

CHAPTER 3

1939 TO PRESENT-DAY
*Modernization of Québec,
Quiet Revolution
& Contemporary Québec*

PART 3

***Natural growth
& new arrivals***

Natural growth



Baby boom

The Great Depression and WW2 had slowed down the birth rate considerably.

What made people start a family or expand the size of their family again?

- The end of this period of hardship (Great Depression and WW2).
- The return of the men after the war.
- The increase in economic growth.

This phenomenon happened in Canada, Europe and the USA.

Baby boom

Results of the baby boom:

- In Canada, the birth rate rose to 19.2 births / 1,000 inhabitants (the current birth rate is around 10 births / 1,000 inhabitants).
- In Québec, in 1952, the birth rate rose to 30.7 births / 1,000 inhabitants!
- From 1945 to 1972, Québec welcomed 2 millions children into the world.



Baby boom

Factors explaining the explosion in the birth rate:

- Women had more children on average.
- People married at a young age.
- The Great Depression and WW2 had prevented or delayed many weddings.

The arrival of so many newborns led to big changes for Québec in the 1960s and 1970s

- For example, more schools and universities were needed.



Baby boom



Baby boomers had fewer children than their parents, which means that:

- the general population is **aging** (the proportion of seniors (65+) could reach 23% by 2031).
- **government spending** will have to be adjusted to deal with this situation (like increasing funding for health care, encouraging people to work longer, etc.).

3.18

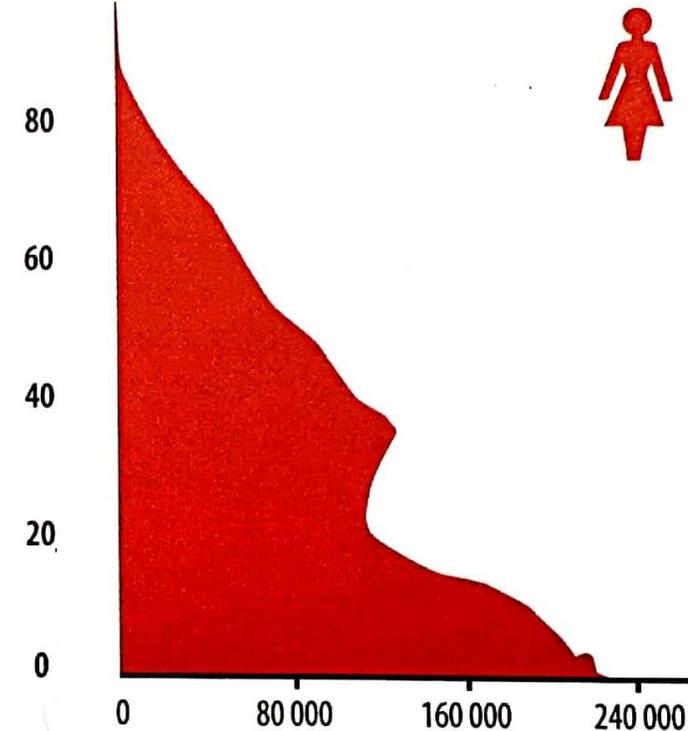
AGE PYRAMID FOR QUÉBEC IN 1961. PEOPLE UNDER 30 MAKE UP THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION.

1961

Total population: 18 238 250



Age
100



Source: Statistics Canada

Falling birth rate in Québec in the 1970s

During the baby boom, the rate of natural increase for the Québec population had been one of the highest in the world!

Québec's population growth slowed significantly in the 1960s:

- In 1972, the rate fell to less than 15 births / 1,000 people.
- The rate was lower than the necessary replacement level of 2.1 children per woman.
- There were not enough births to maintain the number of citizens.

Without the contribution of immigration, the population of Québec would decrease.

Falling birth rate in Québec in the 1970s

Factors explaining the sharp decrease in the birth rate after the baby boom:

- Increased use of contraception (like the birth control pill)
- Reduced influence of the Catholic Church
- Growing number of women working
- Legalization of abortion in 1969
- Drop in the number of marriages
- Increase in the number of divorces
- Higher levels of education for women

Birth rate of the Indigenous population

In 2016, Indigenous people made up 3% of the Canadian population.

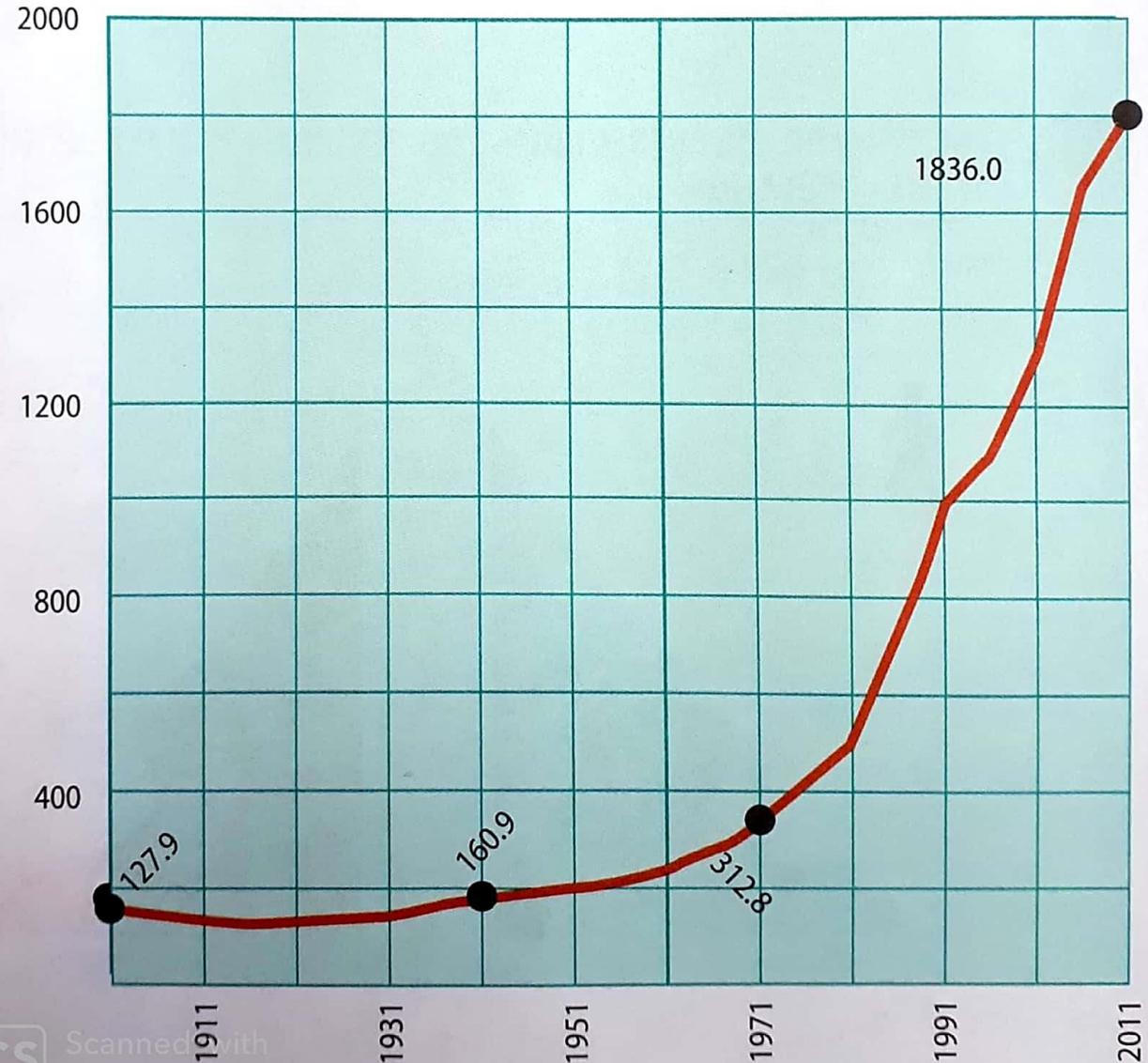
Factors explaining the growing First Nations population:

- A rising birth rate due to
 - improved health care
 - high numbers of births among very young women.
- In 1985, the federal government amended the *Indian Act* to **allow many Indigenous people to regain their Indian status**, especially for women who had lost their status by marrying non-status men.

Birth rate of the Indigenous population

This graph shows that between 1971 and 2011, the **Indigenous population experienced 487% growth**, while the overall Canadian population grew by only 52% (about 9 times less).

Indigenous population
(X 1000)



New arrivals

Immigration and refugees

Immigration resumed after WW2:

- Because Canada needed workers **to stimulate economic growth.**
- Between 1946 and 1961, Québec welcomed about 400,000 immigrants mostly **from Europe** (Italy, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Greece and Hungary).
- There was also a major wave of Holocaust survivors and French-speaking **Jews** from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.



*Immigrants from the Netherlands
arriving in Montréal in 1947*

Immigration and refugees

In the 1960s, Ottawa changed the criteria for immigrant selection:

- The federal government wanted immigrants who had **specialized skills** and were **better trained to meet the needs of the job market**.
- Québec welcomed 40,000 **French immigrants** and many **Portuguese**.

In 1969, Canada signed the *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*:

- It meant that Canada agreed to **grant permanent asylum to refugees** and not force them to return to their countries of origin.
- Refugees left their country to escape a political, religious, economic or climatic threat (the West Indies, Chile, Lebanon, Central America, Southeast Asia, etc.).

Cultural communities

The great majority of immigrants lived in Montréal:

- They gathered in certain neighbourhoods based on their ethnic origin.
- These areas became places where immigrants could foster their own cultures and run their own businesses.
- Many immigrants learned English in the hopes of finding a job more easily.
- **RESULTS:** Montréal became **anglicized and more cosmopolitan.**



In 1957, Myer Lewkowicz, a Holocaust survivor, founded his bagel shop on Montréal's Saint-Viateur street.

Fruiterie Milano, founded in 1954 by Vincenzo Zaurrini, is the first supermarket selling Italian specialties in Quebec.

Milano

Fine Cho



Milano



4.69

3/399





PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA – A LANDMARK EATERY SINCE 1948

- Located in little Italy, Pizzeria Napoletana was originally a small bar where you could find pool tables and patrons playing cards. Italian immigrant workers would come to relax and enjoy pizza with their families to remember the taste of their motherland.*



Cultural communities

Cultural communities became more and more visible:

- More places of worship and businesses and restaurants opened.
- Montréal's Chinatown, created in the 1860s, is the oldest ethnic neighbourhood in the city.
- Other ethnic neighborhoods flourished in the 1960s and 1970s (Little Italy, Little Portugal, Little Maghreb, etc.).
- Today, there are about 200 ethnic groups present in Montréal.

Ministère de l'Immigration du Québec

The Ministry of Immigration of Québec was created in 1965:

- There was a **major drop in the birth rate among francophones.**
- The **high immigration rates among non-francophone communities** threatened the predominance and survival of the French language.
- To **protect the French language**, Québec demanded from the federal government **the right to participate in the selection of immigrants** to its territory.
- **RESULTS:**
 1. It allowed Québec to prioritize candidates with knowledge of the French language.
 2. It allowed Québec to preserve its unique character in North America.