churchill-Keewatinook Aski and Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River (which also has one of the largest percentage of Métis), and Inuit in Nunavut. Other ridings with the largest number of Métis are Labrador (NL) and Prince Albert (SK). Those with the least number are all in the GTA: Brampton-East, Thornhill and Markham-Unionville.

Immigration Period Generation and Citizenship

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
Total	58.9%	15.4%	49.4%	22.0%	37.0%	28.9%	26.0%	24.8%	12.6%	24.7%	4.1%	27.8%
Before 1981	10.6%	6.9%	9.1%	10.1%	8.0%	9.2%	6.6%	18.2%	3.8%	11.4%	1.5%	11.8%
1981-90	8.3%	5.2%	6.2%	6.2%	4.6%	5.5%	3.3%	7.3%	1.2%	4.1%	0.4%	4.2%
1991-2000	15.2%	7.6%	11.5%	12.0%	7.3%	9.7%	4.9%	7.7%	1.7%	5.3%	0.4%	5.6%
2001-10	16.8%	7.7%	14.9%	10.1%	10.5%	9.6%	6.9%	7.0%	2.9%	6.5%	0.8%	7.2%
2011-16	8.2%	8.1%	7.4%	11.2%	6.2%	9.7%	4.6%	8.1%	1.9%	6.8%	0.4%	7.1%
Non PRs	2.9%	4.7%	1.9%	8.0%	2.4%	10.4%	1.6%	9.0%	0.8%	5.3%	0.2%	5.4%
Generation												
First	61.9%	16.2%	51.3%	30.1%	42.4%	28.5%	29.4%	25.9%	14.3%	28.0%	4.7%	31.7%
Second	28.4%	14.8%	27.3%	13.7%	24.5%	20.5%	22.4%	26.2%	16.2%	23.6%	5.6%	27.4%
Third plus	9.2%	13.0%	19.9%	26.7%	34.5%	34.8%	48.3%	48.7%	69.3%	42.5%	89.9%	27.1%
% citizens 18 and over												
	65.3%	13.4%	66.4%	16.2%	68.6%	16.8%	72.8%	17.3%	75.5%	14.7%	79.2%	21.1%

TABLE 5

Table 5 breaks down the numbers of immigrants by immigration period and generation, along with the number who are citizens of voting age. Again, the same pattern emerges: ridings with the largest numbers of visible minorities have the largest number of immigrants (total and all periods) and consequently the largest number of first generation in contrast to the opposite with respect to ridings with the least number of visible minorities. Similarly, visible minority majority ridings have the lowest numbers of voting age citizens, reflecting their larger number of recent immigrants.

Ridings with the largest number of immigrants are not surprisingly all in the GTA: Scarborough North, Scarborough-Agincourt and Markham-Thornhill and have the smallest numbers of third generation or more residents. Ridings with the lowest numbers of voting age citizens are Calgary Skyview (AB), Brampton East (ON) and Winnipeg North (MB).

As these ridings tend to be battleground suburban ridings, where a majority government can be one or lost, all parties have to be attentive to immigration and citizenship issues in crafting their platforms and electoral strategies. A number of Liberal platform commitments were targeted at these ridings, particularly those dealing with family sponsorship.

Ridings with the fewest number of immigrants are: Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine (QC), Acadie-Bathurst (NB) and Churchill-Keewatinook Aski (MB). Other ridings with the largest

numbers of third generation or more are Jonqui  re and Lac Saint-Jean in Quebec with the highest numbers of voting age citizens.

Immigration Category

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
Economic	42.2%	48.6%	48.8%	40.6%	59.2%	44.3%	52.2%	46.7%	53.2%	55.3%	51.0%	53.9%
Male	45.3%	52.7%	50.9%	44.5%	62.0%	43.6%	55.6%	48.2%	56.7%	53.9%	54.3%	52.0%
Female	39.9%	45.2%	46.9%	37.4%	56.0%	45.2%	49.9%	45.5%	49.5%	57.0%	45.9%	56.6%
Family	38.3%	39.2%	33.3%	33.8%	24.9%	30.1%	27.2%	56.5%	30.1%	44.0%	38.7%	38.9%
Male	34.4%	40.4%	27.2%	32.9%	21.3%	30.3%	22.9%	55.9%	25.0%	41.3%	32.9%	40.8%
Female	42.5%	38.4%	38.3%	35.0%	28.8%	30.2%	30.7%	56.8%	34.4%	46.0%	44.2%	37.7%
Refugees	12.8%	25.8%	13.0%	19.2%	13.0%	30.5%	16.0%	32.2%	13.7%	42.0%	8.3%	44.6%
Male	14.2%	30.1%	15.0%	22.3%	14.1%	30.7%	18.0%	35.8%	14.9%	42.7%	9.8%	45.5%
Female	11.4%	22.7%	11.3%	16.0%	11.6%	30.3%	15.1%	28.9%	12.5%	43.8%	6.9%	46.4%

TABLE 6

Table 6 contrasts ridings by immigration category, broken down by gender. In general, the gender differences are minimal, with the exception being the family class where the percentage of women compared to men is significantly higher (sponsored spouses, parents and grandparents are close to 60 percent female). Family class is highest in visible minority majority ridings, reflecting again the importance of family unification and spousal selection in these communities. Interestingly, the small numbers of immigrants in ridings with the lowest number of visible minorities have a higher percentage of women in the family class than visible minority majority ridings.

Near visible minority majority ridings have the highest percentage of economic class immigrants whereas ridings with between 20 to 35 percent visible minorities have the highest percentage of refugees.

Ridings with the largest percentage of economic class immigrants are: Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa (MB), Battlefords-Lloydminster and Yorkton-Melville, both in Saskatchewan. Ridings with the largest percentage of family class are all in British Columbia: Mission-Matsqui-Fraser Canyon, Abbotsford and Surrey Newton, all ridings with large numbers of immigrants from India. Ridings with the largest percentages of refugees are: Sherbrooke (QC), Kitchener Centre (ON) and Drummond (QC).

Family Status

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
Couples												
Without children	34.7%	16.9%	36.2%	20.0%	41.9%	48.0%	44.8%	35.7%	50.9%	27.7%	56.6%	43.2%
With children	65.3%	16.9%	63.8%	20.0%	58.1%	48.1%	55.2%	35.7%	49.1%	27.6%	43.3%	29.2%
One	24.8%	8.1%	23.6%	5.1%	21.9%	10.3%	21.3%	8.7%	19.5%	9.6%	18.0%	9.9%
Two	27.2%	14.7%	27.0%	13.3%	25.2%	28.2%	23.5%	23.4%	20.1%	15.2%	17.6%	16.0%
3 or more	11.7%	10.7%	12.1%	10.4%	10.6%	13.6%	10.0%	9.1%	9.3%	11.0%	7.5%	11.6%
Lone parents												
One	58.3%	19.8%	58.7%	15.1%	61.1%	28.0%	61.5%	20.6%	61.4%	19.8%	62.2%	24.3%
Two	28.6%	8.8%	28.5%	10.9%	29.0%	17.8%	27.7%	15.7%	28.0%	11.4%	27.9%	11.2%
3 or more	11.5%	14.5%	11.7%	12.5%	9.9%	13.2%	9.7%	10.9%	9.9%	15.6%	9.8%	15.9%

TABLE 7

Table 7 looks at the family status, broken down by couples and lone parents and number of children. The number of couples without children is highest in ridings with the fewest number of visible minorities and lowest in ridings with the highest number. For lone parents, while the reverse is true with respect to those with one child, with the greatest number in ridings with the least number of visible minorities, lone parents with two children are slightly more prevalent in ridings with 35 to 50 percent visible minorities, and those with three or more more prevalent in visible minority majority ridings.

Marriage/common law relationships are most prevalent in Milton and Carleton in Ontario, and Coast of Bays-Central-Notre Dame (NL) and least prevalent in the urban ridings of Spadina-Fort York, Laurier-Sainte-Marie and Toronto Centre.

The number of couples with children is highest in the following ridings: Nunavut, and the Ontario suburban ridings of Brampton East and West and least prevalent in the downtown ridings of Toronto Centre, Spadina-Fort York and Vancouver Centre.

Lone parents with one child are most prevalent in Vancouver Centre, Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine (QC) and Victoria (BC), with three children or more, it is the ridings of Churchill-Keewatinook Aski, Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River and Etobicoke North ON).

Language

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
Mother tongue												
English	36.0%	30.3%	47.6%	65.6%	58.0%	75.0%	69.0%	79.0%	83.4%	94.3%	77.1%	95.1%
French	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%	32.9%	1.6%	53.1%	2.0%	75.4%	2.0%	92.8%	7.6%	93.2%
Non Official	63.7%	30.7%	51.3%	41.9%	37.5%	37.7%	26.9%	36.2%	11.5%	26.7%	3.1%	28.1%
Most used at home												
English	53.3%	32.5%	67.7%	68.4%	75.4%	83.4%	83.8%	87.4%	92.6%	97.7%	87.3%	98.3%
French	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	45.9%	0.7%	67.6%	0.8%	83.4%	0.6%	96.3%	4.1%	96.4%
Non Official	46.5%	32.7%	31.8%	34.8%	22.6%	28.5%	14.0%	20.2%	4.8%	14.1%	1.2%	14.6%
Most used at work												
English	94.3%	15.2%	96.4%	80.0%	96.6%	89.4%	98.1%	88.7%	99.0%	98.0%	95.5%	99.0%
French	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	78.7%	0.4%	88.9%	0.5%	88.3%	0.5%	98.0%	2.6%	98.0%
Non Official	5.4%	15.4%	2.7%	9.4%	2.1%	4.4%	0.9%	4.9%	0.4%	3.3%	0.1%	3.4%

TABLE 8

Table 8 looks at language: mother tongue, most used at home, and most used at work. As one would, ridings with higher percentages of visible minorities have higher percentages with a non-official mother tongue: a majority in the case of visible minority majority ridings. This drops with respect to less than half of the population for the language most used at home for ridings with more than 70 percent visible minorities, and less than a third in ridings with between 50 and 70 percent visible minorities.

However, overwhelmingly, the language at work is an official language in all ridings, even those with the largest numbers of visible minorities, an indicator of the role the workplace provides in integration.

The differences in range of official languages for all three categories largely reflect the differences between francophone and anglophone ridings.

English mother tongue is most prevalent in the Newfoundland and Labrador ridings of Bonavista-Burin-Trinity, Avalon, and Coast of Bays-Central-Notre Dame. French mother tongue is most prevalent in the Quebec ridings of Montmagny-L'Islet-Kamouraska-Rivière-du-Loup, Lac Saint-Jean and Jonquière. Non-official mother tongue is most prevalent in the Toronto ridings of Scarborough North, Scarborough-Agincourt and Markham-Unionville. Languages most spoken at home largely reflect mother tongues.

Languages spoken most often at work largely reflect mother tongue and language spoken at home for English and French. However, ridings where the highest percentage speak non-official languages, two ridings, Nunavut and Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou (QC), have between 20

and 25 percent speaking Indigenous languages at work, with a third riding, Scarborough North, having about 17 percent speaking a non-official language at work.

Household Size

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
Household size												
One	19.0%	20.6%	22.2%	24.3%	26.2%	42.7%	28.8%	41.7%	27.2%	37.4%	28.3%	34.3%
Two	25.0%	20.8%	27.1%	11.6%	30.3%	14.2%	32.4%	11.5%	35.5%	14.8%	39.1%	24.3%
Three	19.8%	7.6%	18.3%	8.0%	17.1%	12.5%	15.8%	10.4%	15.1%	11.1%	14.3%	8.7%
Four	18.4%	12.9%	17.0%	16.0%	16.4%	25.2%	14.2%	22.2%	13.0%	17.0%	11.6%	14.2%
5 or more	17.0%	32.8%	15.6%	19.0%	9.5%	19.0%	8.7%	16.1%	7.5%	12.3%	5.9%	11.0%
Average	3.1	1.8	2.9	1.3	2.6	1.8	2.5	1.5	2.4	1.3	2.3	1.0

TABLE 9

Table 9 looks at the number of people living in households. As one would expect, visible minority majority ridings have the largest households with ridings with the least number of visible minorities having the smallest households, reflecting their younger demographics and the number of children. In some ridings, this also reflects a relatively larger number of multi-generational families living under the same roof, as these ridings have comparatively higher levels of family class immigrants.

Ridings with the largest number of one person households are the urban ridings of Toronto Centre, Laurier-Sainte-Marie and Vancouver Centre, those with the least are: smallest household size are Brampton North, West and East. Conversely, ridings with the largest number of households with five or more persons are: Brampton East and West along with Nunavut, with the fewest being the three ridings with the highest number of one person households.

Housing and Mobility

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
Housing Tenure												
Owners	74.2%	42.9%	64.7%	56.7%	64.6%	62.6%	66.2%	65.1%	71.8%	61.9%	75.9%	72.0%
Renters	25.8%	42.9%	35.3%	56.7%	35.3%	62.6%	33.8%	65.1%	27.9%	61.9%	23.5%	58.3%
Shelter costs 30 pcent or more of income												
	29.9%	10.5%	26.3%	13.5%	24.8%	16.7%	22.2%	18.9%	19.0%	17.6%	15.8%	23.6%
Type of housing												
Single-detached	34.0%	55.9%	39.6%	65.3%	36.7%	75.6%	47.3%	71.2%	61.9%	86.1%	72.8%	50.0%
Apart 5+ stories	13.3%	51.8%	11.0%	61.1%	11.4%	85.1%	7.8%	51.5%	2.0%	24.4%	0.3%	24.4%
Other	32.7%	57.2%	40.8%	74.9%	39.3%	79.5%	38.3%	79.0%	29.8%	84.0%	22.4%	88.8%
Mobility												
Movers 1 year	11.7%	8.9%	13.6%	12.5%	13.4%	20.6%	14.1%	20.5%	13.8%	15.0%	10.4%	15.7%
Movers 5 years	37.3%	21.7%	40.2%	21.9%	42.5%	41.1%	41.7%	39.5%	39.1%	23.2%	31.1%	31.2%

TABLE 10

Table 10 provides the breakdown between owners and renters, the percentage of residents where housing costs 30 percent or more of their income, the types of housing and the degree of mobility for one and five year periods.

Owners are most prevalent in ridings with the most and least number of visible minorities. Shelter costs as a percentage of income are greatest in visible minority majority ridings and decline along with the percentage of visible minorities. Higher percentages of single-detached homes correlate with lower numbers of visible minorities with the inverse true for apartments five stories or more.

Ridings with the largest number of home owners are: Vaughan-Woodbridge (ON), Carleton (ON) and Brampton East. Those with the fewest are the two Montreal-area ridings of Papineau and Laurier-Sainte-Marie, and Nunavut.

Ridings with the largest number whose shelter costs are 30 percent or more of their income are the Toronto-area ridings of Brampton East, Scarborough-Agincourt and Don Valley East. Those with the fewest are Lévis-Lotbinière (QC), Labrador and Nunavut.

Single detached homes are most prevalent in the ridings of Bonavista-Burin-Trinity (NL), Essex (ON) and Carlton Trail-Eagle Creek (SK) and least prevalent in two Montreal-area ridings, Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie and Laurier-Sainte-Marie, along with Vancouver Centre.

One year mobility rates (moves) are relatively small across all groups of ridings, but lowest in ridings with the fewest visible minorities. Five year mobility rates are about three times one year mobility rates.

Ridings with the highest one and five year mobility rates are Spadina-Fort York, Calgary Centre and Vancouver Centre. Ridings with the lowest one year mobility rate are Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Marc-Aurèle-Fortin (QC) and Vaughan-Woodbridge (ON) while ridings with the lowest five year mobility rate are Miramichi-Grand Lake (NB), Bonavista-Burin-Trinity (NL) and Cape Breton-Canso (NS)

Education

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
Less than secondary												
Male	12.2%	19.5%	12.0%	19.9%	7.5%	19.4%	8.7%	16.9%	12.2%	17.9%	17.0%	14.4%
Female	12.6%	19.9%	10.4%	17.4%	6.1%	19.4%	6.8%	15.7%	8.8%	15.5%	12.1%	12.9%
Secondary												
Male	26.8%	19.3%	25.9%	18.0%	21.8%	16.5%	21.1%	20.7%	27.7%	25.9%	24.2%	23.2%
Female	25.3%	14.8%	23.5%	15.7%	19.4%	19.6%	19.4%	23.5%	26.0%	23.6%	25.0%	20.1%
Trades												
Male	6.0%	5.7%	8.4%	14.4%	8.8%	17.7%	9.3%	19.0%	16.2%	23.9%	21.1%	18.7%
Female	2.8%	3.6%	3.4%	14.1%	3.8%	18.9%	3.7%	15.7%	5.0%	17.1%	6.8%	16.9%
College												
Male	16.0%	8.5%	17.4%	12.4%	17.7%	14.1%	17.7%	16.1%	19.5%	17.2%	19.8%	19.1%
Female	19.5%	9.4%	22.4%	15.3%	21.2%	17.6%	22.2%	23.0%	28.3%	21.8%	29.6%	21.2%
University below Bachelor												
Male	3.2%	2.6%	3.0%	1.9%	3.3%	3.3%	2.9%	3.7%	2.3%	4.0%	1.9%	4.0%
Female	3.8%	2.9%	3.9%	3.0%	4.3%	3.5%	3.8%	4.5%	3.5%	5.5%	3.3%	5.6%
University Bachelor degree or above												
Male	33.5%	38.8%	31.7%	46.7%	38.8%	47.9%	36.1%	52.4%	20.4%	41.8%	11.9%	45.2%
Female	33.7%	35.1%	33.5%	43.4%	42.7%	48.7%	41.3%	52.3%	25.7%	37.5%	18.1%	43.2%

TABLE 11

14

Table 11 compares highest level of education, broken down by sex. In general, there are relatively small relative differences between men and women in the riding categories.

While men in ridings with the fewest number of visible minorities have the highest number of less than secondary education, it is women in ridings with the largest numbers of visible minorities who have the greatest number with a less than secondary education.

Men and women with secondary, trades and college education are greatest in ridings with lower numbers of visible minorities.

Men and women with university degrees are greatest in ridings with 35 to 50 % visible minorities.

Ridings with the highest prevalence of less than secondary education are all Indigenous: Nunavut, Churchill-Keewatinook Aski and Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River; those with the least are Willowdale (ON), Vancouver Centre and Vancouver Quadra.

Ridings with the highest prevalence of secondary education are the Saskatchewan ridings of Souris-Moose Mountain, Yorkton-Melville and Cypress Hills-Grasslands; those with the least are all in Quebec: Laurier-Sainte-Marie, Ville-Marie-Le Sud-Ouest-Île-des-Soeurs and Louis-Hébert.

Ridings with the highest percentage of trades and apprenticeship graduates are all in Quebec, Lac Saint-Jean, Jonquière and Mégantic-L'Érable; those with the least are the Toronto ridings of Spadina-Fort York, University-Rosedale and Don Valley West.

Ridings with the highest percent of college and CEGEP graduates are the Ontario ridings of Nickel Belt, Sarnia-Lambton and Nipissing-Timiskaming; those with the least are urban ridings of Vancouver Quadra, Ville-Marie-Le Sud-Ouest-Île-des-Soeurs and University-Rosedale.

Ridings with the highest prevalence of university graduates are the downtown ridings of University-Rosedale, Spadina-Fort York and Vancouver Quadra; those with the least are the rural ridings of Coast of Bays-Central-Notre Dame, Mégantic-L'Érable and Bonavista-Burin-Trinity.

Economic

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
Participation												
Male	66.9%	15.8%	70.7%	14.6%	70.8%	21.1%	72.4%	22.0%	70.5%	24.2%	65.1%	28.0%
Female	57.9%	16.0%	61.4%	14.1%	61.5%	26.3%	64.7%	21.7%	63.0%	21.6%	57.5%	26.2%
Unemployment												
Male	8.4%	5.0%	7.8%	6.9%	7.5%	7.7%	7.6%	7.6%	7.4%	11.9%	9.6%	12.3%
Female	9.5%	6.4%	8.9%	6.2%	7.3%	6.4%	7.3%	4.5%	6.4%	6.2%	6.5%	6.8%
Total annual income												
Male	\$29,447	\$14,181	\$33,216	\$17,702	\$42,252	\$38,422	\$43,281	\$35,561	\$44,475	\$62,645	\$38,742	\$70,241
Female	\$22,916	\$7,006	\$25,996	\$10,357	\$30,329	\$21,447	\$32,602	\$20,066	\$30,852	\$21,539	\$26,678	\$25,437
Employment annual income												
Male	\$32,082	\$14,662	\$36,955	\$20,069	\$42,023	\$37,960	\$43,505	\$36,421	\$41,901	\$69,053	\$35,179	\$72,110
Female	\$25,558	\$8,080	\$28,243	\$13,738	\$30,260	\$26,468	\$31,272	\$22,550	\$28,877	\$28,493	\$25,055	\$31,580
Government transfers												
Male	\$966	\$859	\$1,015	\$3,946	\$1,431	\$4,416	\$1,717	\$7,469	\$5,073	\$9,934	\$8,349	\$9,718
Female	\$3,553	\$4,636	\$3,856	\$8,520	\$3,478	\$9,560	\$4,130	\$7,841	\$6,242	\$6,843	\$8,126	\$4,070

TABLE 12

15

Table 12 looks at participation and unemployment rates along with before tax income, broken down by total, employment and government transfers.

Unemployment rates for men are highest in ridings with the least number of visible minorities closely followed by ridings with the greatest number of visible minorities. For women, it is highest in visible minority majority ridings and least in ridings with the fewest visible minorities.

Total annual median income is lowest in visible minority majority ridings for both men and women.

Total employment median income of men and women is lowest in ridings with the most and least number of visible minorities.

Government transfers (e.g., EI, CPP) are lowest for men in visible minority majority ridings reflecting in part the younger population whereas for women, the same general pattern holds true but with ridings 35-50 % have slightly lower government transfers than visible minority majority ridings.

The older population of ridings with the least number of visible minorities means the highest level of government transfers given CPP and OAS.

Ridings with the highest participation rates for men are Spadina-Fort York, Fort McMurray-Cold Lake and Calgary Shepard; for women, University-Rosedale, Spadina-Fort York and Ottawa Centre. Ridings with the lowest participation rates for men are Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing and Courtenay-Alberni (BC); for women, Coast of Bays-Central-Notre Dame, Mégantic-L'Érable and Bonavista-Burin-Trinity.

Ridings with the greatest unemployment for men are all in Atlantic Canada, Long Range Mountains (NL), Coast of Bays-Central-Notre Dame and Miramichi-Grand Lake; for women, Long Range Mountains, Nunavut and Bonavista-Burin-Trinity. Ridings with the least unemployment for men are Louis-Saint-Laurent (QC), Kitchener-Conestoga (ON) and Perth-Wellington (ON); for women, it is the Quebec ridings of Charlesbourg-Haute-Saint-Charles, Lévis-Lotbinière and Louis-Saint-Laurent.

Ridings with the highest median employment incomes for men are Fort McMurray-Cold Lake, Sherwood Park-Fort Saskatchewan (AB) and Labrador; for women, Northwest Territories, Spadina-Fort York and Calgary Centre. Ridings with the least employment incomes for men are Bourassa (QC), Scarborough North (ON) and Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine; for women, Courtenay-Alberni, Coast of Bays-Central-Notre Dame and Bonavista-Burin-Trinity.

Ridings with the highest levels of government transfers for men are the Newfoundland and Labrador ridings of Bonavista-Burin-Trinity, Coast of Bays-Central-Notre Dame and Long Range Mountains; for women, Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Bourassa and Bonavista-Burin-Trinity. Ridings with the lowest levels for men are the downtown ridings of Vancouver Granville, Vancouver Centre and Spadina-Fort York; for women, University-Rosedale, Vancouver Centre and Spadina-Fort York.

Low Income Measure

LIM-AT

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
All												
Male	18.5%	16.0%	15.2%	18.9%	15.8%	25.1%	12.7%	23.6%	11.5%	18.1%	13.3%	16.5%
Female	20.0%	17.4%	15.9%	19.1%	17.6%	26.1%	14.0%	24.4%	12.8%	18.8%	15.5%	16.8%
0 to 17 years												
Male	23.0%	24.6%	22.7%	22.9%	20.4%	37.9%	16.7%	29.7%	15.6%	26.0%	15.5%	25.3%
Female	23.0%	25.0%	22.2%	23.4%	20.0%	36.4%	16.2%	32.0%	15.3%	25.2%	16.3%	24.8%
18 to 65 years												
Male	17.4%	15.8%	14.3%	20.2%	15.4%	26.4%	11.5%	24.4%	11.0%	19.4%	12.0%	18.0%
Female	18.4%	17.4%	14.6%	20.6%	16.5%	26.5%	12.9%	23.2%	11.9%	18.5%	13.5%	17.2%
65 or more												
Male	14.4%	16.9%	14.8%	16.7%	11.5%	31.3%	10.0%	32.1%	8.5%	24.4%	13.6%	22.3%
Female	17.0%	19.3%	18.6%	17.5%	14.7%	30.1%	14.1%	33.6%	13.6%	29.9%	20.6%	27.3%

TABLE 13

Table 13 shows the age and gender breakdown of the prevalence of the low income measure after tax (“the LIM is a fixed percentage (50%) of median adjusted household income” adjusted for household size).

The general pattern is consistent for male and females 0 to 65 years: visible minority majority ridings have the highest prevalence. However, for 65 and over, while the same pattern applies to men, for women it is ridings with the lowest %age of visible minorities who have the highest prevalence of low income.

Ridings with the highest prevalence of low income is greatest for men and women, all ages, Ville-Marie-Le Sud-Ouest-Île-des-Soeurs (QC), Toronto Centre and Hamilton Centre. Ridings with the lowest prevalence for men are Carleton (ON), Montarville (QC) and Sherwood Park-Fort Saskatchewan (AB); for women, Orléans (ON), Carleton and Sherwood Park-Fort Saskatchewan (AB).

For seniors, ridings with the highest prevalence for men are Vancouver East, Laurier-Sainte-Marie and Papineau; for women, the same ridings along with Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie (QC) instead of Papineau. Ridings with the least prevalence for men are Orléans, Sherwood Park-Fort Saskatchewan and St. Albert-Edmonton (AB); for women, the same ridings with Edmonton Riverbend instead of Sherwood Park.

Private Household Median Income

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
Before tax (BT)												
Total	\$69,513	\$46,778	\$73,563	\$57,664	\$76,160	\$78,115	\$76,201	\$76,839	\$73,321	\$110,425	\$62,356	\$108,416
1 Person	\$35,328	\$28,208	\$37,432	\$27,603	\$41,929	\$38,064	\$41,075	\$36,436	\$36,837	\$54,413	\$30,618	\$57,356
2 or more	\$82,653	\$39,929	\$85,431	\$56,126	\$96,265	\$77,391	\$100,905	\$76,324	\$90,919	\$114,119	\$78,313	\$116,338
After tax (AT)												
Total	\$61,397	\$39,364	\$64,640	\$46,132	\$64,751	\$62,331	\$65,552	\$60,172	\$63,190	\$82,970	\$55,684	\$81,528
1 Person	\$31,899	\$21,113	\$33,668	\$20,850	\$36,409	\$28,451	\$36,280	\$27,378	\$32,780	\$40,641	\$27,750	\$42,710
2 or more	\$73,481	\$33,192	\$75,290	\$43,746	\$83,032	\$59,492	\$86,693	\$58,135	\$78,434	\$83,170	\$68,865	\$84,060

TABLE 14

Table 14 shows private household median income before and after tax.

Household incomes are lowest, no matter the household size, in ridings with the lowest numbers of visible minorities (rural and Northern), and second lowest in ridings with the greatest numbers of visible minorities.

Ridings with the highest total household incomes before tax are the Alberta ridings of Fort McMurray-Cold Lake, Sherwood Park-Fort Saskatchewan and Calgary Rocky Ridge. Those with the lowest are Hamilton Centre, Papineau and Bourassa.

Political – 2015 Election

	> 70 pcent		50-70 pcent		35-50 pcent		20-35 pcent		5-20 pcent		0-5 pcent	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
Eligible	69.5%	21.1%	69.6%	18.3%	75.4%	31.2%	77.8%	22.9%	79.3%	17.0%	80.8%	27.2%
Turnout	60.6%	10.5%	62.6%	13.3%	67.3%	15.9%	70.1%	25.8%	70.5%	19.3%	68.5%	24.9%
Liberal	55.1%	24.7%	48.4%	41.0%	49.8%	33.2%	44.7%	42.9%	34.5%	56.7%	34.1%	59.3%
Cons	30.1%	33.7%	33.0%	36.9%	30.9%	55.7%	32.0%	62.2%	34.9%	73.1%	26.3%	72.9%
NDP	11.3%	21.1%	11.5%	39.9%	15.7%	45.1%	15.3%	46.5%	20.8%	46.0%	19.0%	45.3%
Green	1.7%	2.6%	2.2%	3.6%	2.3%	8.0%	2.7%	7.0%	2.8%	54.3%	2.4%	54.3%
BQ			6.0%	2.5%	10.6%	15.3%	16.7%	25.6%	22.7%	28.2%	20.6%	27.3%
Other	0.1%	1.0%	0.4%	4.6%	0.5%	2.8%	0.7%	19.7%	0.4%	3.5%	0.1%	3.5%

TABLE 15

Table 15 looks at the number of eligible voters, their turnout, and the party results for the 2015 election.

As one would expect, the larger numbers of recent immigrants and thus fewer citizens results in visible minority majority ridings having the lowest number of eligible voters and turnout. The highest numbers are found in ridings with the least number of visible minorities.

Liberals had the highest levels of support in all ridings save those with between 5 and 20 % visible minorities. Their strong results in ridings with the least number of visible minorities reflects in large part their strength in Atlantic Canada. Ridings with the highest levels of Liberal support were the Atlantic Canada ridings of Bonavista-Burin-Trinity, Coast of Bays-Central-Notre Dame and Cape Breton-Canso; ridings with the lowest, were the Western ridings of Peace River-Westlock (AB), Victoria (BC) and Battle River-Crowfoot (AB).

The Conservatives were strongest, but only slightly so, in ridings with between 5 and 20 % visible minorities. Ridings with the highest levels of Conservative support were the Alberta ridings of Battle River-Crowfoot, Bow River and Foothills; ridings with the least were St. John's South-Mount Pearl (NL) and the Quebec readings of Laurier-Sainte-Marie and Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie.

The NDP was relatively stronger in ridings with less than 20 % visible minorities. Ridings in which the NDP support was greatest were Skeena-Bulkley Valley (BC), Windsor West (ON) and Vancouver East and least in Markham-Unionville (ON), Winnipeg South (MB) and Vaughan-Woodbridge (ON).

The Greens were relatively strongest, but minimally so, in ridings with between 5 and 20 % visible minorities. Ridings in which their support was strongest were the BC ridings of Saanich-Gulf Islands, Victoria and Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke.

The Bloc (reflecting its rural base) was strong in ridings with less than 5 % visible minorities), with its strongest results in Manicouagan, Bécancour-Nicolet-Saurel and Montcalm.

Ridings with the largest percentage of eligible voters are Spadina-Fort York, Edmonton-Wetaskiwin and Calgary Shepard; with the least, Churchill-Keewatinook Aski and the Ontario ridings of Etobicoke North and Humber River-Black Creek. Ridings with the highest voter turnout are the Ottawa area ridings of Orléans, Carleton and Ottawa Centre; with the lowest, Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou (QC), Calgary Forest Lawn and Windsor West (ON).

Party Standing by Ridings

Number elected October 2015

	<i>Percentage visible minorities</i>							Total
	> 70 %	50-70 %	35-50 %	20-35 %	5-20 %	0-5 %		
Liberal	15	20	24	41	39	45		184
Conservative	2	1	6	11	40	39		99
NDP		3	2	9	13	17		44
Green					1			1
Bloc					3	7		10
Other								0
Total	17	24	32	61	96	108		338

TABLE 16

Table 16 shows the breakdown by MPs elected by ridings and the percentage of visible minorities.

Liberal MPs were overwhelmingly elected in ridings with more than 20 % visible minorities whereas most Conservative MPs were elected in ridings with less than 20 % visible minorities, as were NDP MPs to a lesser extent.

The average margin between elected MPs and runner ups was greatest in ridings with more than 70 percent visible minorities, and least in ridings with between 20 and 35 percent, followed closely by ridings with between 50 and 70 percent. Of the 65 ridings where the margin was five percent or less, 56 of these are ridings with under 35 percent visible minorities, where one in five were won with this small margin.

That being said, in the recent Ontario provincial election, using the same electoral ridings at the federal level, the Conservatives won the most visible minority majority ridings (19 out of 27), just as the Liberals had flipped most of these ridings from the Conservatives in 2015.

Andrew Griffith is the author of [“Because it’s 2015...” Implementing Diversity and Inclusion, Multiculturalism in Canada: Evidence and Anecdote](#) and [Policy Arrogance or Innocent Bias: Resetting Citizenship and Multiculturalism](#) and is a regular media commentator and blogger ([Multiculturalism Meanderings](#)). He is the former Director General for Citizenship and Multiculturalism and has worked for a variety of government departments in Canada and abroad and is a fellow of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute and Envirronics Institute.