INTRODUCTION

A career diplomat who represented Canada for three decades on migration and protection issues, **Caroline Guimond** has also managed large immigration programmes around the world. Today, she continues her commitment to highlighting best practices to welcome, integrate and include migrants and people in exile, particularly within the Francophonie.

Migration is a reality that has shaped humanity since the beginning of time. Accelerated by globalization and climate change, it is today a major issue for the countries of the Francophonie. These countries, scattered across five continents, serve as places of departure, transit, destination, and for receiving migrants. The movement of these men and women has a deep impact on the economic, social, political, and cultural spheres of these countries. Despite the great diversity of realities within the Francophonie, all these countries have in common the challenges and opportunities posed by the influx of migrants. On the model of Metropolis Canada, the Metropolis Institute has established the Réseau Metropolis Francophonie Mondiale to provide a Francophone agora for exchanging and sharing best practices, and to create synergies for joint research.

This special edition of *Canadian Diversity* offers a first glance at the multiple realities of Francophone migration and the role played by the French language in this mobility and as a vector of integration.

The Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean highlights the importance of dialogue on migration issues in the French-speaking world. Her message reminds us that we need a diversity of voices around discussion tables and that the voice of lived experiences of migration and exile must be heard. We are grateful to her for accepting to co-preside Metropolis Francophonie Mondiale during its inaugural year.

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Commissioner Raymond Théberge, also co-president of Metropolis Francophonie Mondiale in 2021, shares with us the importance of migration for Canada's Francophone communities and how they benefit from the resulting transformations.

Roda Muse, Secretary General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and a long-time partner, shares her experiences as a Francophone immigrant, and how integration programs for Francophone newcomers have evolved, along with the underestimated role of diasporas.

In an analysis prepared for the inaugural conference Metropolis Francophonie Mondiale in 2021, Jean Christophe Dumont, Director of the International Migration Division in the OECD at the Directorate for Employment, Labor and Social Affairs, raises two important points: how do we define the Francophone space when speaking about immigration, and should we limit ourselves to movements between member countries of the Francophonie, or do we go beyond that?

The chart below presents Francophon immigrants in OECD countries and reveals that while France is the main destination, the United States comes second and Spain third. Discussions on the question of migration in the French-speaking world cannot, therefore, be limited to the countries of the Francophonie alone, but should instead focus on all the destinations of francophone migratory movements. The example of Senegalese migration presented below illustrates this approach. The French language is not an essential criterion when choosing a destination. However, knowledge of the language may become important or even essential once at the destination, as shown by the examples of the United States and Canada in the following section: *La langue française de la mobilité* (The French language as a medium for mobility).

WHY LEAVE AND WHERE TO GO

This article from the *Observatoire des migrations du Sénégal* provides us with a historical overview of the Senegalese migration and the factors influencing the choice of area of residence. Senegal, the land of teranga, has always welcomed people from the region. Dr. Adrien BATIGA. Université Paris-Est Créteil. France, Dr. Oumoul Khairy Coulibaly. ESEA. Université Cheikh Anta Diop. Dakar. Senegal and Prof. Aly Tandian. Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, Senegal, provide us with a detailed picture of migration in and from Senegal: internal, regional, and international Senegalese migration. This historical overview examines the place of Senegalese women in such migratory movements, and how they have been absent from the decision-making process.

People also leave their lives and their loved ones behind because the climate changes and resources become scarce. How can we define these movements? What status and protection should be given to those who flee because the climate is changing? Stéphanie Njiomo, Ambassador for the Global Compact for the Environment in Cameroon and Central Africa, and co-founder of the Ci4Ca organization, makes a rallying call.

Professor Mehdi Lahlou of INSEA-Rabat and Secretary General of the Academic Network on Migration in North Africa (NAMAN) – Morocco presents the evolution of Morocco's migration policy. Today, Morocco is a country of departure due to economic reasons, a country through which irregular migration movements transit, and increasingly, it is a country of destination. Indeed, the country's future will depend on its ability to integrate migrants from the rest of the African continent and attract its diaspora back home.

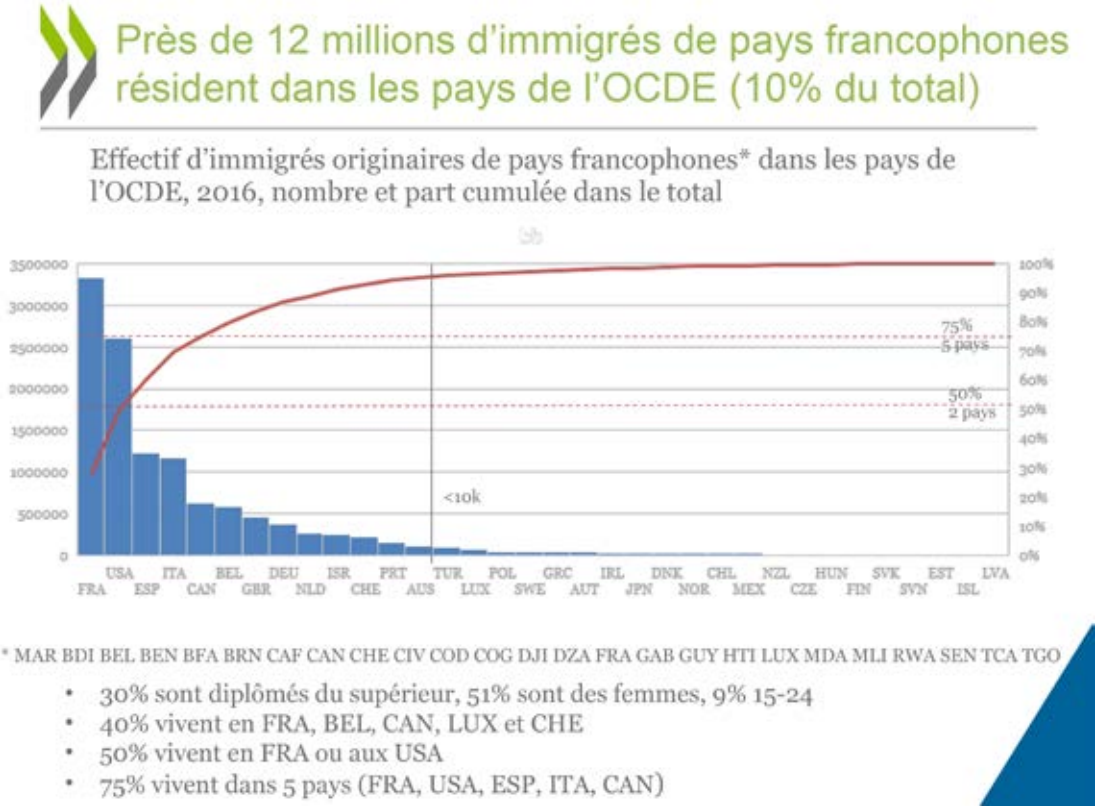


Chart by Jean-Christophe Dumont, OCDE 2021.

As we can see from the OECD chart, France is the main destination for Francophone "immigrants". France is also one of the main source countries for immigration to Canada. Concordia University professors Chedly Belkhodja and Mireille Paquet present a review of what we know about migration from France to Canada and Quebec since the 2000s. This overview highlights the links between migration to and from France.

RECEPTION CHALLENGES OF NEWCOMERS

Matthieu Tardis, Co-Director of Synergies-Migrations, provides us with a lesser-known portrayal of France: that of the citizens who are committed to receiving exiled people. Can this surge of generosity sparked by the Syrian crisis and revived by the war in Ukraine give rise to expanded national legal pathway programs and encourage an increase in refugee resettlement?

Being welcomed can also be a challenge for those who choose to leave, either as economic immigrants or foreign workers. Christophe Berthet, President and CEO of Immigrant Québec, shows us that reception and integration are successful when "the whole village" pulls together.

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE AS A MEDIUM FOR MOBILITY

We have noted that the United States is the second most popular destination for Francophone emigrants, and that Senegalese migration to this country has been significant. Agnès Tounkara, who works at the Face Foundation where she is in charge of the French Heritage Language Program, helps French-speaking immigrants and young Americans of Francophonie origin to preserve their linguistic and cultural heritage. She tells us about her work and how these young people can turn their knowledge of the language into an asset.

In Canada, Francophone immigration is a highly politicized issue, and one that is seen as essential not only from the point of view of Francophone minority communities, but also in Quebec. Richard Marcoux, Professor and Director of the *Observatoire démographique et statistique de l'espace francophone* at Université Laval, invites us to rethink the concept of the francophone based on the mother tongue in order to understand today's Francophonie and the Canadian Francophonie.

A NEW LOOK

We conclude with a message by Professor Ndeye Dieynaba Ndiaye, who teaches Migration Law at UQAM. She explains why she founded the Observatoire sur les migrations internationales, les réfugiés, les apatrides et l'asile (OMIRAS). The new perspective she proposes is that of the younger generations who are studying the migration question, and who are familiar with it because they have experienced it first-hand.

Thank you all for your contribution to this special edition, and for your support during the meetings at Metropolis Francophonie Mondiale.