

ASK the experts

One in six Canadians classified themselves as « visible minorities », says Stat. Can in 2006, and it could be one in five in 2017.

So what? Does it make really such a difference for policy making?

An academic's answer should be no...and yes, after questioning the value of this label which conceals so much diversity!

No, because the vast majority of Canadians are used to seeing visible minorities in their daily landscape, especially in metropolitan settings such as Toronto, Vancouver or Montréal. But even in those metropolises, they are still neighbourhoods with few immigrants, where there is a strong feeling of “we are the majority” and maybe some fear of difference.

It is not however the number of visible minorities per se that matters but 1) the visibility of immigration in public life and urban spaces; and 2) the speed of change more than the numbers .

So yes, we have to invest more in anti-racism programs, but also in policies promoting the conditions for a social and civic life that is enriched by diversity.

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