

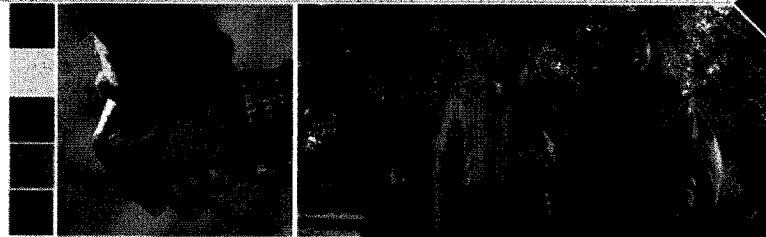
 **Citizenship and Immigration Canada** **Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada**



Citizenship and Immigration Canada



Building an Integrated
and Socially Cohesive
Society



Canada

Canada: An Increasingly Diverse Society

- **Three pillars of diversity:**
 - Aboriginal population (3.8% of total population in 2006)
 - Linguistic duality: French (22%) and English (67%)
 - Increasing ethno-cultural and religious diversity
- **Increasing diversity:**
 - One-fifth of Canadians are foreign born
 - 6.2% (5 million) are visible minorities, of whom 67% were born outside Canada
 - 215 ethnic origins and increased multiple origins
 - 47% of Canadians self-identify at least partial origins other than British, French or Canadian
 - Growth of non-Christian religions
 - Numbers of people in Canada affiliated with Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism doubled or nearly doubled from 1991 to 2001
- **2031 Projections**
 - Between 25% and 28% of population foreign born
 - Between 29% and 32% belong to visible minority group
 - 14% of population expected to belong to a non-Christian religion



Federal Legislative Framework

Overall Framework

- 1960: *Canadian Bill of Rights*
- 1962: First immigration regulations to eliminate racial discrimination
- 1971: Multiculturalism policy
- 1976: *Immigration Act* - Non-discrimination
- 1977: *Citizenship Act*
- 1982: *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* recognizes multicultural character of Canada
- 1988: *The Official Languages Act*
- 1988: *Canadian Multiculturalism Act*

Canadian Constitution Act (1867, 1982)

- Responsibility for immigration, including integration, is shared among the federal government and the provinces and territories.
- In the event of a conflict between federal and provincial legislation, federal legislation will prevail

Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) (2002)

- Affirms the fundamental principles of non-discrimination and universality in immigration (contained in the *Immigration Act (1976)*) & provides authority for settlement programs.

Canadian Multiculturalism Act (1988):

- Recognizes the diversity of Canadians as a fundamental characteristic of Canadian society and makes a commitment to:
 - Promote the full and equitable participation of all individuals and communities of all origins;
 - Eliminate barriers to that participation;
 - Encourage and assist all Canadian institutions to be both respectful and inclusive of Canada's multicultural character; and also

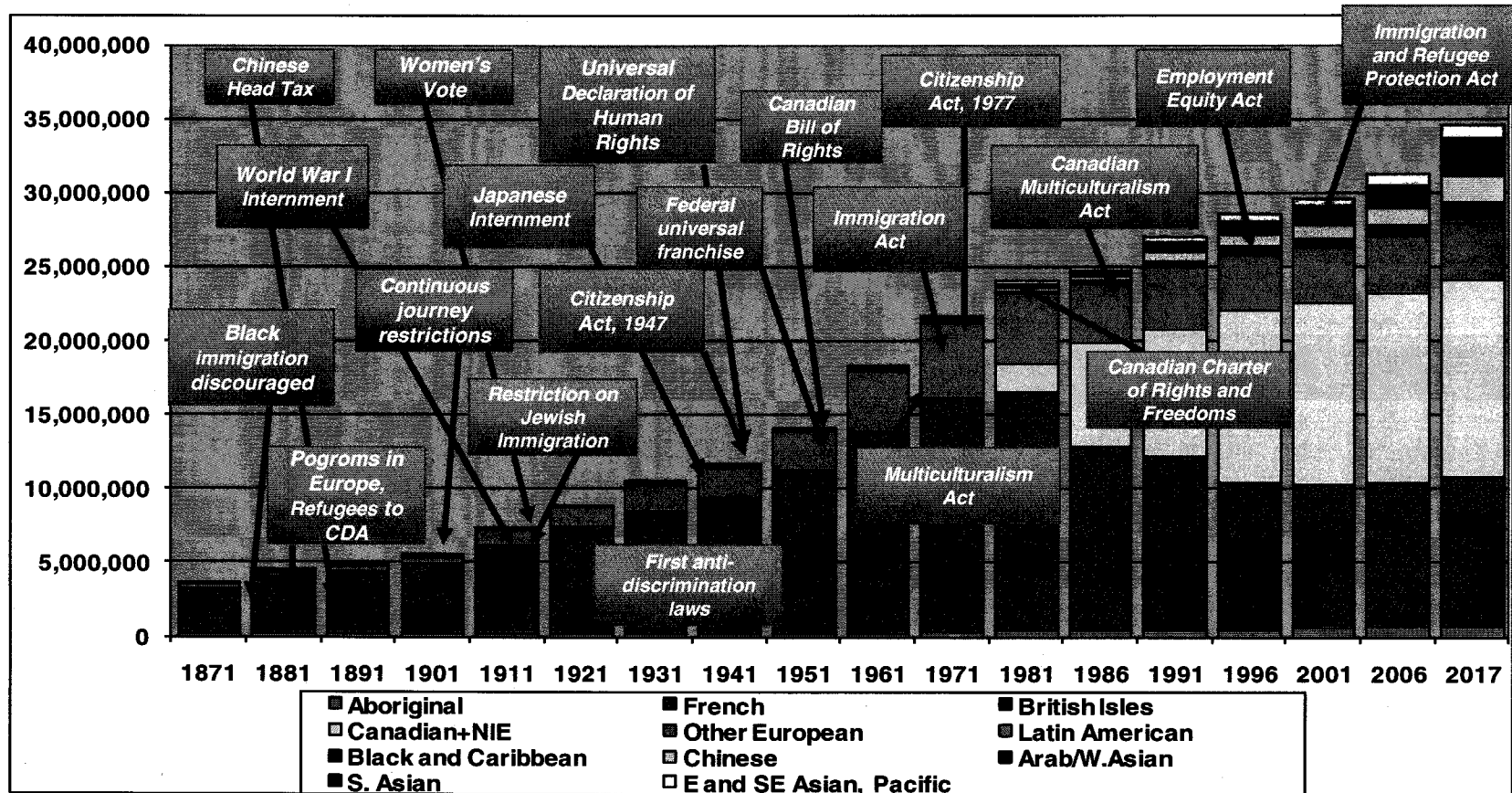
Citizenship Act (1977):

- Lays out inclusive, welcoming requirements for citizenship;
- Affirms all citizens have the same rights and obligations, regardless of whether citizens by birth or naturalisation



Demographic Change 1867-2017

Legislative change concurrent with population shifts, historical events, increased equality, democratization, and human rights – 1867 to 2017



CIC Programs Along the Immigration Continuum

Pre-Migration

Selection:

Selecting skilled immigrants, reuniting families, protecting refugees

Early Post-Arrival Years/Settlement

Settlement/Resettlement:

Overseas orientation, credential recognition, access to information, language acquisition, community connections

Long-Term Integration Second Generation

Citizenship:

Naturalisation, citizenship promotion and basic civics

Multiculturalism:

Public Education programs (e.g., Mathieu da Costa Challenge), Grants and Contributions program (e.g., at-risk cultural youth engagement), Historical Recognition programs (e.g., Community Historical Recognition Program), Produce an annual report on the operation of the Canadian Multiculturalism Act



Citizenship and Multiculturalism Approaches Over Time

- Since *Canadian Citizenship Act* in 1947, citizenship policy has balanced two objectives:
 - encourage and facilitate naturalization; and
 - enhance meaning of citizenship as unifying bond for Canadians
- Similarly, Canadian multiculturalism policy has balanced two objectives:
 - encourage newcomers to integrate into broader society; and
 - ensure broader society is welcoming and accommodates newcomers

“I first of all think immigrants come to this country to belong to this country. I also think that the Canadian approach to this, which is a mixture of integration and accommodation, for lack of a better term, is the right approach.”

*Prime Minister Stephen Harper
December 2007*



Current Challenges to Social Cohesion

Social/Cultural

- Challenges regarding religious diversity - lack of intercultural/faith understanding
- Persistence of racism and hate crimes
- Radicalization, though not widespread, potentially impacts social cohesion
- Perceived vulnerability to flashpoints/international conflicts
- Integration challenges faced by specific groups (e.g. youth, 2nd generation, women)
- Concerns about ethnic neighbourhood concentration (including virtual enclaves)

Economic

- Recent immigrants facing underemployment and limited upward mobility
- Earnings gap between recent immigrants and Canadian-born widening
- Some visible minorities doing worse than others (e.g. from Caribbean, West Africa)

Civic/Political

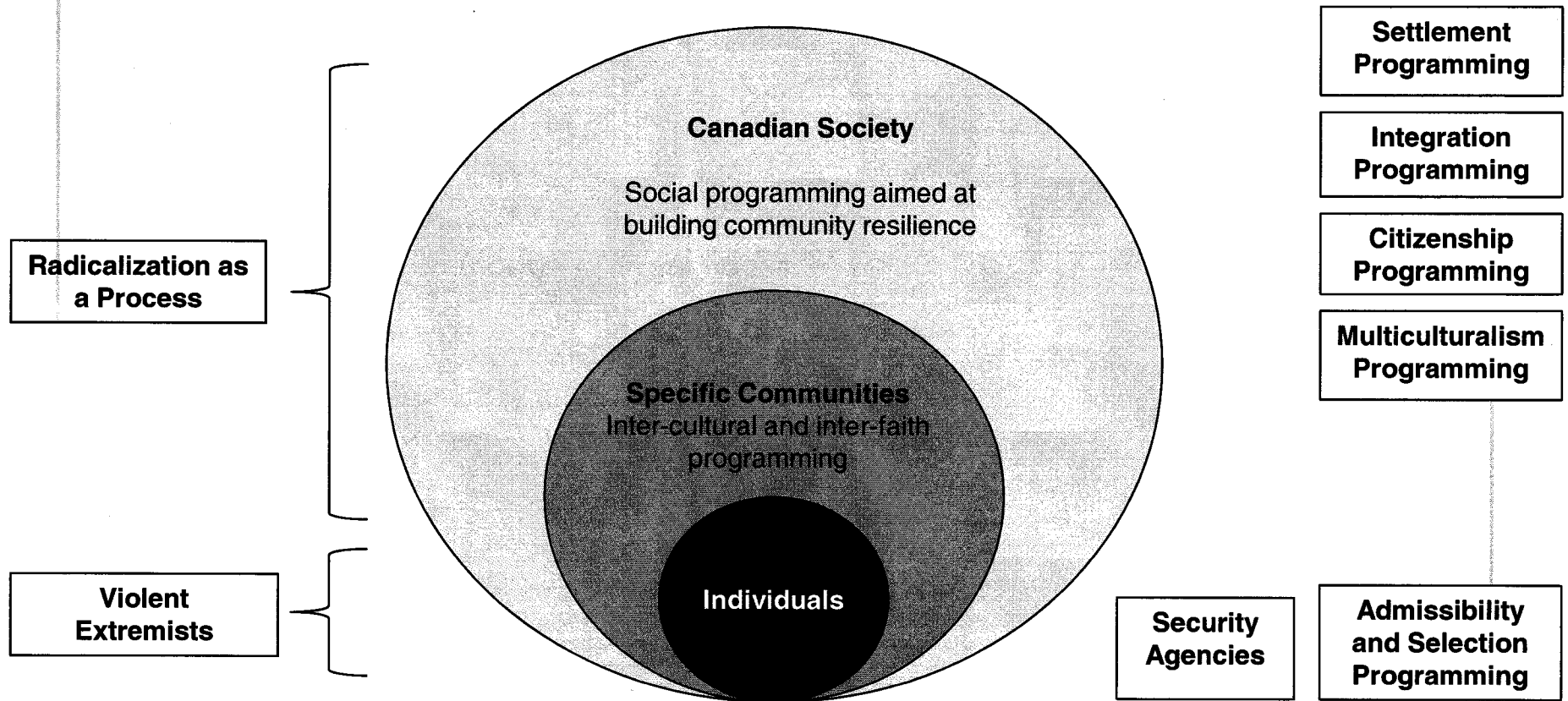
- Declining civic participation
- Lack of knowledge of Canadian history and political institutions amongst all Canadians
- Perceptions of citizenship of convenience
- Elected bodies at all levels do not yet reflect Canada's diversity

Federal Responses to Radicalization

- Various departments in the Government of Canada are involved in mitigating activities. Many of these designed to build community resilience through support and prevention programming.

	Security Initiatives	Social Initiatives
Other Government Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intelligence ▪ Criminal Investigations ▪ Community Outreach ▪ Enforcement, e.g. policing ▪ Incarceration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engagement (e.g. CCRS) ▪ Religious Services Programming (CSC) ▪ Identity programming (PCH) ▪ Research
Citizenship and Immigration Canada	<p>Safety and Security Programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Admissibility and Selection 	<p>Integrated Society Programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General integration approach and programming (Settlement, Integration, Citizenship) ▪ Multiculturalism programming

How CIC Contributes to Addressing Radicalization

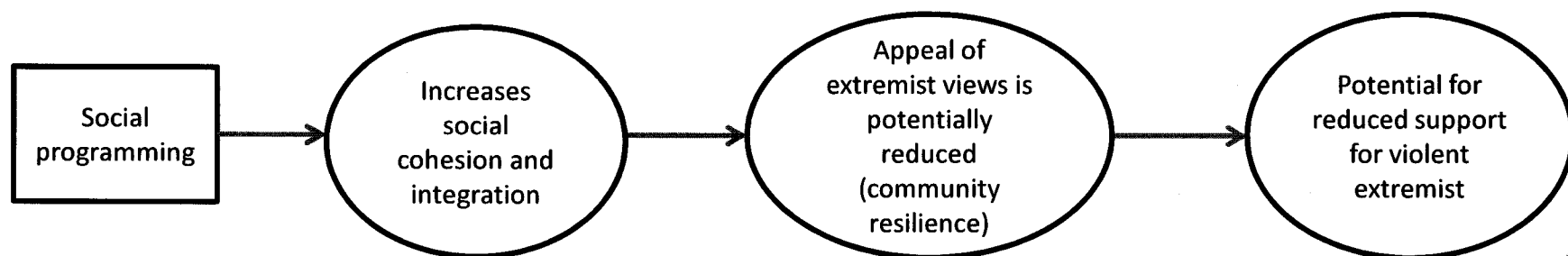


Current Approach

- Overall Canadian approach to building an integrated society (Settlement, Integration, Citizenship, Multiculturalism) reduces potential compared to other countries.
- Within CIC, new objectives for Multiculturalism Program are an additional instrument for strengthening social cohesion:
 - Build inter-cultural and inter-faith understanding
 - Foster civic memory and pride, and respect for core democratic values
- By focusing its programming on communities that we know are not as resilient to radicalization, Multiculturalism Program could potentially do more to address this issue.

“...building bridges between communities, helping people, the beginning of real economic equality of opportunity, and at the same time, in a sense indirectly, combating marginal forces of radicalization”

– Minister Kenney, March 2009



Religion and the Radicalization Dynamic

- Religion has emerged in public policy discourse and receives significant coverage in Canadian media
 - Religious views on range of social issues
 - Reasonable accommodation issues
 - Increased religious diversity, and increased populations, results in more “spirited” debate
- In addition there are real and perceived concerns that religion is linked to radicalization and violent extremism.
- Challenges related to religion for policymakers at all levels of government
 - Underdeveloped inter-faith understanding and interaction
 - Reasonable accommodation – defining “reasonable”
 - Social policy role in addressing radicalization and violent extremism

Multiculturalism Projects Addressing Radicalization

Community	Organization	Program	Objectives
Muslim (Youth)	Canadian Council of Muslim Women	MY CANADA	Understanding of rule of law, Canadian identity, dealing with local challenges and how to prevent radicalization.
Somali	The Canadian Somali Congress and the Canadian International Peace Project	Somali - Jewish Canadian Mentorship Project	Long-term community cohesion and cadre of young Somali-Canadian professionals able assume leadership roles and contribute to Canadian society
Somali	Somali-Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton	Reducing Barriers for Somali at Risk Youth within their Community and School System	Gain awareness, knowledge and skills for civic engagement; identify and take action toward resolving issues affecting their communities; and wider participation civil society.
South Asian (Sinhalese, Tamil, etc.)	The Mosaic Institute for Harnessing Diversity	South-Asian Global Citizenship Project	Participant engagement in community service projects supporting ethno-cultural groups beyond their own communities. Sharing this model with other communities and cross cultural bridging initiatives.

Multiculturalism Projects Addressing Radicalization

Community	Organization	Program	Objectives
Youth	Canadian Centre for Diversity	Diversity is Youth Peer Leaders	Build a network of skilled and trained young leaders focused on preventing & responding to conflicts; provide a community of support within to reinforce social cohesion & inclusion, while strengthening community.
Youth (ethno-cultural)	Leave out Violence, British Columbia	The Prism Project	Reduce violence in the lives of youth; youth find meaningful employment & complete high school; & increased awareness violence associated with culture & race.
Youth (Indo-Canadian)	Surrey School District, British Columbia	Surrey Appreciates Multi-Ethnicity (SAME)	Develop knowledge, self-confidence, cultural pride, leadership & decision making skills needed for cross-cultural relationships. Build bridges and social cohesion among the diverse ethno-cultural communities.

Roundtable Discussion on Social Cohesion

- CIC recently hosted a Roundtable discussion entitled “*Social Cohesion: Addressing radicalization by building strong communities*” with representatives from different communities engaged in mitigating radicalization that leads to violent extremism, and subject area experts.
- The roundtable discussed:
 - radicalization that is detrimental to social cohesion;
 - how the federal government could support communities in their concerns regarding radicalization;
 - the challenges and risks associated with this kind of work.

Some of What the Roundtable Told Us (1 of 2)

- Ensure funded programs support Canadian values (e.g. democracy, rule of law, gender equality, and active tolerance)
- Launch a national dialogue on the meaning of citizenship and Canadian values
- Focus on youth and help focus their idealism
- Build a nuanced understanding of intra-community dynamics
- Governments need to better connect and normalize relations with citizens
- Support capacity building for community organizations

Risks

- Making particular communities feel targeted.
- Loss of credibility if program partners are perceived as voice of government.
- Supporting organizations that do not represent or fully engage women and youth.
- Indirectly contributing to radicalization by funding intolerant groups.
- Combining social programming and anti-radicalization strategies.

Some of What the Roundtable Told Us (2 of 2)

- Build more intercultural connections
- Support initiatives/programming that help communities find ways to develop social capital
- Build communities that are more resilient to violent extremism (e.g. gang activity, drug trafficking).
- Pluralism does not come easy. It has to be nurtured and adapted over time.

Making Canada Safe

- Targeting behaviours not communities
- Communities capable of challenging destructive narrative
- Canadians knowing each other better

Affirmation that radicalization can be addressed through strategies and programming that are targeted at enhancing social cohesion



Discussion

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