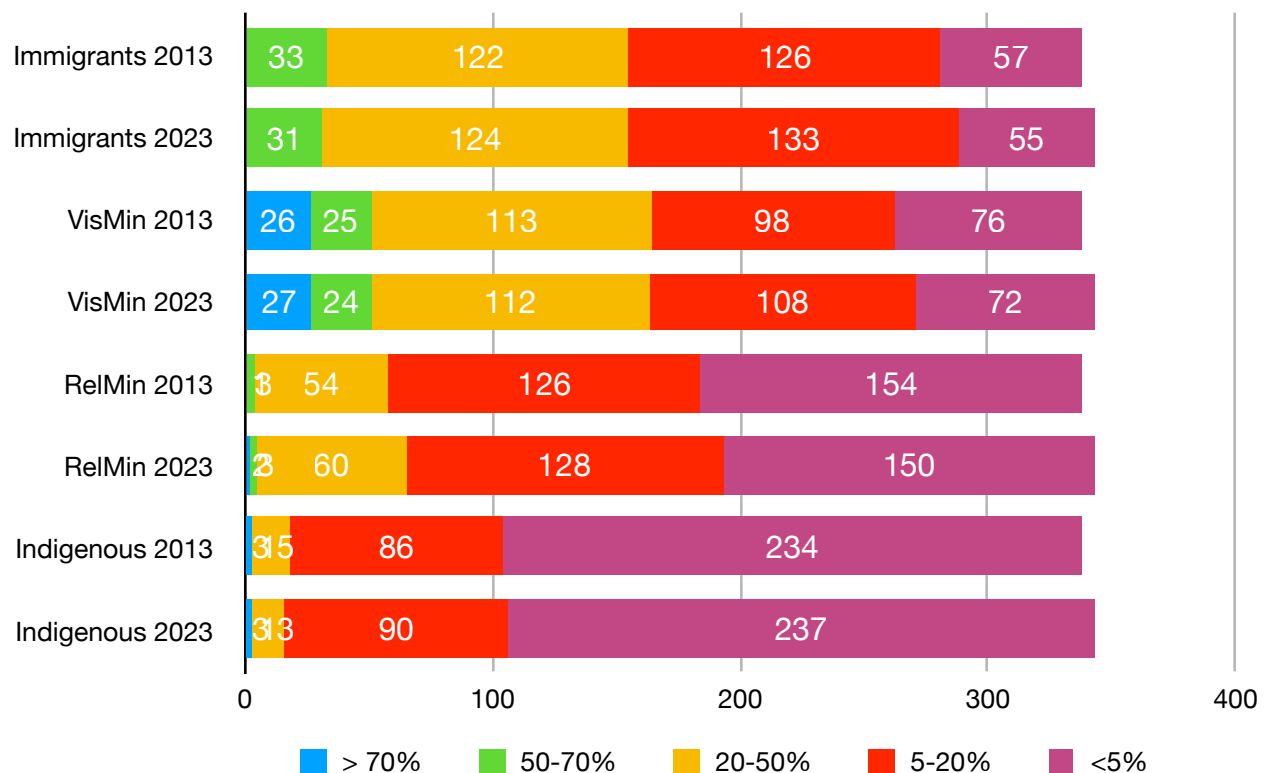


The New Electoral Map and Diversity

The new electoral map added five ridings for a total of 343 ridings, three to Alberta, one in each of Ontario and British Columbia. While the effect is minimal with respect to 2021 census data, the effect is significant given the expected increase in over one million new citizens by the 2025 election. While others focussed on the partisan impact of the changes, assessing [they favour the Conservatives](#), this examines the impact on visible and religious minorities, immigrant and Indigenous representation with respect to the 2021 population and provides a preliminary estimate of the impact in 2025.

Figure 1 contrasts the 2013 and 2023 federal riding distribution by visible minorities, immigrants and Indigenous peoples. In general, most increases in minority representation are happening in ridings with between 5 and 20 percent immigrants and visible minorities and in ridings with between 20 and 50 percent for religious minorities. For Indigenous peoples, there appears to be a slight crowding out effect due to immigration given the small shift from ridings with between 20 and 50 percent to ridings with between 5 and 20 percent. The [faster growth in immigrants \(15.7 percent 2016-21\) and thus new citizens](#) compared to [Indigenous peoples \(9.4 percent\)](#) is likely to accentuate this change by the 2025 election.

Figure 1: Comparison 2013 and 2023 Federal Electoral Districts



Visible and Religious Minorities

Figure 2 shows changes for the four large provinces as the new ridings had no effect in other provinces, with the major impact being an increase at the 5 to 20 percent visible minority share of the population, reflecting increased diversity in suburban Canada.

Figure 2: Visible Minority Change of New Ridings on Provinces Compared to 2013

	Canada	ON	QC	BC	AB
> 70%	1	0	0	0	1
50-70%	-1	0	0	0	-1
20-50%	-1	-2	0	-1	2
5-20%	10	6	1	2	1
<5%	-4	-3	-1	0	0
Total	5	1	0	1	3
Highlighting: Green, increase of 1 or more, Red, decrease of 1 or more					

In contrast, the contrast for religious minorities affected more ridings in more provinces as shown in Figure 3, highlighting the increased religious diversity in Canada and how it is playing out at the riding level..

Figure 3: Religious Minority Change of New Ridings on Provinces Compared to 2013

	Canada	ON	QC	BC	AB	MB	SK	Atlantic
> 70%	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
50-70%	0	1	0	-1	0	0	0	0
20-50%	6	0	2	0	2	2	0	0
5-20%	2	2	0	2	0	-2	-2	2
<5%	-4	-2	-2	-1	1	0	2	-2
Total	5	1	0	1	3	0	0	0
Highlighting: Green, increase of 1 or more, Red, decrease of 1 or more								

Figure 4 provides the visible minority group by percentage of population by riding. There are no ridings where Japanese, “visible minorities not identified elsewhere” or multiple visible minorities form five percent or more of the population. The number of ridings with between 50 and 70 Asians has increased by two whereas the number of ridings with between 20 and 50 percent Chinese has decreased by two, reflecting the relative shift between major source countries.

Figure 4: Visible Minorities 2023 Ridings

	> 70%	50-70%	20-50%	5-20%	<5%
All Visible Minorities	27	24	112	108	72
South Asian	1	4	24	96	218
Chinese		2	16	55	270
Black			5	94	244
Filipino			1	46	296
Arab				33	310
Latin American				8	335
Southeast Asian				5	338
West Asian				10	333
Korean				5	338
Not Visible Minority	223	69	41	10	0

Figure 5 examines the percentage of religious minorities in the new ridings, highlighting both the longstanding prevalence of Christianity and “no religion or secular” along with increased numbers of religious minorities mainly in those ridings with between “5 to 20 percent.

Compared to the previous electoral order, the greatest relative increases are with respect to Hindus and Muslims, mainly in the less than five percent category but with increases of one riding in the 5 to 20 percent category and for Hindus, a similar increase of one in the 20 to 50 percent category. Ridings with Jews had the sharpest drop, with 3 ridings slipping to less than 5 percent compared to 5 and 20 percent. While Sikhs lost two ridings with between 5 and 20 percent, they gained one with between 20 and 50 percent, and six with five percent or less. No Indigenous spirituality or “other” with more than 5 percent.

Figure 5: Religious Minorities 2023 Ridings

	> 70%	50-70%	20-50%	5-20%	<5%
All Religious minorities	2	3	60	128	150
Muslim			6	109	228
Hindu			3	33	307
Sikh		1	8	14	320
Jewish			3	7	333
Buddhist				5	338
Indigenous spirituality				2	341
Christian	44	177	121	1	0
No religion, secular	0	39	259	44	1

Indigenous

Figure 6 shows the relative shift with respect to Indigenous peoples towards a lower share of riding level populations.

Figure 6: Indigenous peoples Change of New Ridings on Provinces Compared to 2013

	Canada	ON	QC	BC	AB	MB	SK	Atlantic
Majority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-50%	-2	-2	0	0	0	1	-1	0
5-20%	4	4	0	1	2	-1	1	-3
<5%	3	-1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Total	5	1	0	1	3	0	0	0
Highlighting: Green, increase of 1 or more, Red, decrease of 1 or more								

Figure 7 provides the breakdown by Indigenous peoples, showing that First Nations overall higher shares of the population in more ridings, followed by Métis, with Inuit only have a significant presence in four ridings. There are no ridings where multiple Indigenous identity have more than five percent of the population.

Figure 7: Indigenous peoples 2023 Ridings

Riding	Majority	20-50%	5-20%	<5%	Multiple
All Indigenous	3	13	90	237	0
First Nations	2	7	40	294	0
Métis	0	0	29	314	0
Inuit	1	0	3	339	343
Multiple	0	0	0	343	

Concluding observations

Given ongoing high levels of immigration and thus citizenship, the number of ridings with significant numbers of immigrants, visible and religious minorities will continue. From about one in six ridings being a visible minority majority ridings in 2021 to a likely one in five by 2025, political parties will need to be even more attentive to their concerns particularly that these ridings are largely where elections are won or lost. The number of visible and religious minority candidates and elected MPs will likely continue to increase whereas the number of Indigenous candidates and MPs is less likely to increase.

The shifting demographics of visible and religious minorities, and consequent tensions and diaspora politics, will continue to challenge parties as they have to decide how to respond to different and often opposing community pressures (e.g. [Jewish and Muslim](#), [Hindu and Sikh](#), [mainland Chinese and Hong Kong Chinese](#), among others).

Lastly, given the disparity between growth rates of immigrants and Indigenous peoples, tension may emerge from Indigenous peoples given their reduced influence in Parliament and political strategies.

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 Environics Institute.

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