

Political Support among Immigrants in Canada

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Political Support among Immigrants in Canada



- ▣ Two broad sets of questioning
 - ▣ Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?
 - ▣ How do immigrants handle the development of dual federal and provincial loyalties?

Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

Why Ask the Question?

- ▣ Change in immigration composition

Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

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Change in immigration composition

Figure 1. Origins of Immigrants in Canada – 1965 & 2008



Note: Percentages are not mutually exclusive.

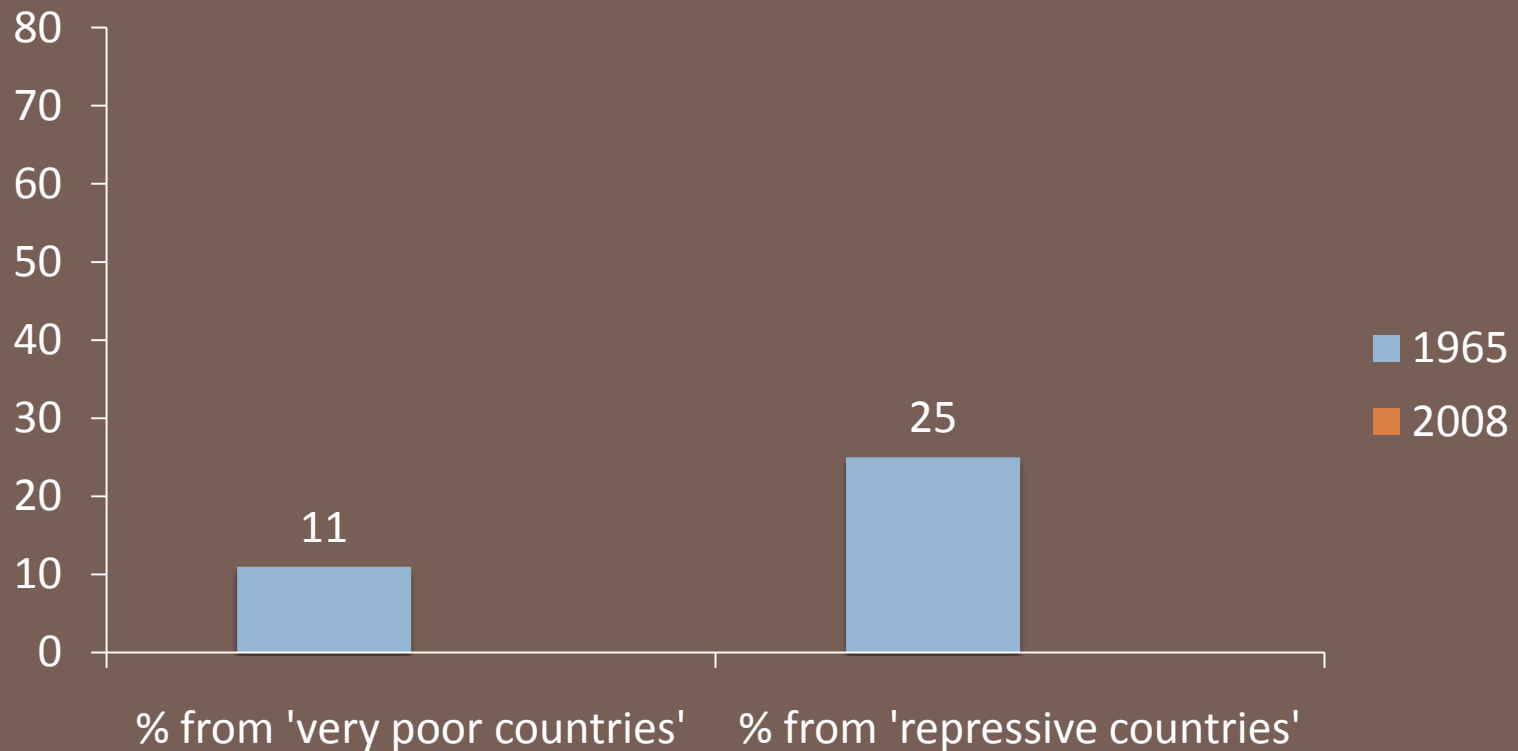
Source: Immigration statistics categorized based on the GDP per capita and Freedom House Country Rating and other historical sources

Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

Why Ask the Question?

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Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

Why Ask the Question?

Change in immigration composition

Figure 1. Origins of Immigrants in Canada – 1965 & 2008



Two questions:

1. How much support do immigrants from poor and politically repressive countries express for Canada?
1. What is the nature of immigrants' support for Canada?

Note: Percentages are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Immigration statistics categorized based on the GDP per capita and Freedom House Country Rating and other historical sources

Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

Study Design and Data

- Data used for the investigations

- 2006 New Immigrant Survey
- Immigrants in Canada for 10 years or less

Question #1:

How much support do immigrants from poor and politically repressive countries express for Canada?

- Government in Ottawa

- “Would you say you have a great deal, a lot, not much or no confidence at all in the Government in Ottawa?”

- Canada

- “How do you feel about Canada on a scale from 1 to 10 where 10 means very positive and 1 means very negative?”

Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada? How Much Confidence in the Government in Ottawa?

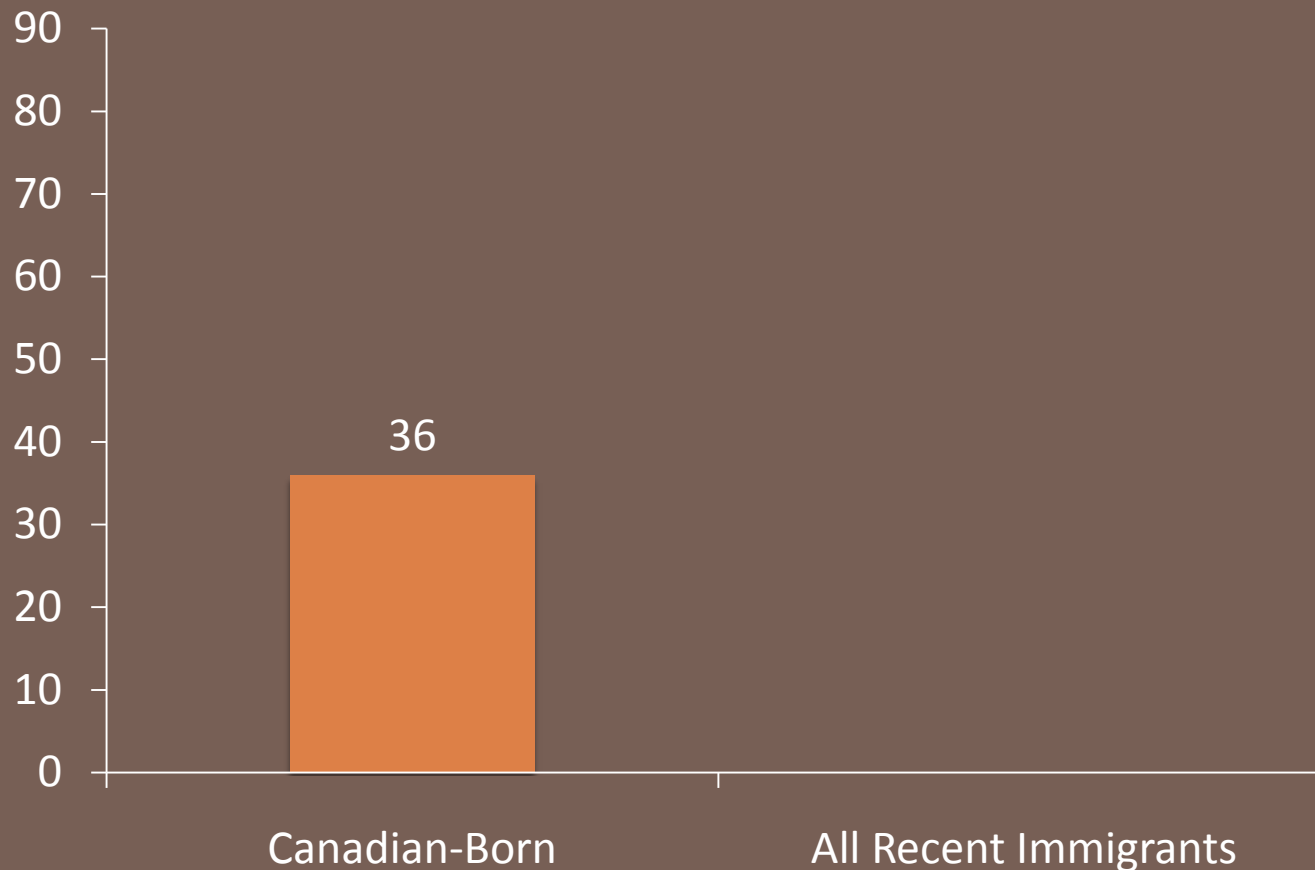
Figure 2. % expressing a 'great deal' or 'a lot' of confidence in the 'Government in Ottawa'



Source: 2006 New Immigrant Survey

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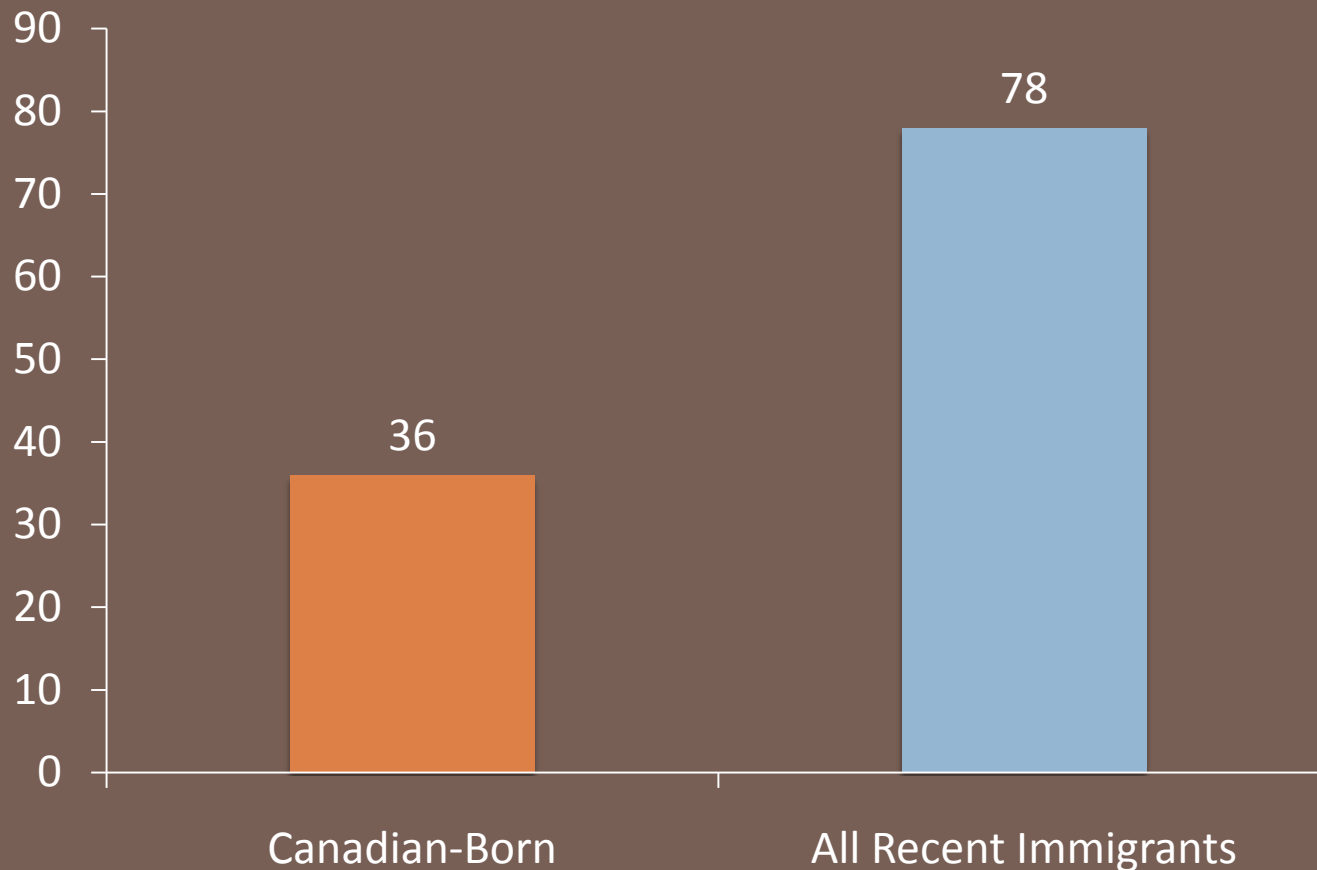
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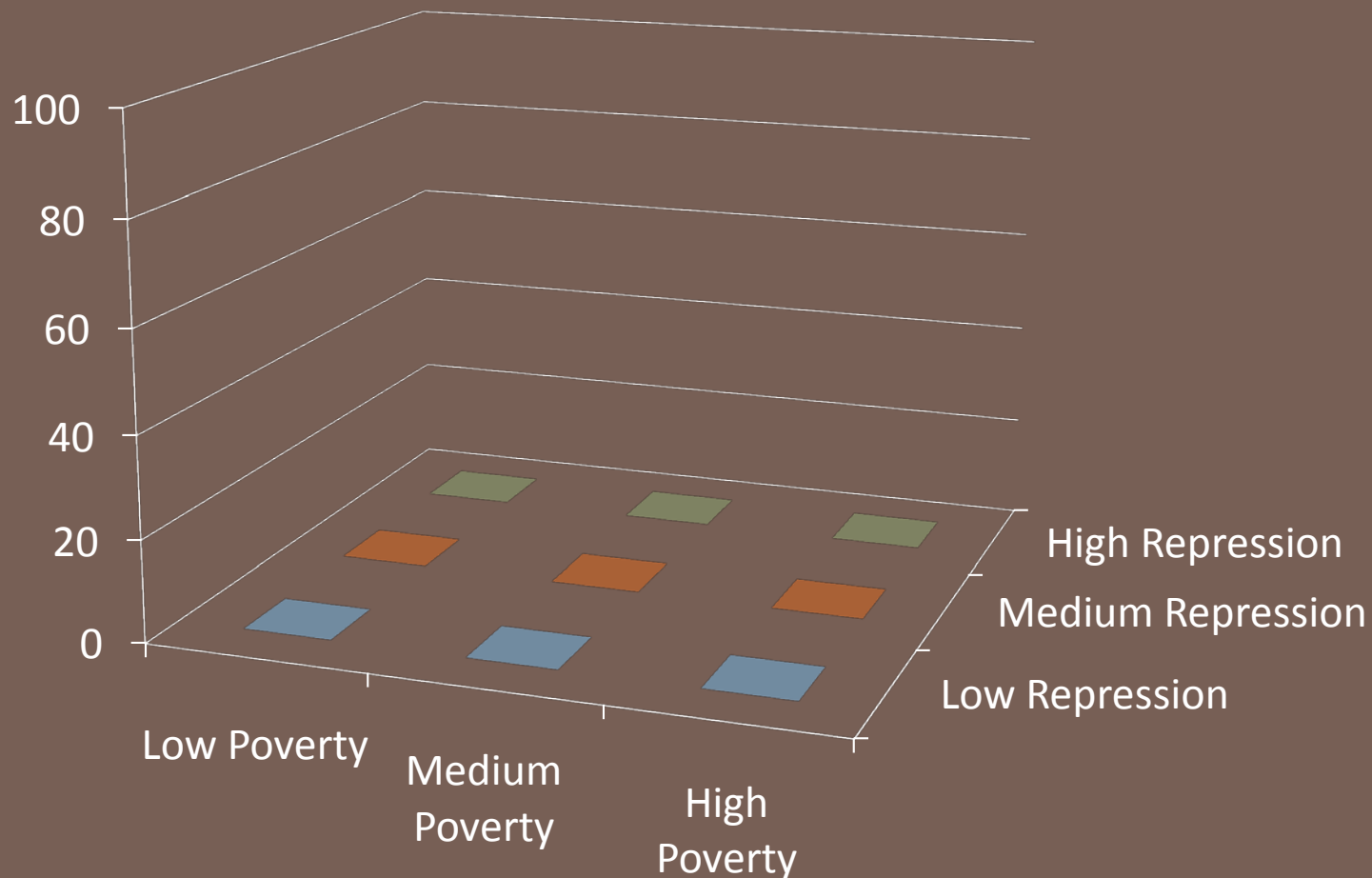
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Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada? Immigrants' Past and Confidence in Government

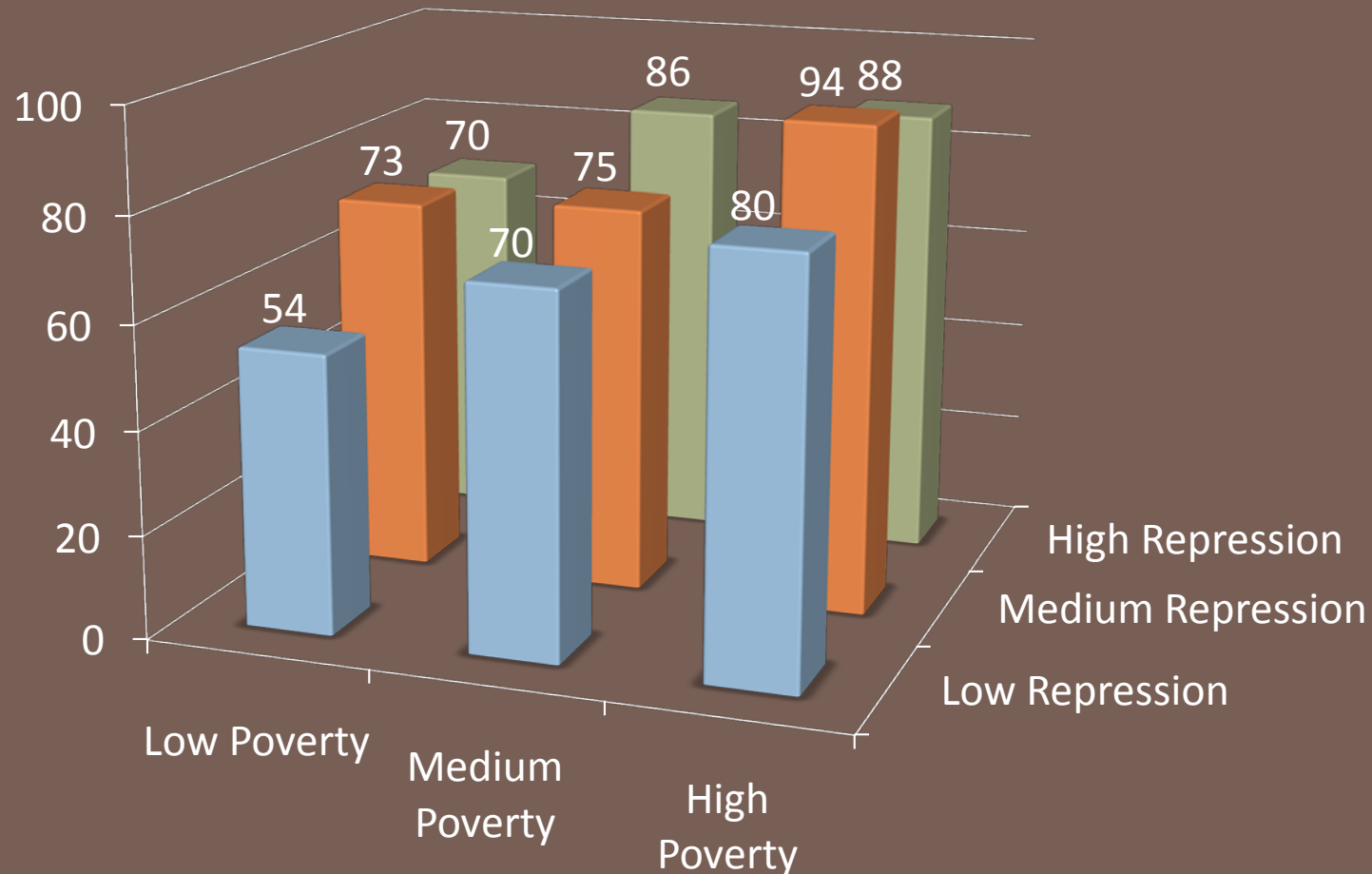
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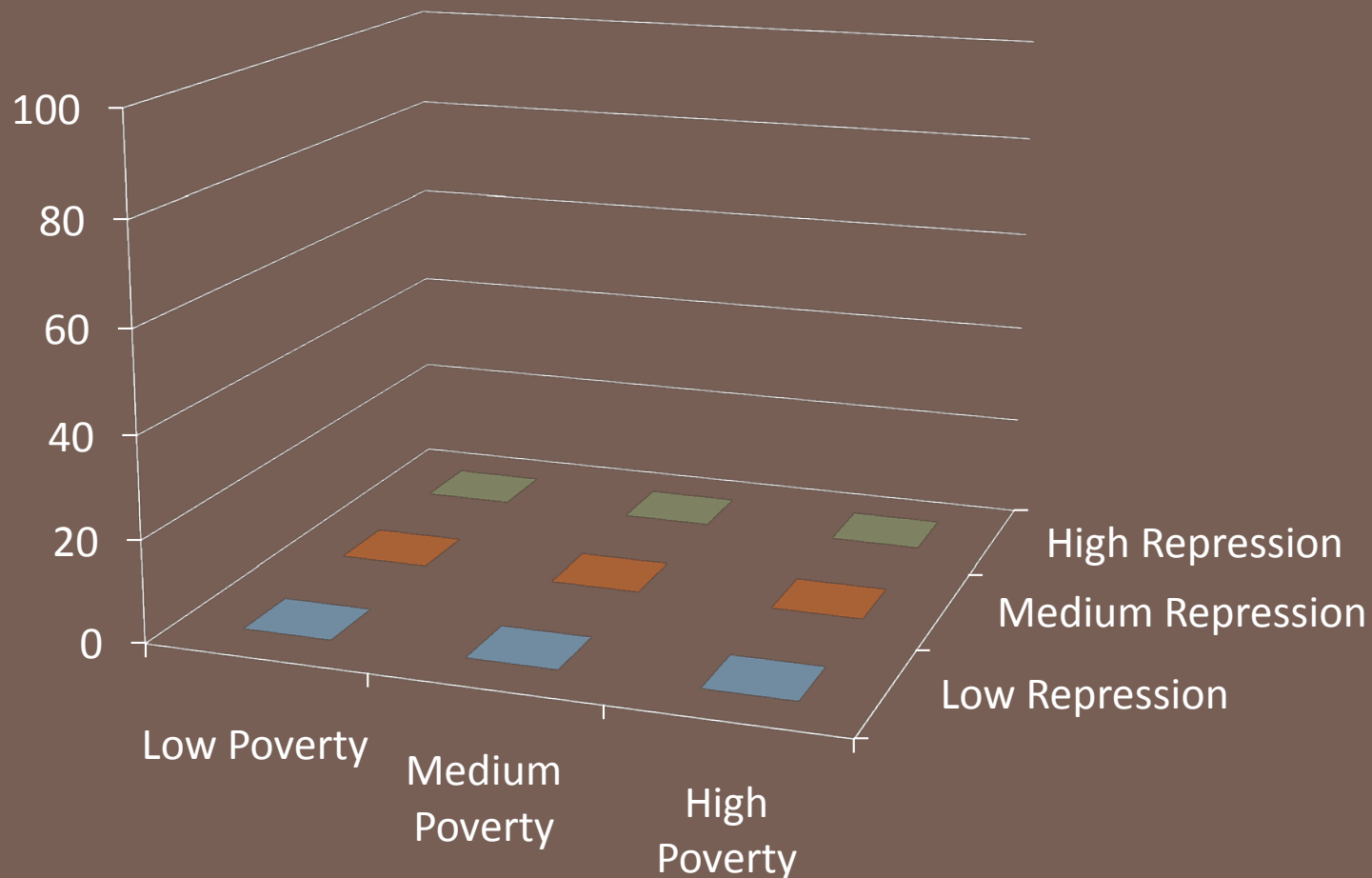
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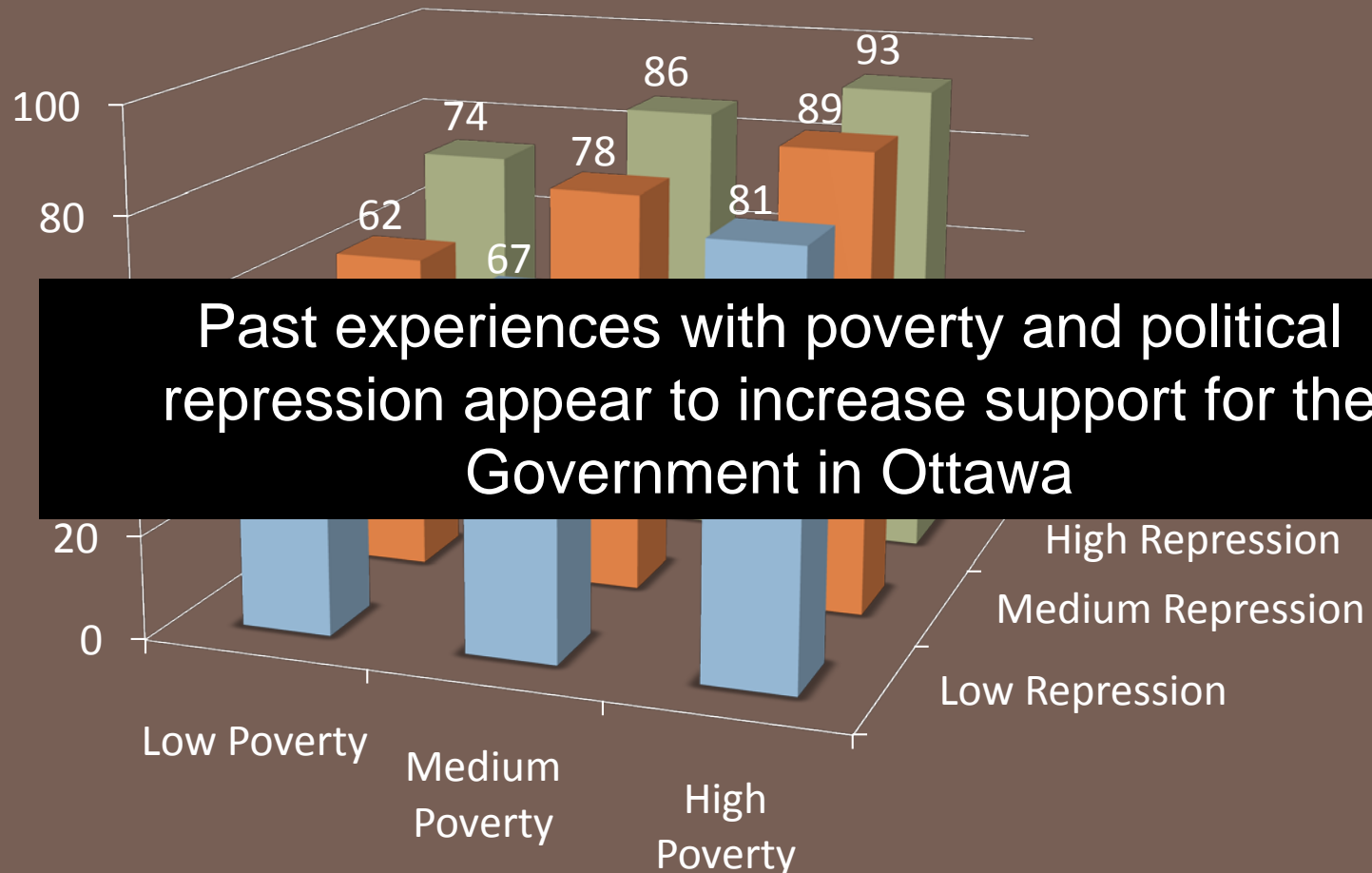
Figure 4. % expressing a 'great deal' or 'a lot' of confidence in the 'Government in Ottawa' (Predicted observations)



Source: 2006 New Immigrant Survey

Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada? Immigrants' Past and Confidence in Government

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Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

How Much Support for Canada?

Figure 5. Average score to the Canada thermometer scale

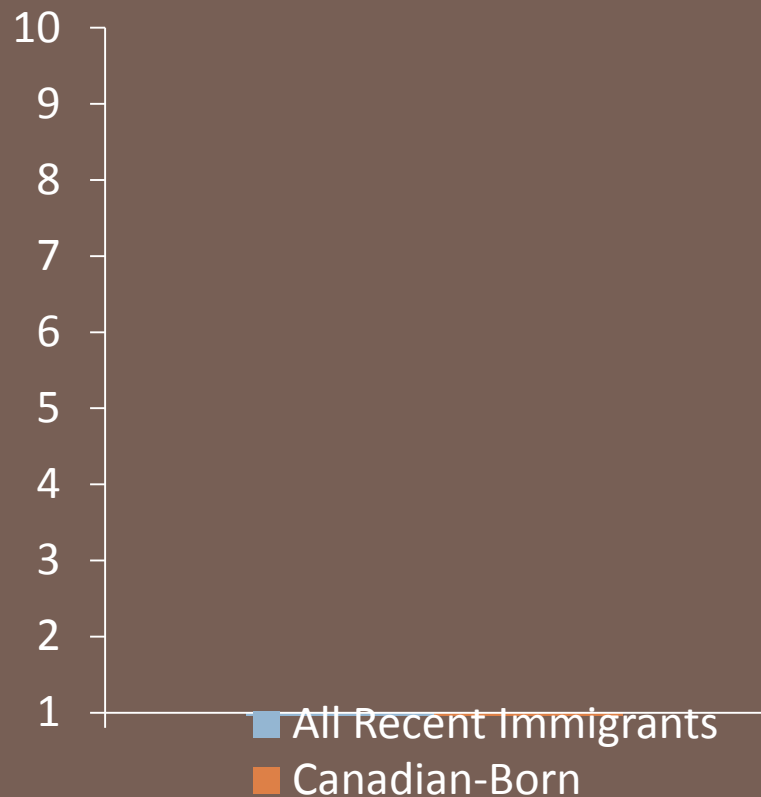
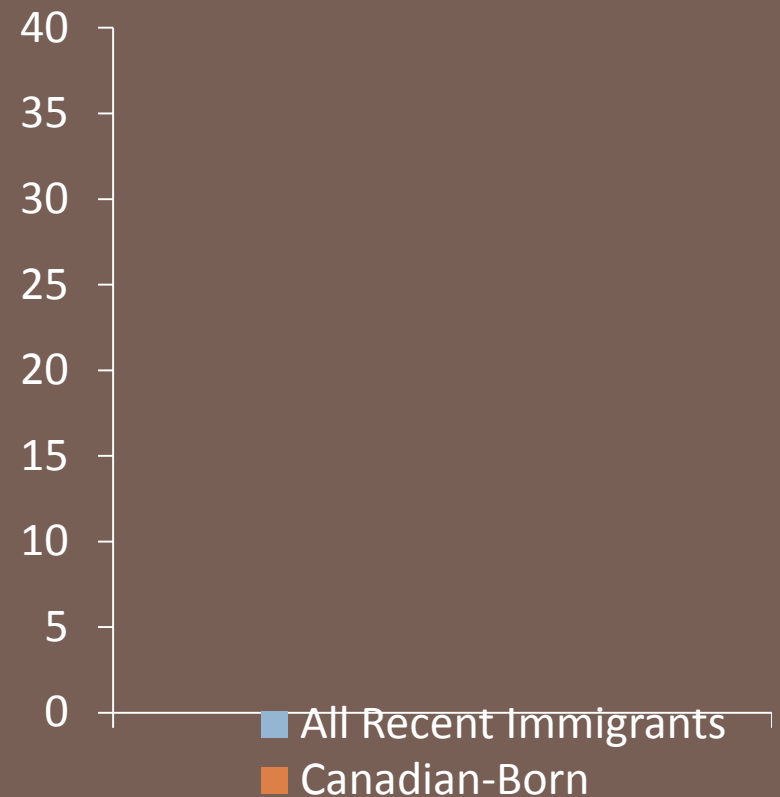


Figure 6. % expressing a score of 10 to the Canada thermometer scale



Sources: 2006 New Immigrant Survey (immigrants);
2006 Canadian Election Study (Canadian-born population)

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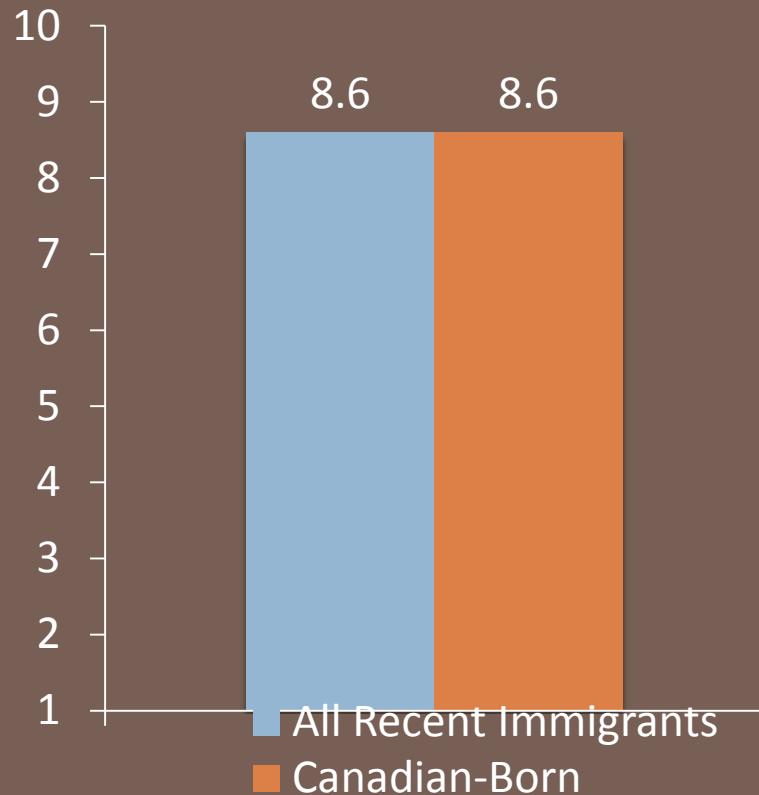
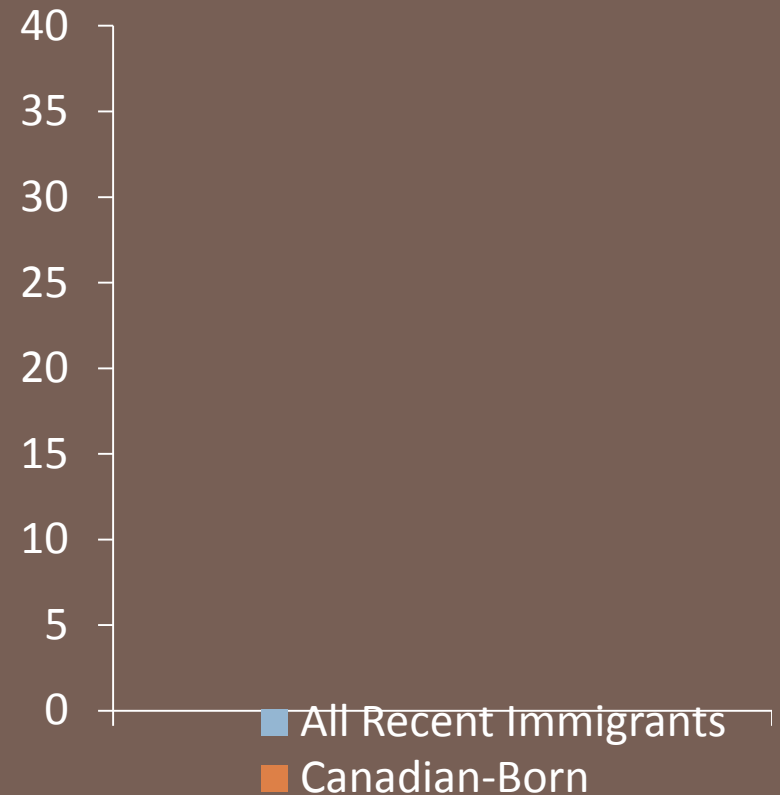


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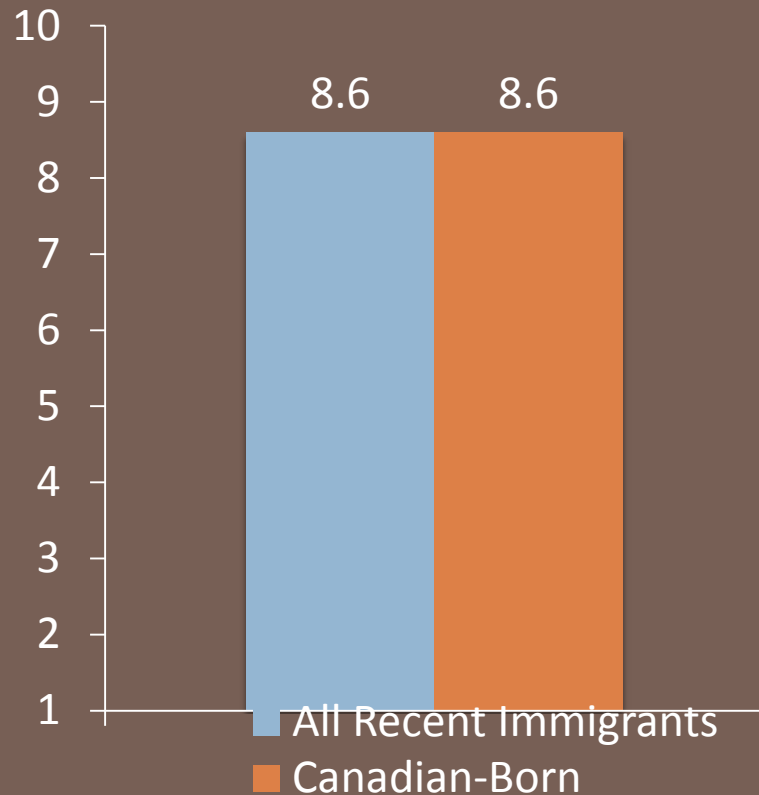
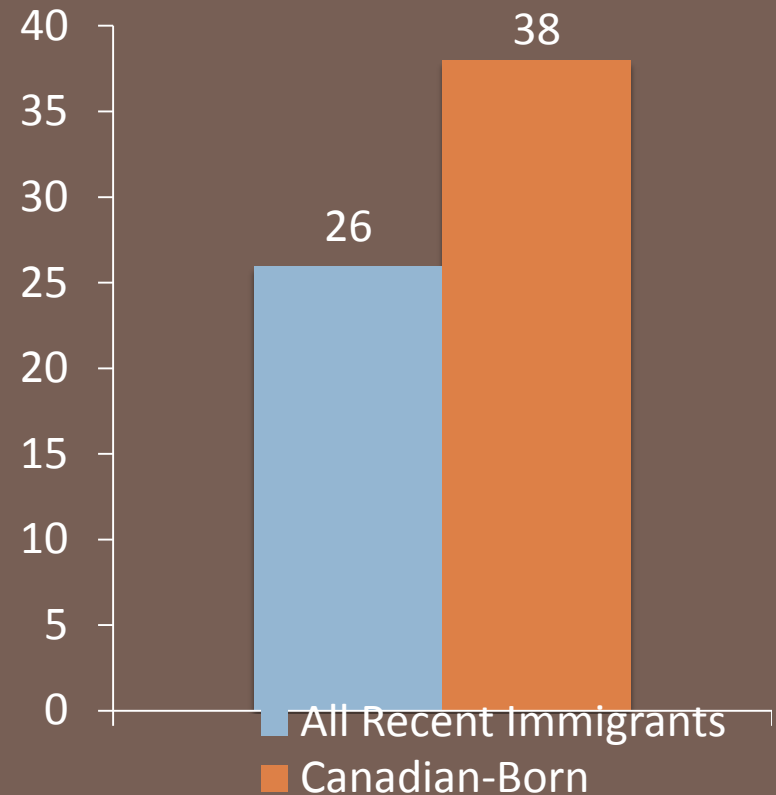


Figure 6. % expressing a score of 10 to the Canada thermometer scale

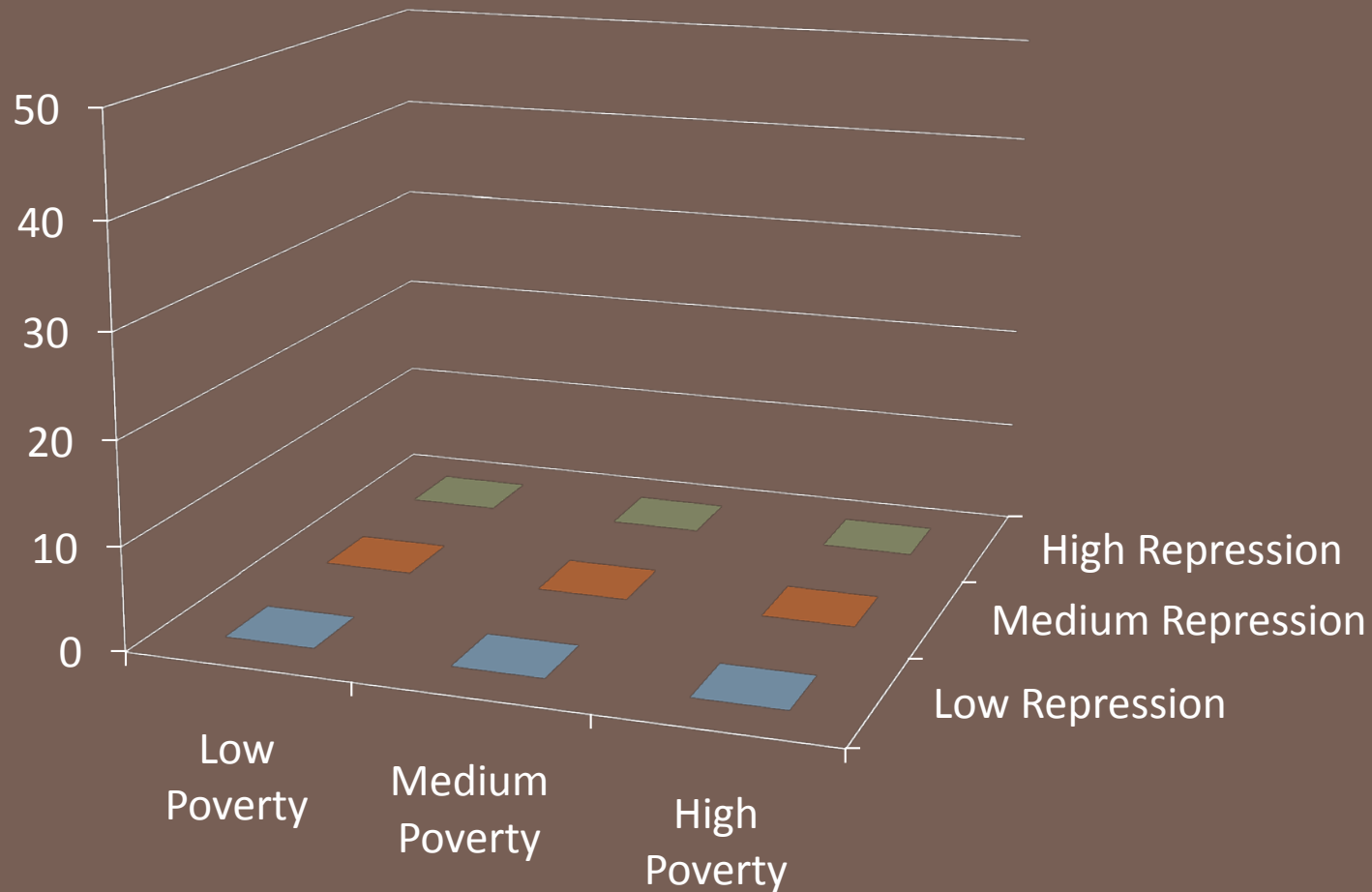


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Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

Immigrants' Past and Support for Canada

Figure 7. % expressing a score of 10 to the Canada thermometer scale



Source: 2006 New Immigrant Survey

Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

Immigrants' Past and Support for Canada

Figure 7. % expressing a score of 10 to the Canada thermometer scale

Past experiences with poverty and political repression do NOT appear to effect feelings toward Canada.



Question #2:
What is the nature of immigrants' support for Canada?



Source: 2006 New Immigrant Survey

The Nature of Political Support

- ▣ Symbolic vs. instrumental support
 - Symbolic support
 - Originates from early life socialization
 - Support for what the political system 'represents'
 - Instrumental support
 - Originates from evaluation of institutional performance
 - Support for what the political system 'does' and 'provides'

- ▣ Different objects, different support
 - Support for Canada = symbolic
 - Support for Government = instrumental

- ▣ Do theories of political support apply to immigrants?
 - No early socialization in host country
 - Points of comparison for performance evaluation

Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

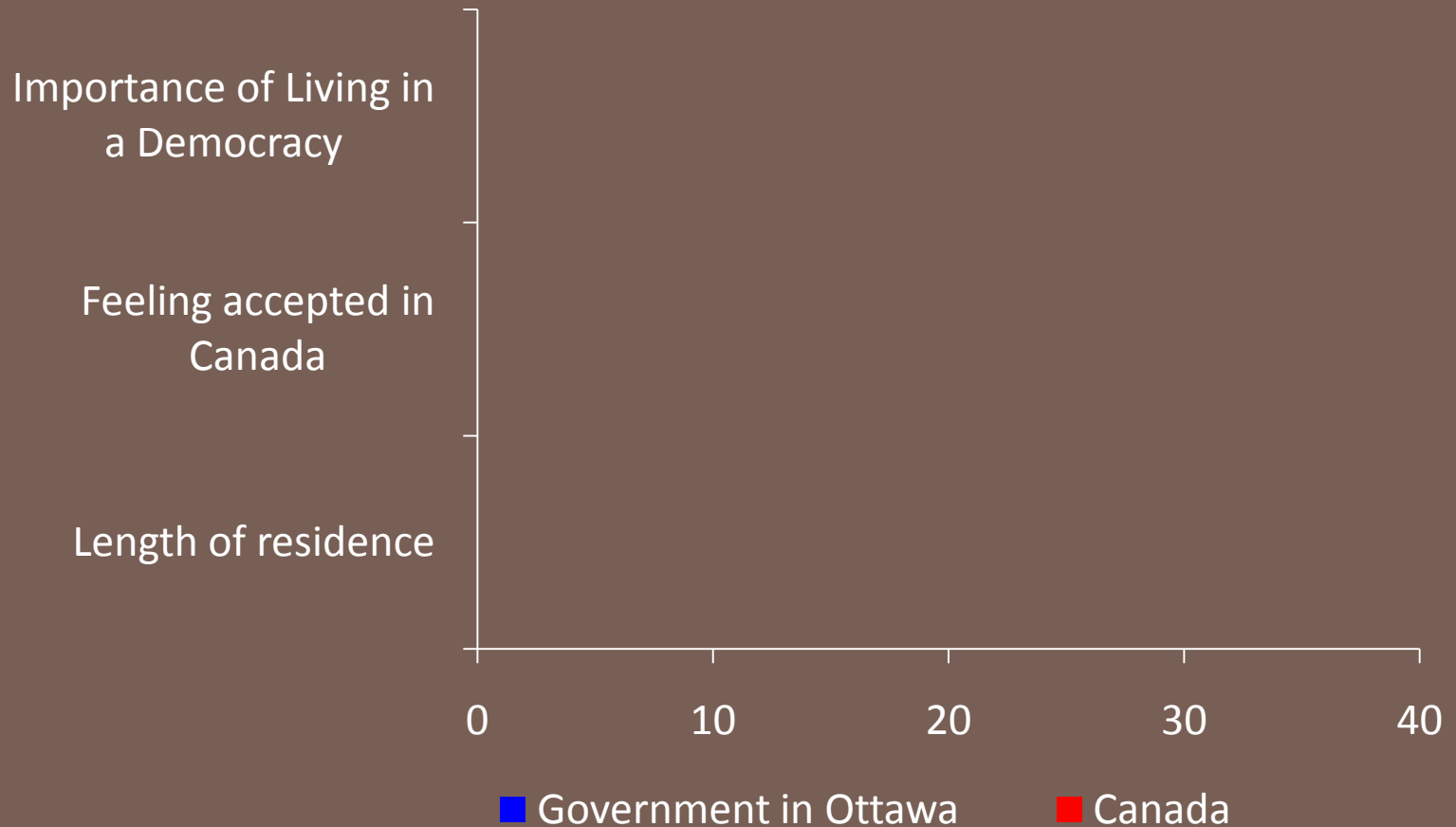
Drafting Hypotheses

- ▣ Instrumental Sources of Support among Immigrants
 - 'Economic' performance
 - Change in personal economic situation with migration
 - Future expectations of personal economic situation
 - 'Political' performance
 - Comparison of respect for human rights in Canada and in home country
 - 'Social' performance
 - Evaluation of treatment received from government & other Canadians
- ▣ Symbolic Sources of Support among Immigrants
 - Chance for a new life
 - Importance of living in a democracy
 - Belonging
 - Feeling accepted in Canada
 - Length of residence

Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

Symbolic Sources of Support

Effect on Support for Govt. in Ottawa and Canada on 0 to 100 scale

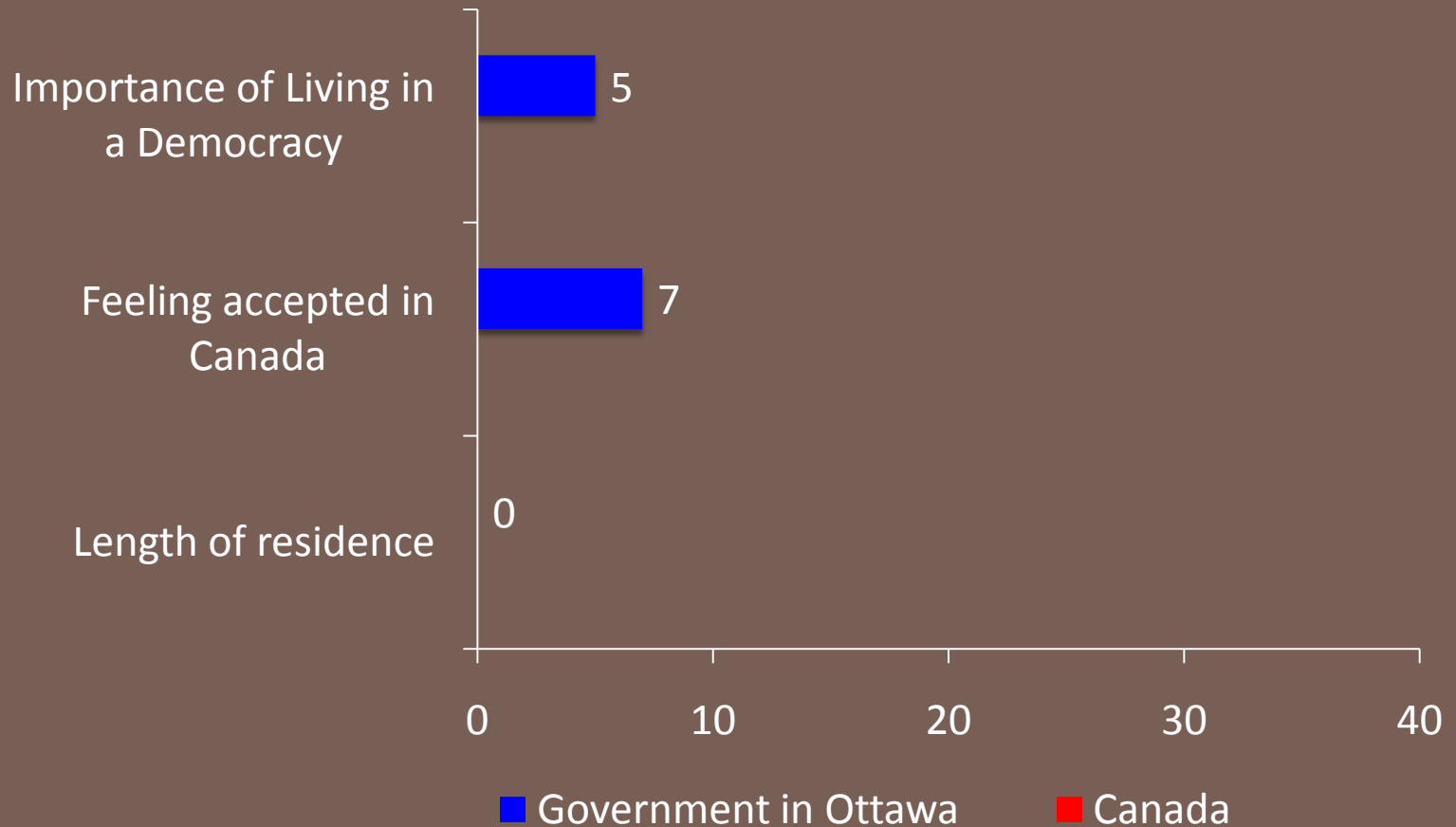


Results derived from multivariate analyses – see paper for full tables

Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

Symbolic Sources of Support

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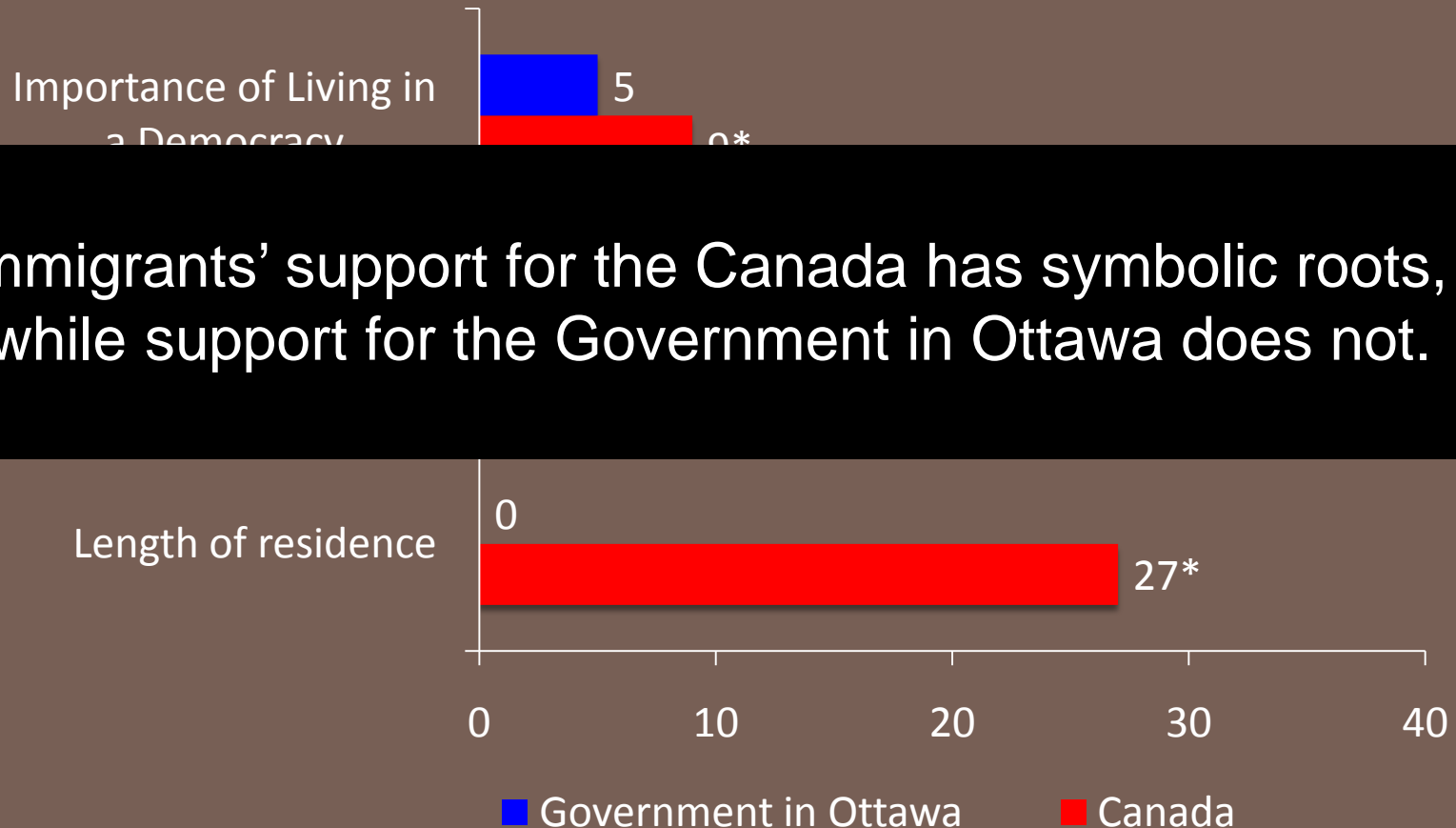


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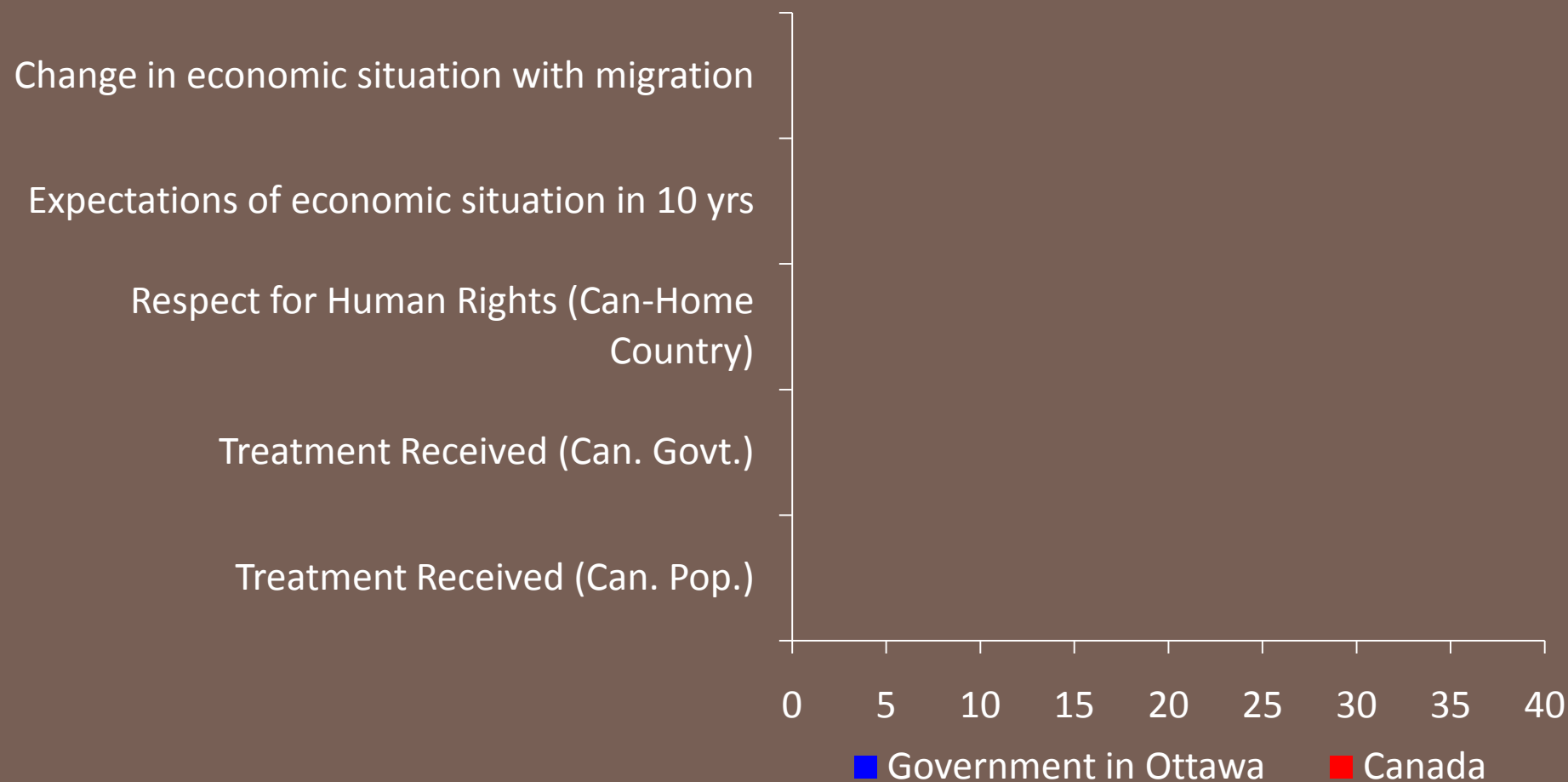


Immigrants' support for the Canada has symbolic roots, while support for the Government in Ottawa does not.

Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

Instrumental Sources of Support

Effect on Support for Govt. in Ottawa and Canada on 0 to 100 scale

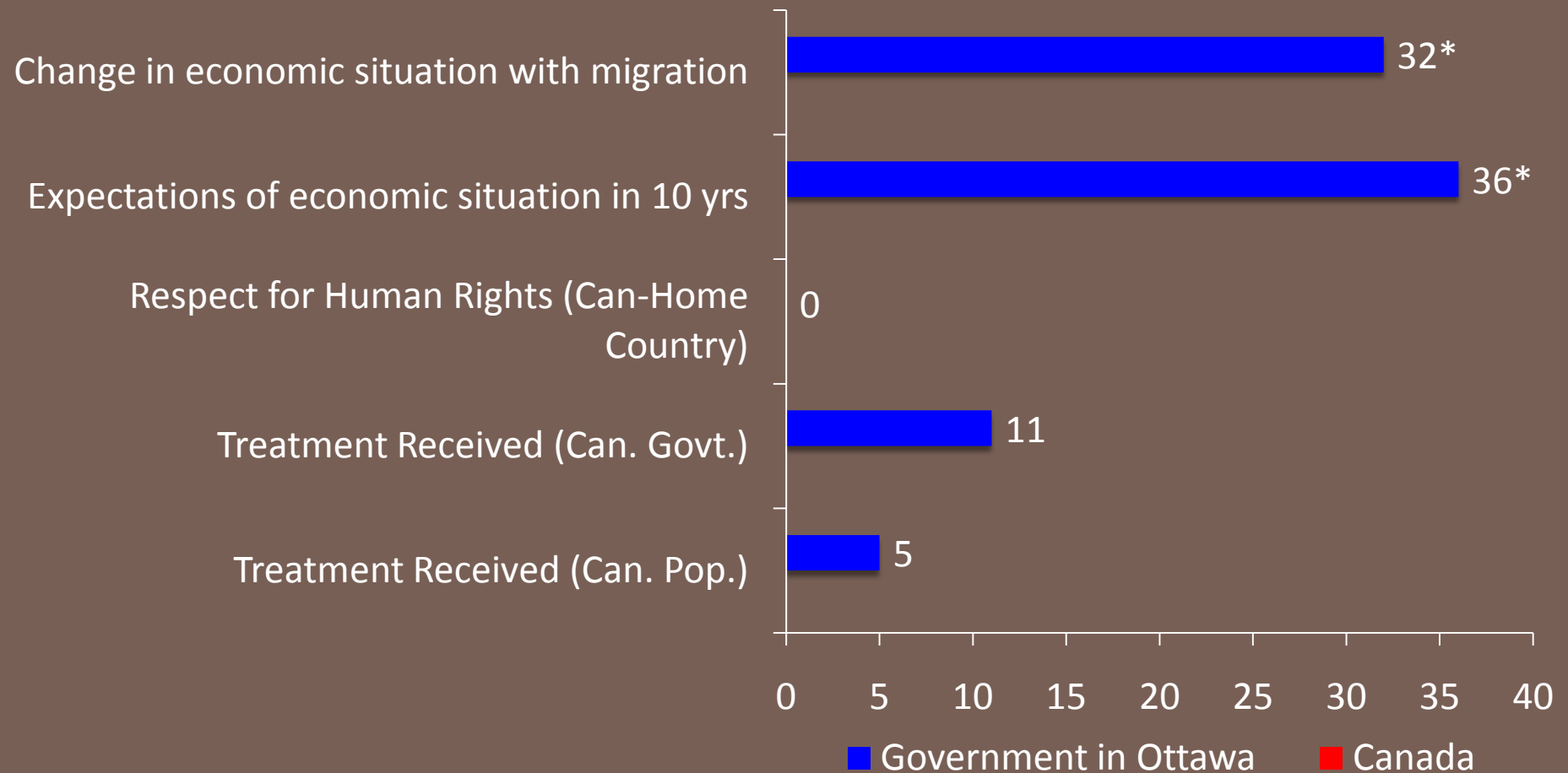


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Instrumental Sources of Support

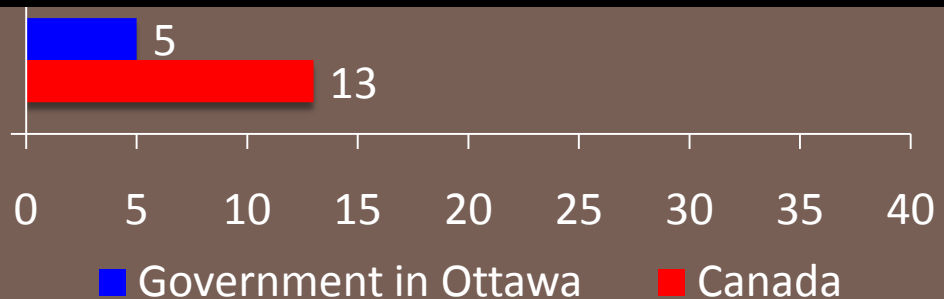
Effect on Support for Govt. in Ottawa and Canada on 0 to 100 scale



Immigrants' support for Government in Ottawa and for Canada has instrumental roots.

Instrumental roots are stronger for the Government in Ottawa than for Canada

Treatment Received (Can. Pop.)



Does immigrants' past shape support for Canada?

Concluding Remarks

□ Question 1:

- Immigrants from poor and repressive countries have higher levels of support for the Government in Ottawa
- Immigrants' past shapes their support for the government, not their support for Canada

□ Question 2:

- Immigrants' support for the Government in Ottawa has instrumental roots
- Immigrants' support for Canada has instrumental and symbolic roots
- Feeling accepted in Canada is a key condition of support for Canada
 - Need to ensure immigrants feel welcome; not outsiders
- Economic integration is a key condition of support
 - Need to address enduring economic inequalities

The Development of Dual Loyalties among Immigrants?

Why ask the question?

- ▣ Regionalism is a central feature of Canadian politics
 - LaSelva (1996): “will to live together” and a “will to live apart”
- ▣ Immigration & regionalism in Canadian history
 - What impact of contemporary immigration on regionalism?
- ▣ Canadians handle dual loyalties reasonably well
- ▣ Questions:
 - How do immigrants handle these dual loyalties?
 - Are newcomers more federally or provincially oriented?
 - What impact of new Canadians on regional dynamics of political loyalties?

The Development of Dual Loyalties among Immigrants?

Provincial versus Federal Poles of Loyalties

- Two possible dynamics in the developments of loyalties
 - **Provincial-level learning**
 - People develop attitudes consistent with the majority opinion that surrounds them daily (Huckfeldt et al., 1998)
 - Immigrants adopt loyalties that mirror those of the population within their respective provinces
 - **Federal-level learning**
 - Different values, priorities, and social networks for immigrants
 - immigrants may be more inclined to develop federal loyalties
 - Multiculturalism policy validates immigrants' cultural identity and characteristics and also lowers the cost of fitting in
 - The symbolic value of policy of multiculturalism

Study Design and Data

▣ Data used for the investigations

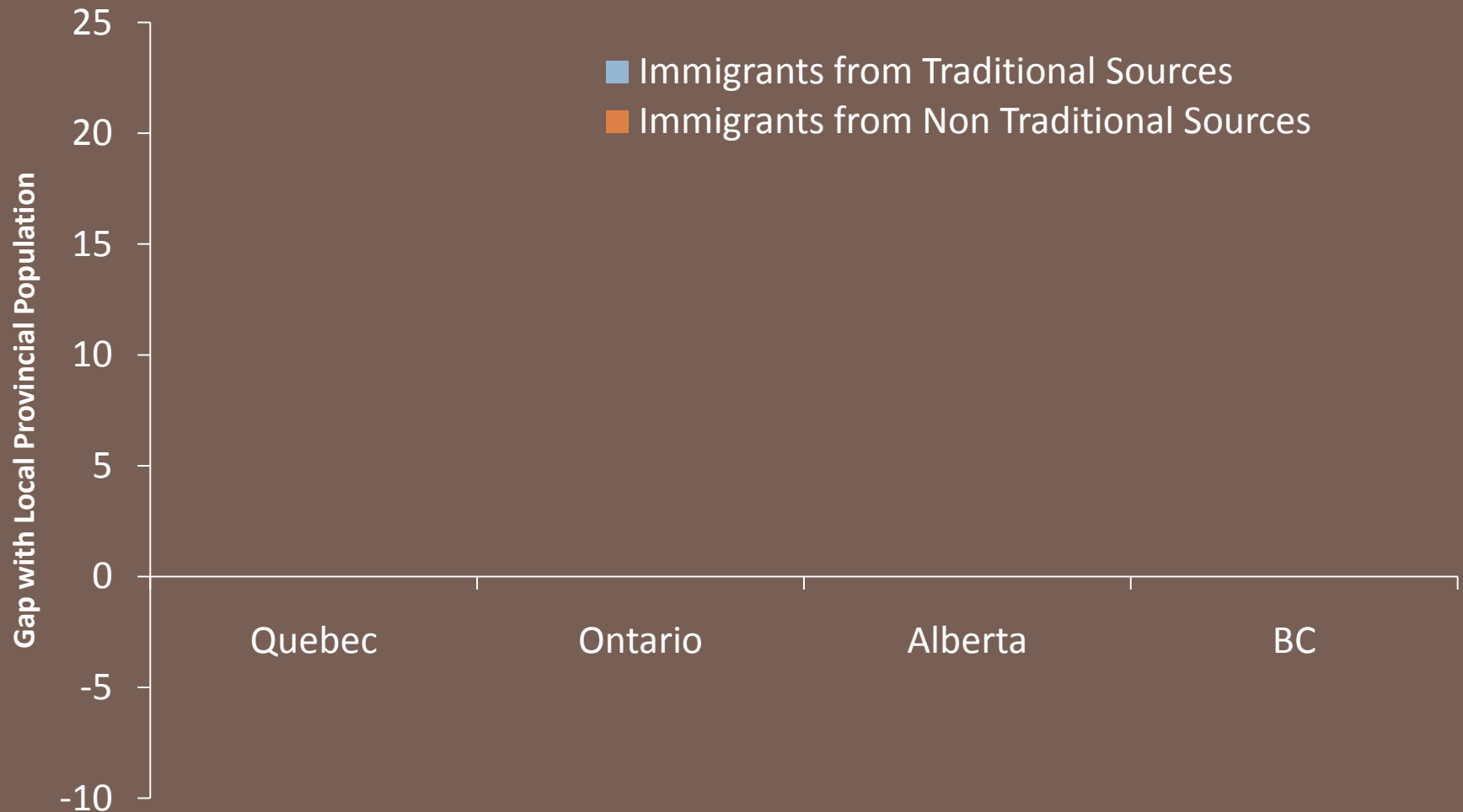
- 1993, 1997, 2000, 2004 and 2006 Canadian Election Studies
- Immigrants in Canada for on average more than 25 years
- Immigrants in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia
- Traditional sources vs. Non traditional sources of immigrants

▣ Four dimensions of loyalties

- Stronger feelings toward Canada or the province of residence
- Greater confidence in the govt. in Ottawa or in the province
- Perception of treatment received by province from federal govt.
- Vote for the Liberal Party of Canada

The Development of Dual Loyalties among Immigrants? Differences between Immigrants and Local Population (1/4)

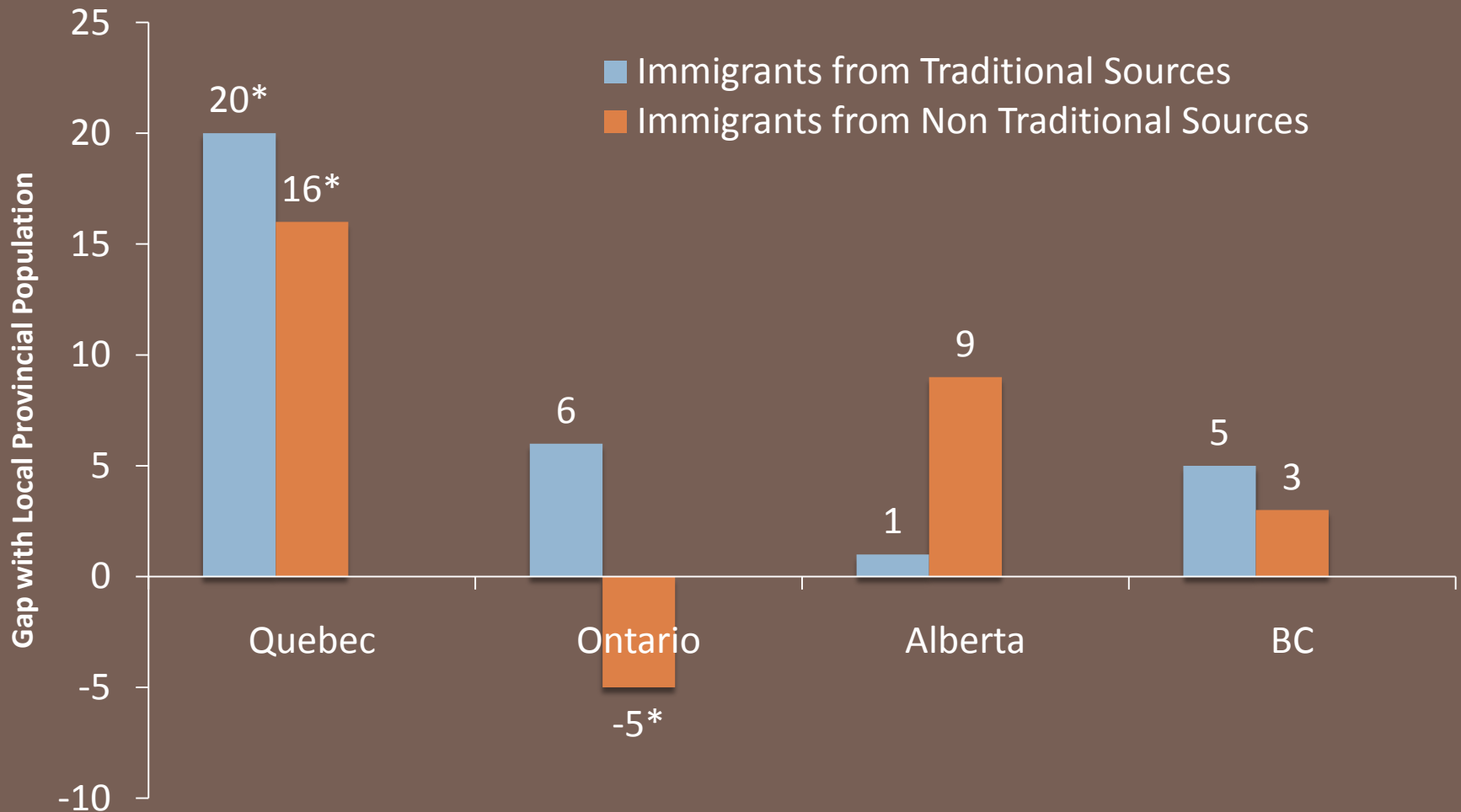
% Expressing Stronger Support for Canada than for Province



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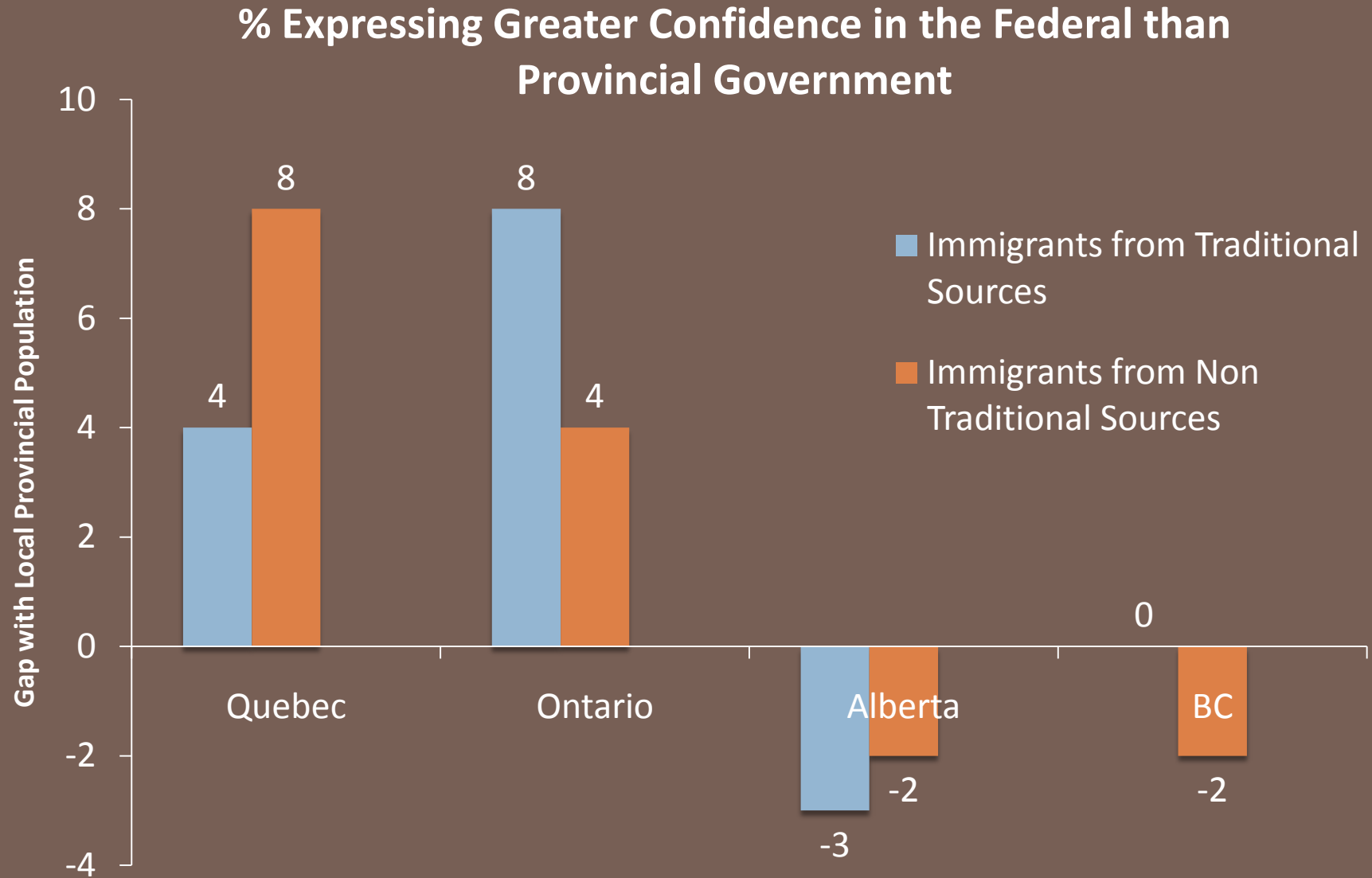
The Development of Dual Loyalties among Immigrants?

Differences between Immigrants and Local Population (2/4)



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The Development of Dual Loyalties among Immigrants? Differences between Immigrants and Local Population (2/4)

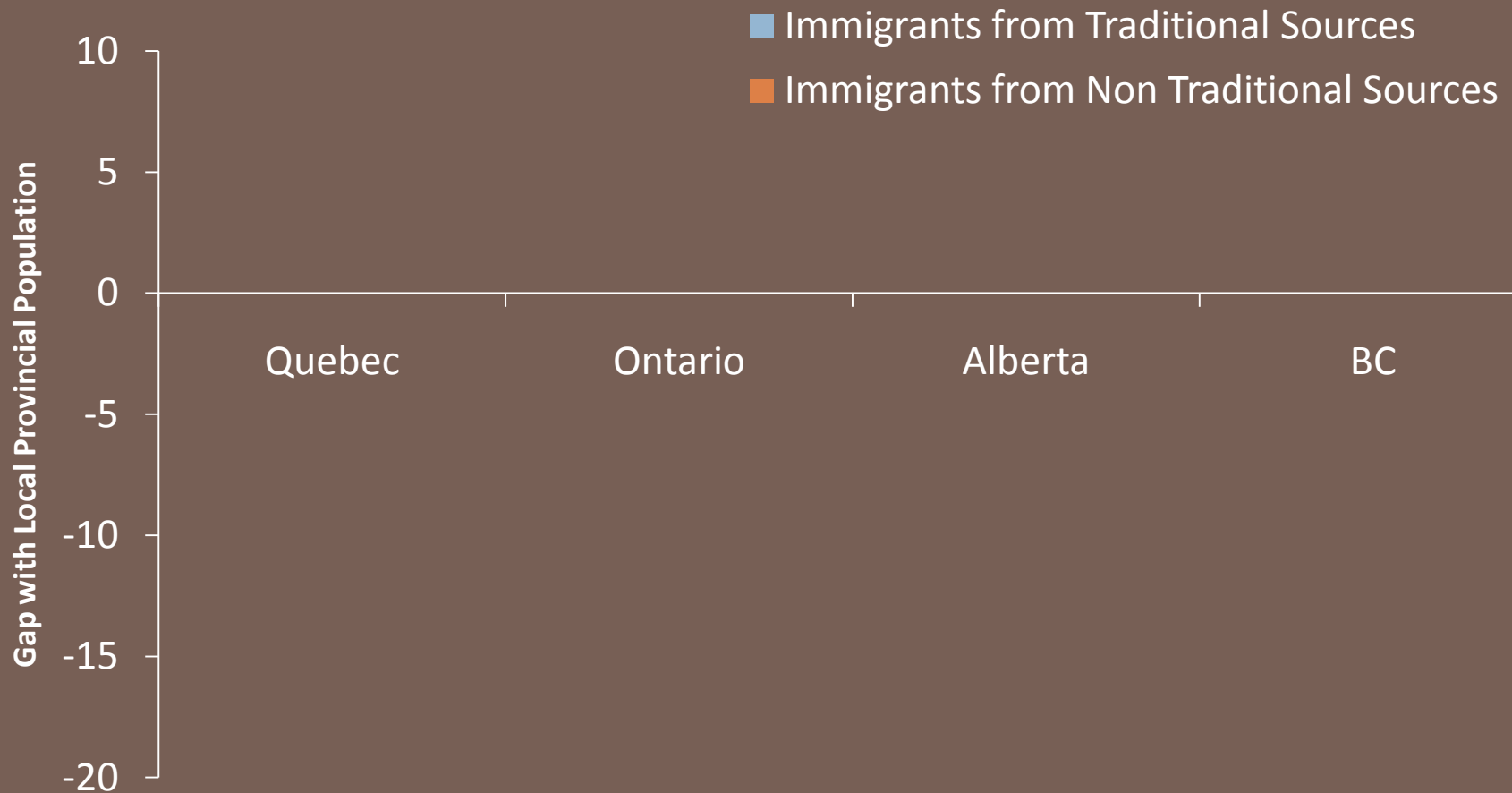


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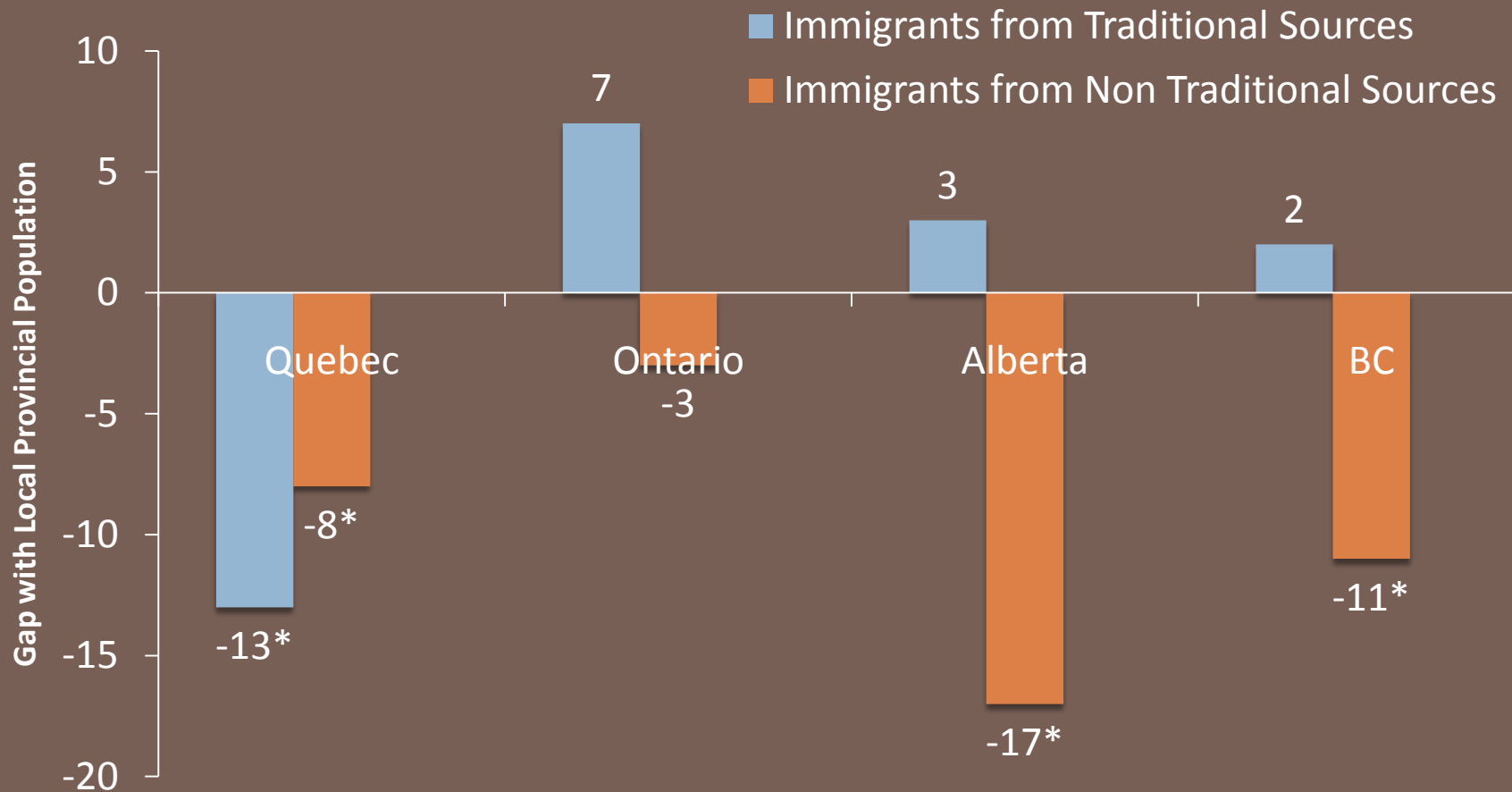
Differences between Immigrants and Local Population (3/4)

% Believing Their Province is Treated Worse than Others



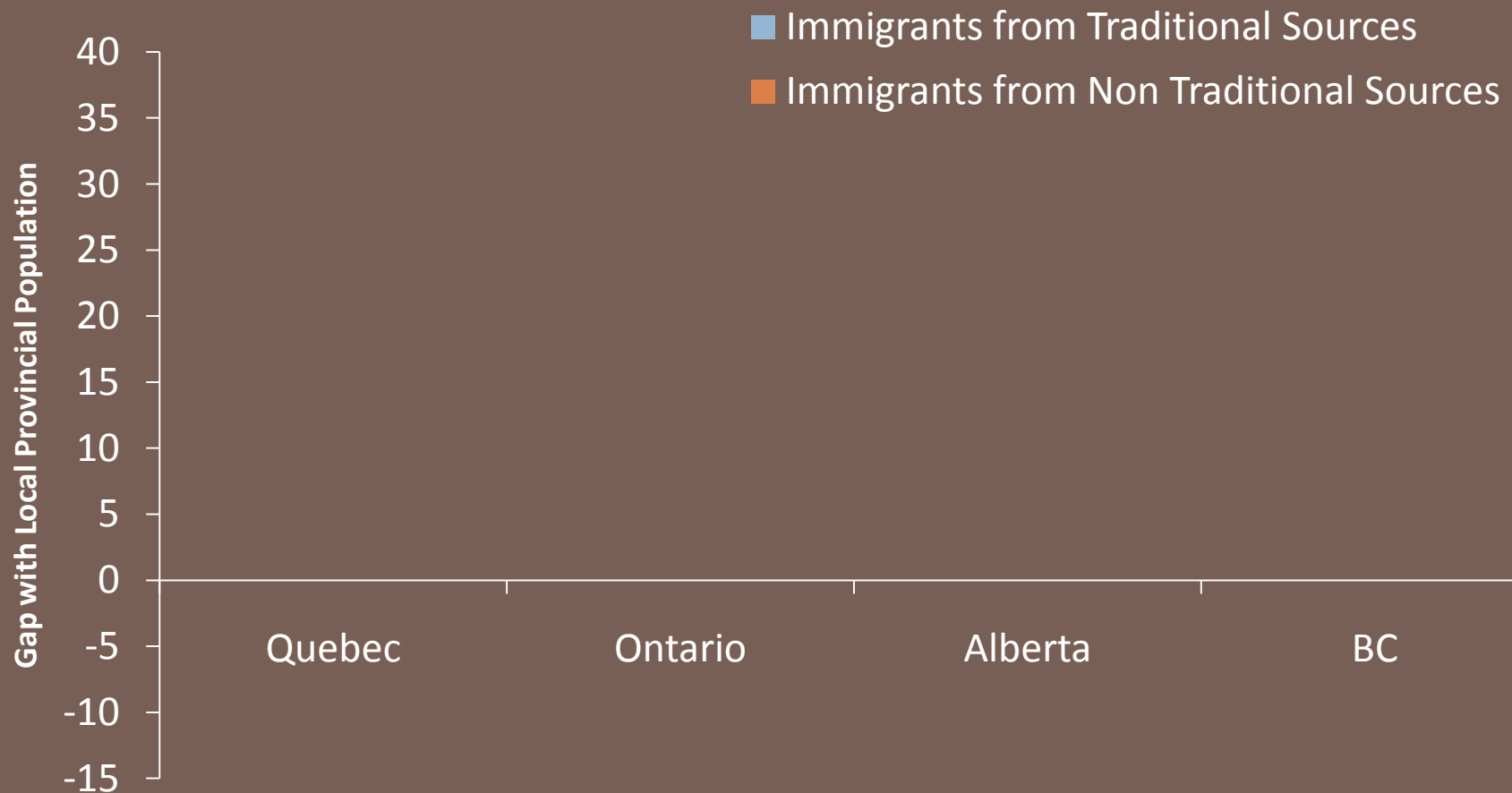
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The Development of Dual Loyalties among Immigrants? Differences between Immigrants and Local Population (4/4)

% Voting for the Liberal Party of Canada



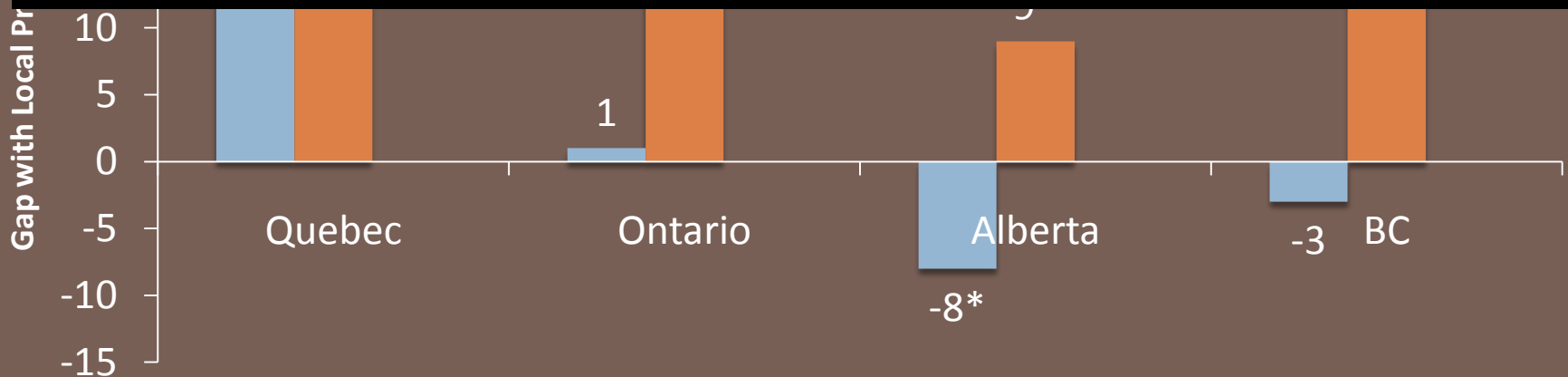
Sources: 1993-2006 Canadian Election Studies

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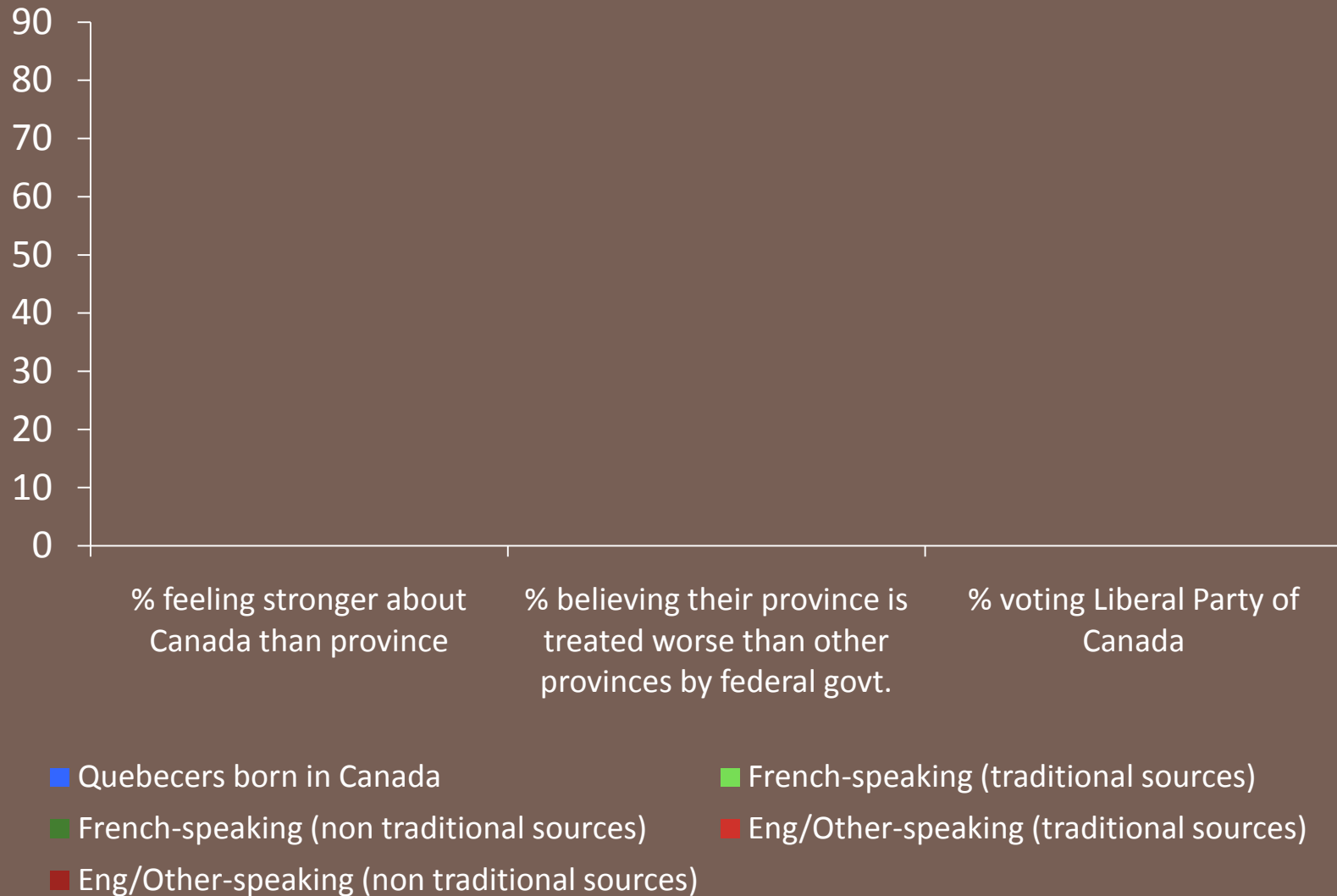
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Overall, immigrants in Quebec appear least likely to conform to prevailing regional patterns of loyalties

Why is this the case?

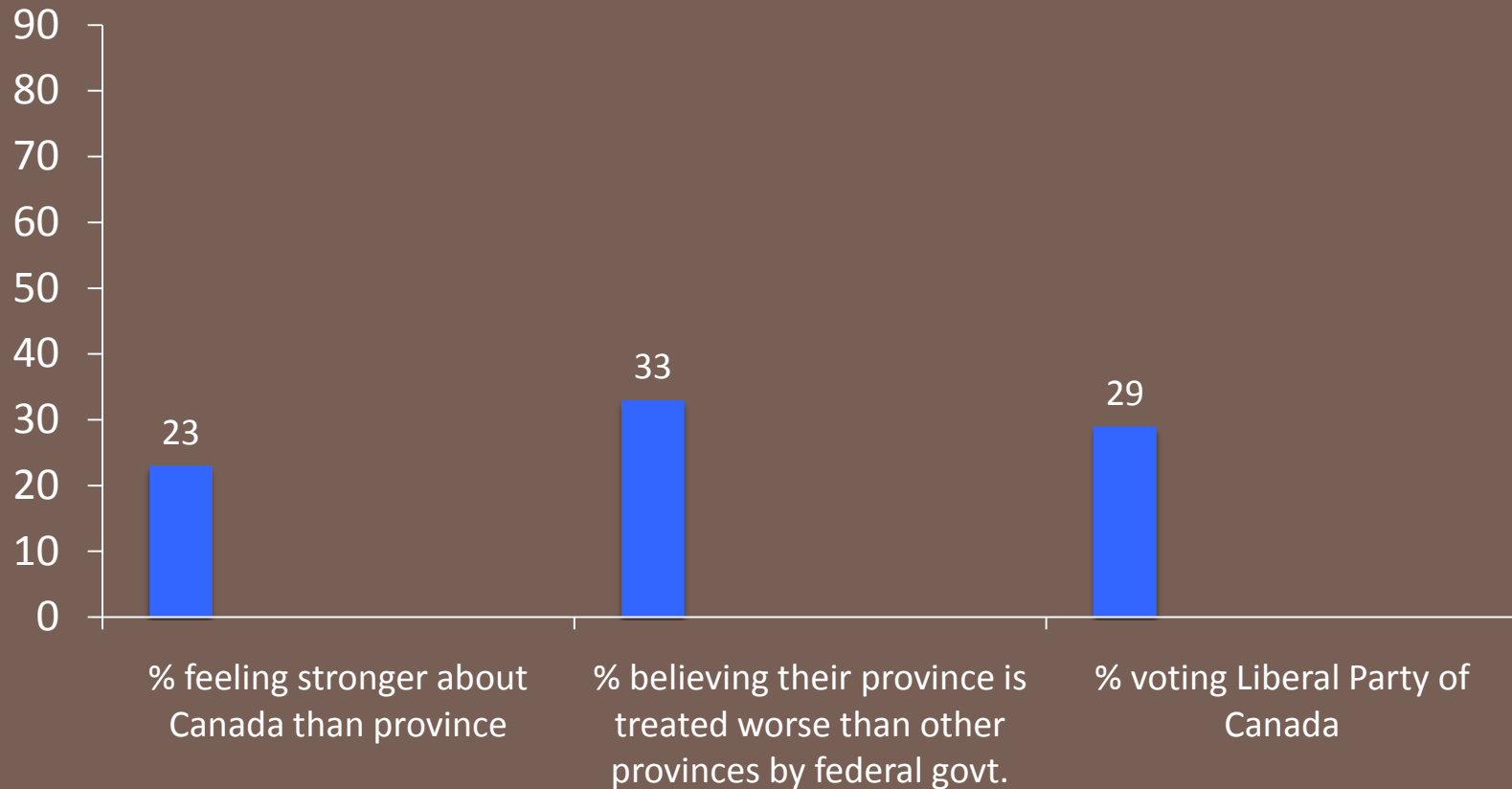


The Development of Dual Loyalties among Immigrants? The Path of Linguistic Integration in Quebec



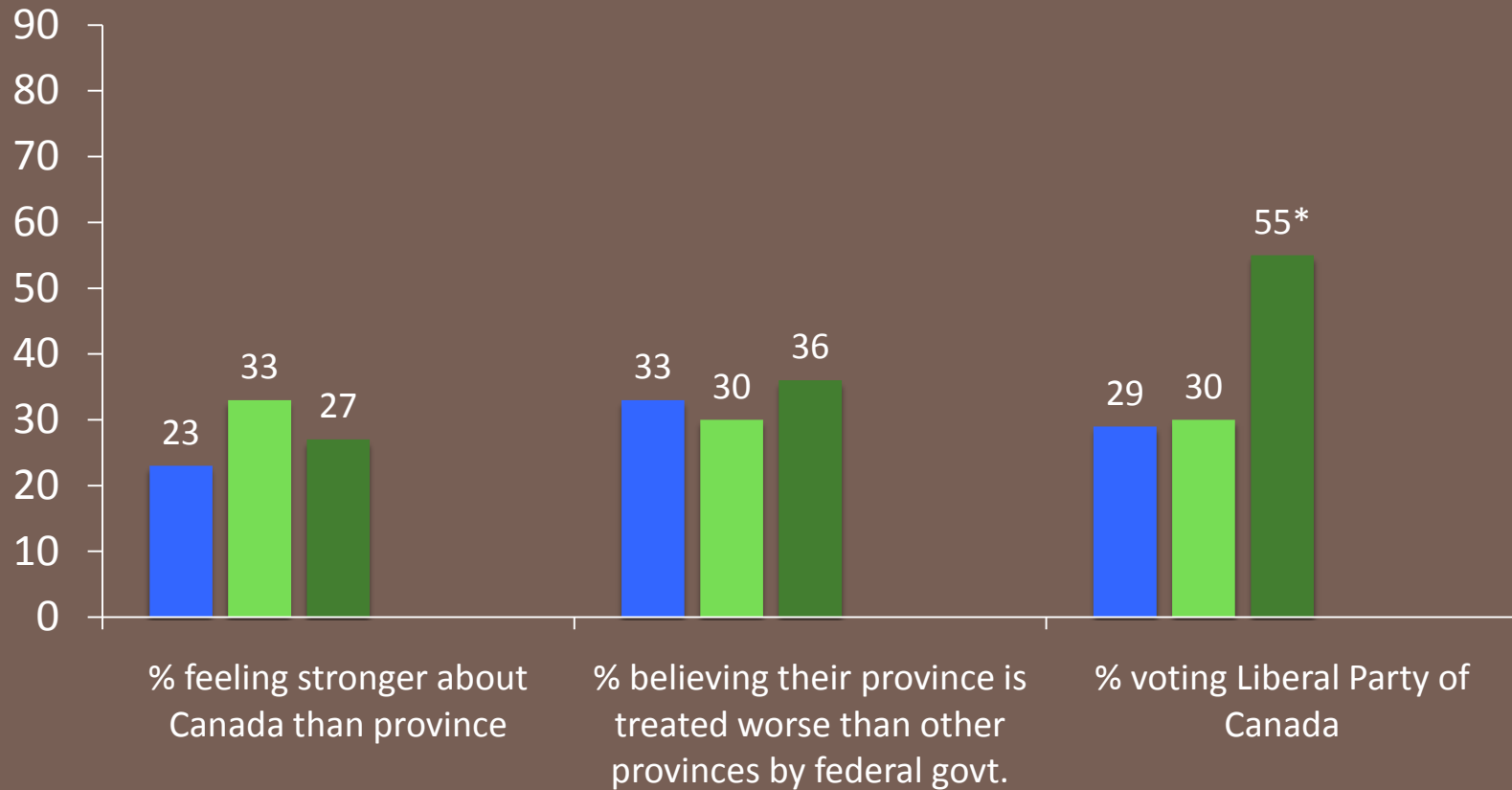
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The Development of Dual Loyalties among Immigrants? The Path of Linguistic Integration in Quebec



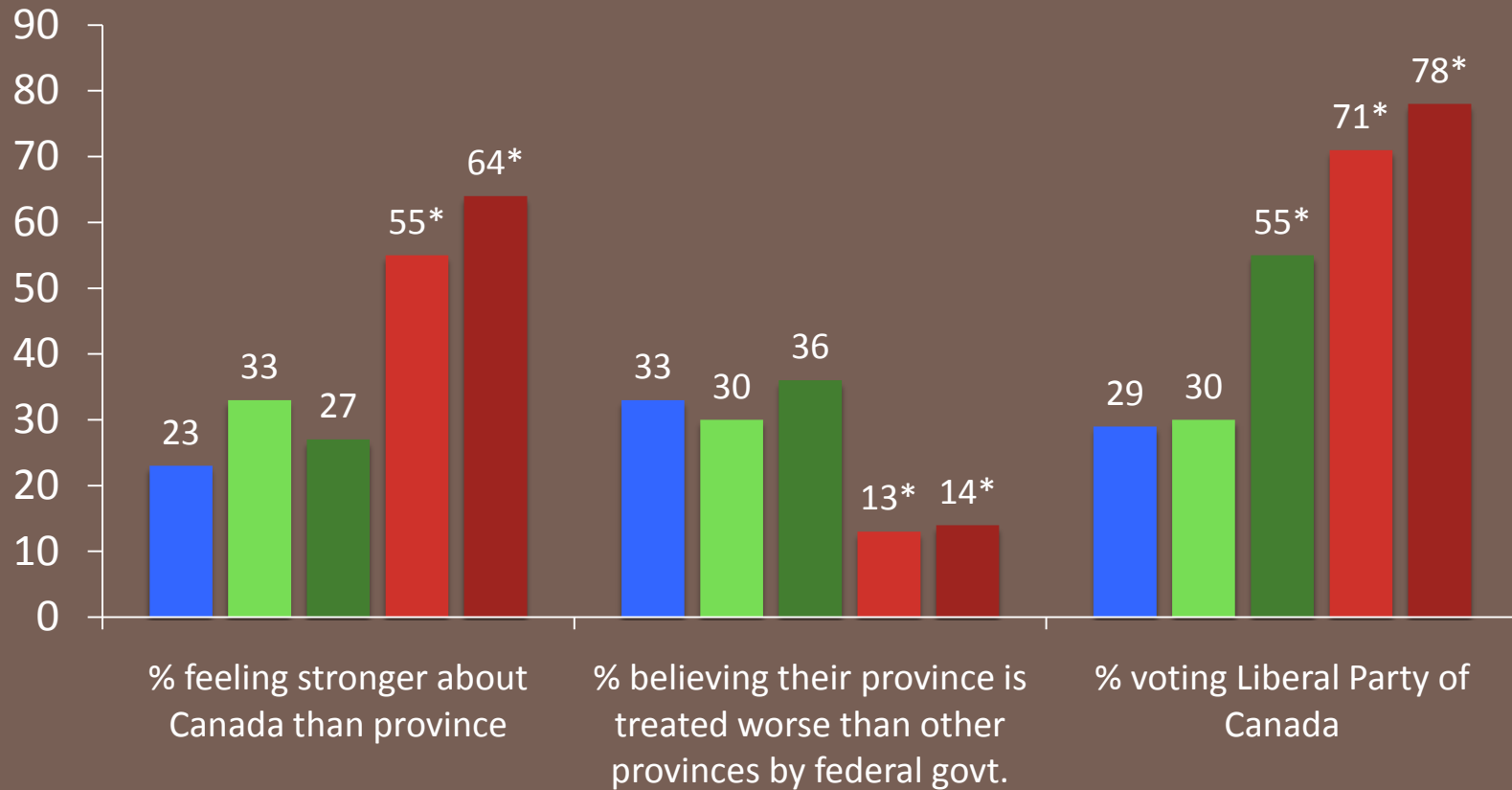
- Quebecers born in Canada
- French-speaking (traditional sources)
- French-speaking (non traditional sources)
- Eng/Other-speaking (traditional sources)
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The Development of Dual Loyalties among Immigrants? The Path of Linguistic Integration in Quebec



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- Quebecers born in Canada
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Concluding Remarks

- ▣ How do immigrants handle these dual loyalties?
 - Immigrants develop both provincial and federal loyalties

- ▣ Are newcomers more federally or provincially oriented?
 - Immigrants, especially from non-traditional source countries, are somewhat more federally oriented than the local population of their province of residence
 - The differences are especially pronounced in Quebec.
 - Immigrants in Quebec appear to develop political loyalties following a path of linguistic integration
 - Caution: subsamples very small!

- ▣ Do immigrants transform regional dynamics of loyalties?
 - Immigrants appear to weakly soften regional cleavage in loyalties
 - But is there acculturation with length of residence?

DOES IMMIGRANTS' PAST SHAPE SUPPORT FOR CANADA?

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THANK YOU

For more information please contact:

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