



SCHEDA DI APPROFONDIMENTO N° 33

Canadian Immigration Policy: Toward Designer Immigrants?

Monica Boyd

**Canada Research Chair and Professor of Sociology
University of Toronto**

A cura di Sisifo Italia - Ufficio Stampa MIM

*Responsabile: Giuseppe Lanzi, 335.66.98.734 giuseppelanzi@scalabrini.net
Email: development@scalabrini.net WEB www.meetingloreto.it www.sisifoitalia.it
infoline: 071.7500256 – Fax 071.7501972*



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DEVELOPMENT AND A GLOBALIZED WORLD

- **Stimulates migration (supply)**
 - **Job seekers**
 - **Security seekers**
- **Interconnections among
destination countries (demand)**
Trade, immigration policies

IMMIGRATION

Goals

- **Securing borders**
- **Selecting immigrants**

Actions

- **Learning from policies**
- **Harmonization of policies**

**Like many countries, Canada
is moving in the direction of
“designer immigrants”**

- selecting the best**
- discarding the lower
end**

Controlling humanitarian flows

- **Border security**
- **Safe third country agreement with USA**

Increasing Labour Immigration

- **High Skill**

CANADA

**Immigration part of nation
building objectives**

**demographic
economic**

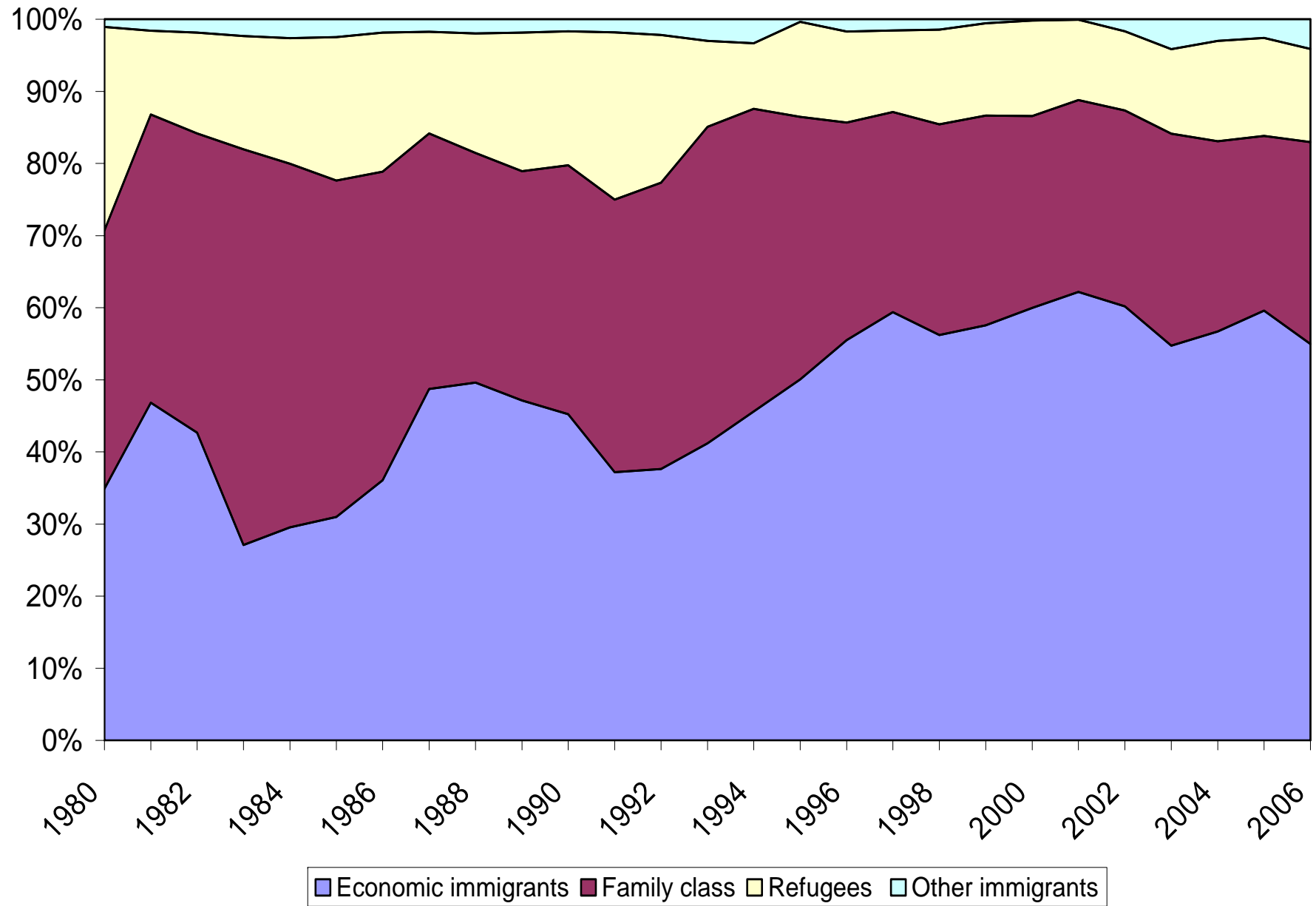
Canada's 3 pillars

- **Family Reunification**
- **Economic Contribution**
- **Humanitarian**

Immigration (permanent residents) between 1980-2005

- 34% Family Class**
- 49% Economic Class**
- 15% Humanitarian Class**

Permanent Residents by Category of Admission, 1980 to 2006, Canada



Numbers of humanitarian admissions increasing over time

Early 1980s - around 14,000 per year

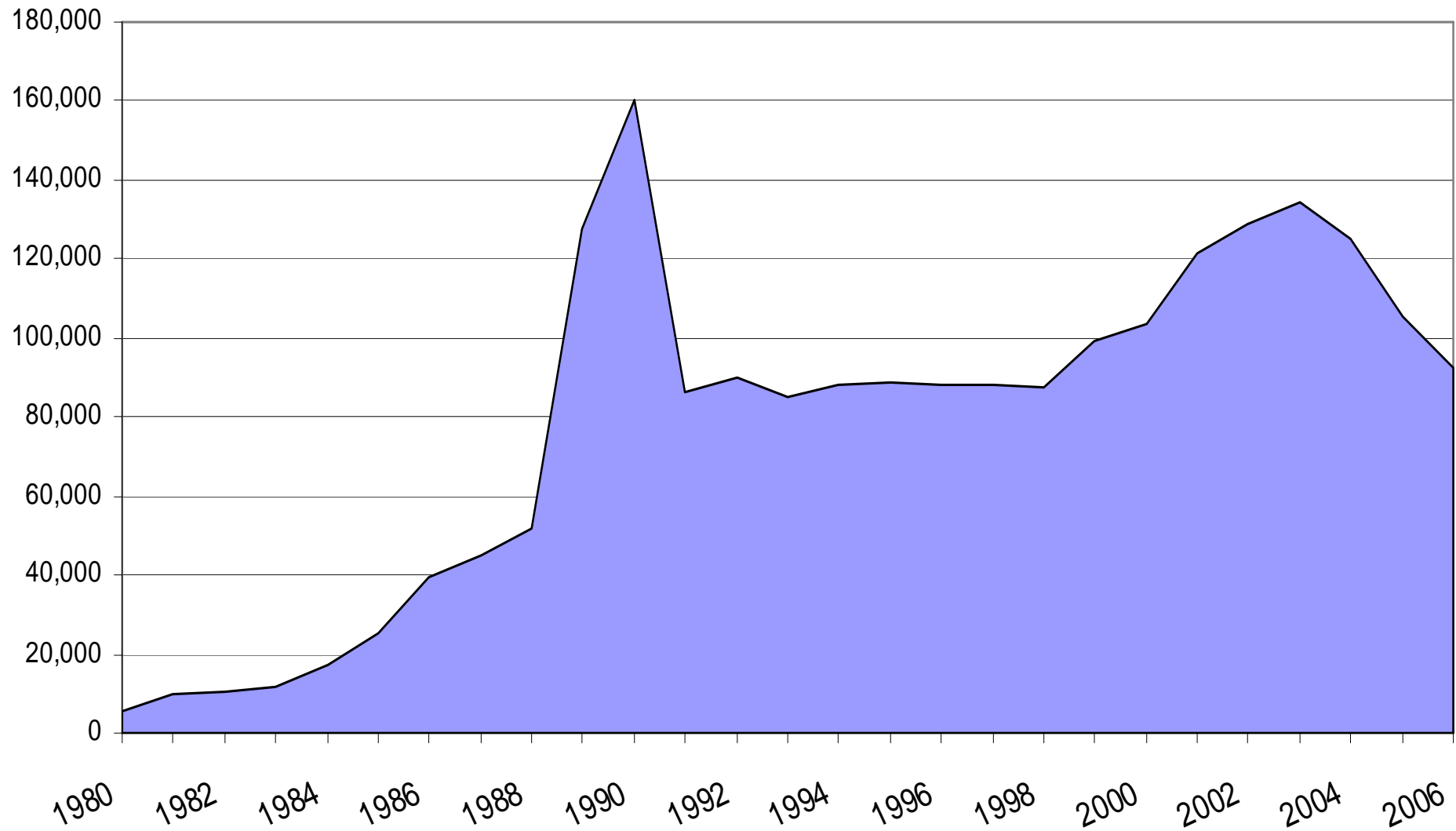
By 1991, approximately 50,000

Thereafter around 30,000

Numbers of Refugee Claimants (asylum seekers) dramatically increased from 1980s on

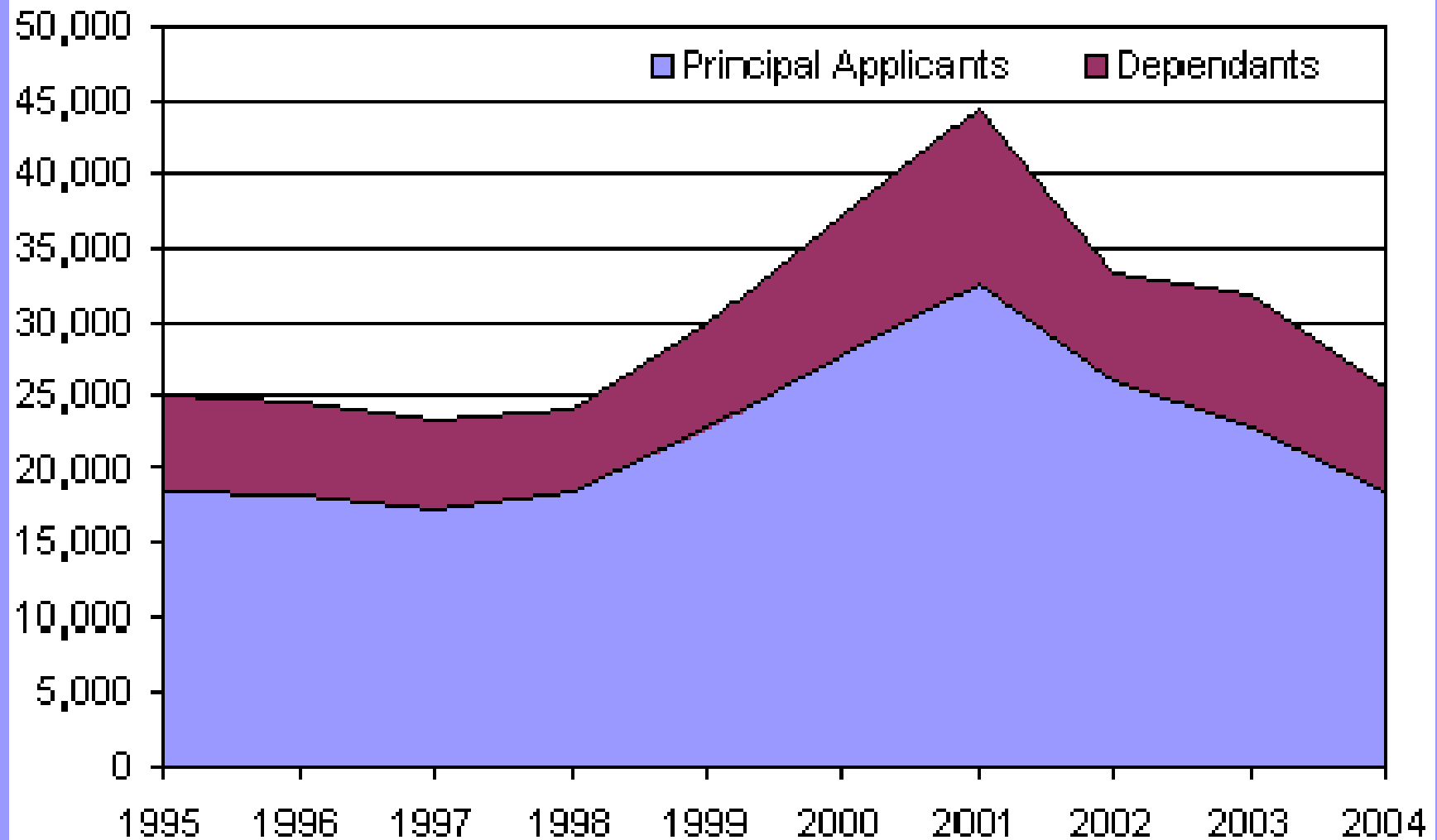
- Arrive at border, claim protection (and admission as permanent residents) on the grounds of needing refugee protection**
- Adjudication process can be long**

Stock of the Humanitarian Population in Canada on Temporary Visas, 1980-2006



Source: CIC Facts and Figures 2006 Immigration Overview: Temporary Residents

Refugee Claimant Population: Claim Years, 1995–2004



Source: CIC, The Monitor. 2006, No. 1, Figure 1

Safe Third Country Agreement

Signed December 2, 2002

Implemented December 29, 2005

A safe third country is a country other than Canada and the alleged country of persecution where an individual may make a claim for refugee protection

Many criticisms, difficulties

Will it work

Flows of refugee claims now increasing

Mexico 3,043- first half of 2007; 200 weekly

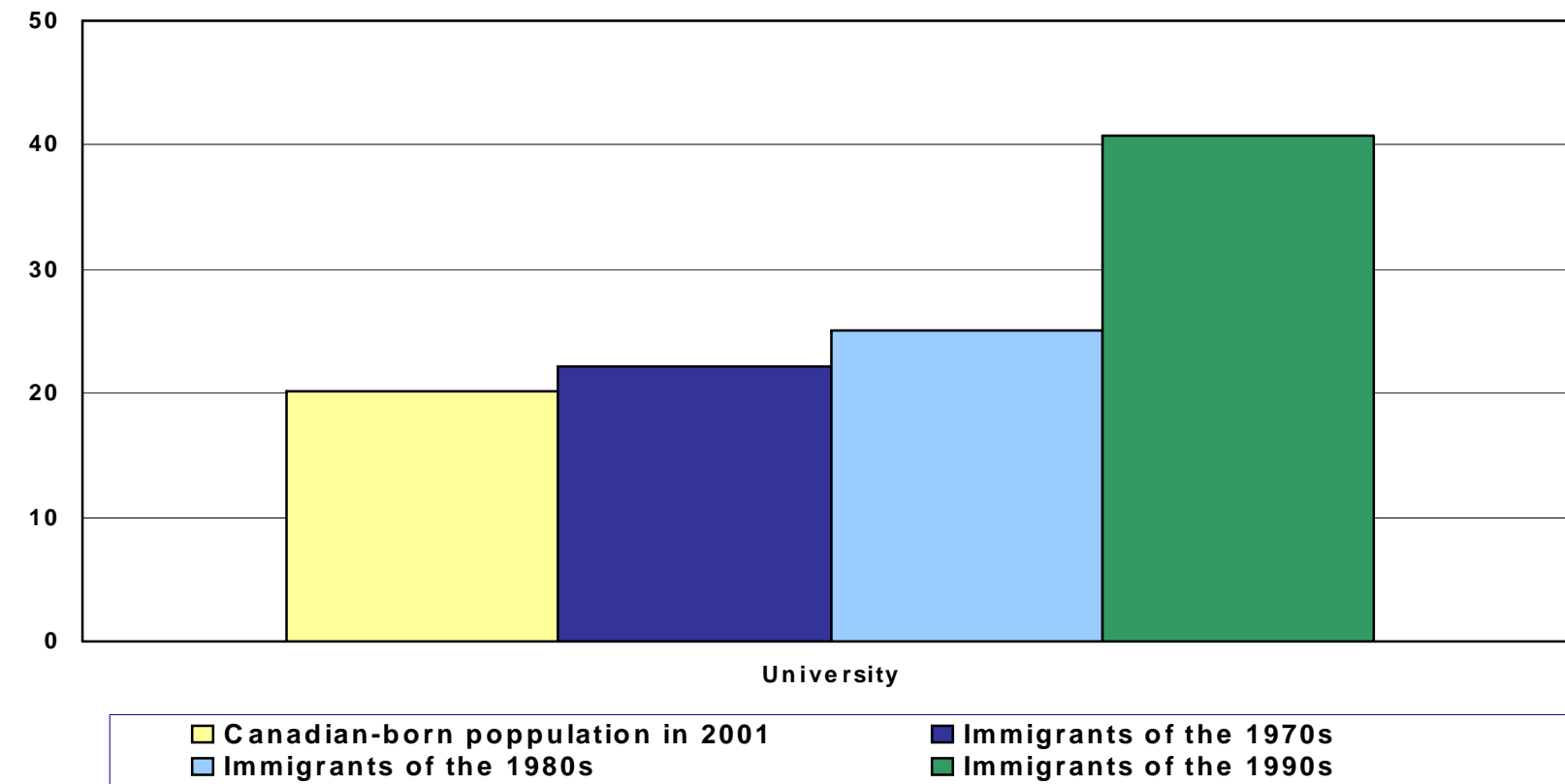
Haitians – 1,008 first half

Increase in-take of highly skilled migrants – explicit goal of immigration policy

**Rising from late 1980s on –
now around 57% of total
number of immigrants admitted
annually**

A very high proportion of immigrants who arrived during the 90's had a university diploma.

% distribution by educational attainment of the population aged 25-64 immigrants of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s compared to the 2001 Canadian-born population



Source: Statistics Canada. 2001 Census of Canada. Reproduced from Statistics Canada presentation files with permission from Statistics Canada.

TWO CHALLENGES RESULT

Internal

**Recruitment of high skill does
not mean full utilization of skills
integration issue**

External – global raiding

Summary of the immigrant experience in Canada

- **The labour market increasingly demands higher education.**
- **Immigrants arrive with increasing levels of education – and much higher than the Canadian born.**
- **Yet recent immigrants do not do well economically.**
- **Foreign labour market experience is increasingly discounted by the Canadian labour market.**
- **Professionally-trained and trades need to be re-accredited or recertified.**

GLOBAL RAIDING OF TALENT

Brain drain – what is to be done

**Increasing competition among
post-industrial nations versus
development of a migration
regime**