

# Vancity

**Report:** The B.C. Immigrant Employment Experience

February 2019



**ANGUS REID**  
GLOBAL

# Methodology

## WHAT

In partnership with Vancity credit union, Angus Reid Global conducted two online surveys. The first survey was among New Canadians in BC in order to better understand their **experiences finding employment** in Canada, particularly among those with foreign credentials in a specific field of work. The second survey was among a representative sample of BC residents to gather perceptions of **immigrant employment and foreign credentials**.

## WHEN

**BC Immigrant Survey**  
January 14 – 19, 2019

**BC Residents Survey**  
January 24 – 28, 2019


## WHO

The surveys were conducted among a representative randomized sample of **400 New Canadians** who arrived in Canada after 15 years of age and currently reside in British Columbia and a representative randomized sample of **800 BC residents**. The respondents are members of Angus Reid Forum. For comparison purposes only, the New Canadian sample plan would carry a margin of error of +/- **4.9** percentage points, 19 times out of 20 and the Gen Pop sample plans would carry a margin of error of +/- **3.3** percentage points, 19 times out of 20



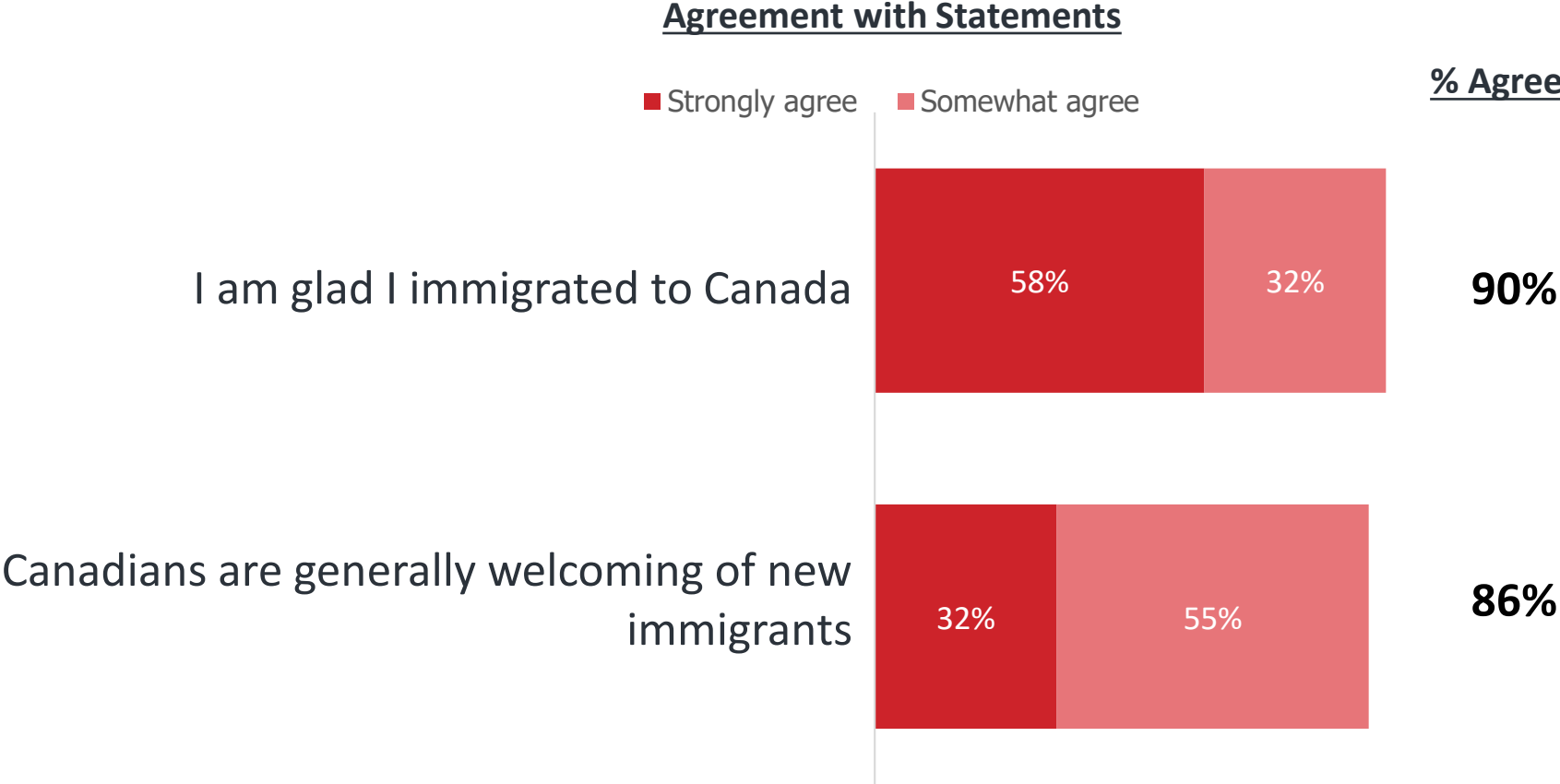
**PERCEPTIONS AMONG  
BC IMMIGRANTS**



A grayscale photograph of a diverse group of people, likely immigrants, holding small Canadian flags. The image is partially obscured by a large white text box with a red border. The text box contains a paragraph about the experiences of BC immigrants in Canada.

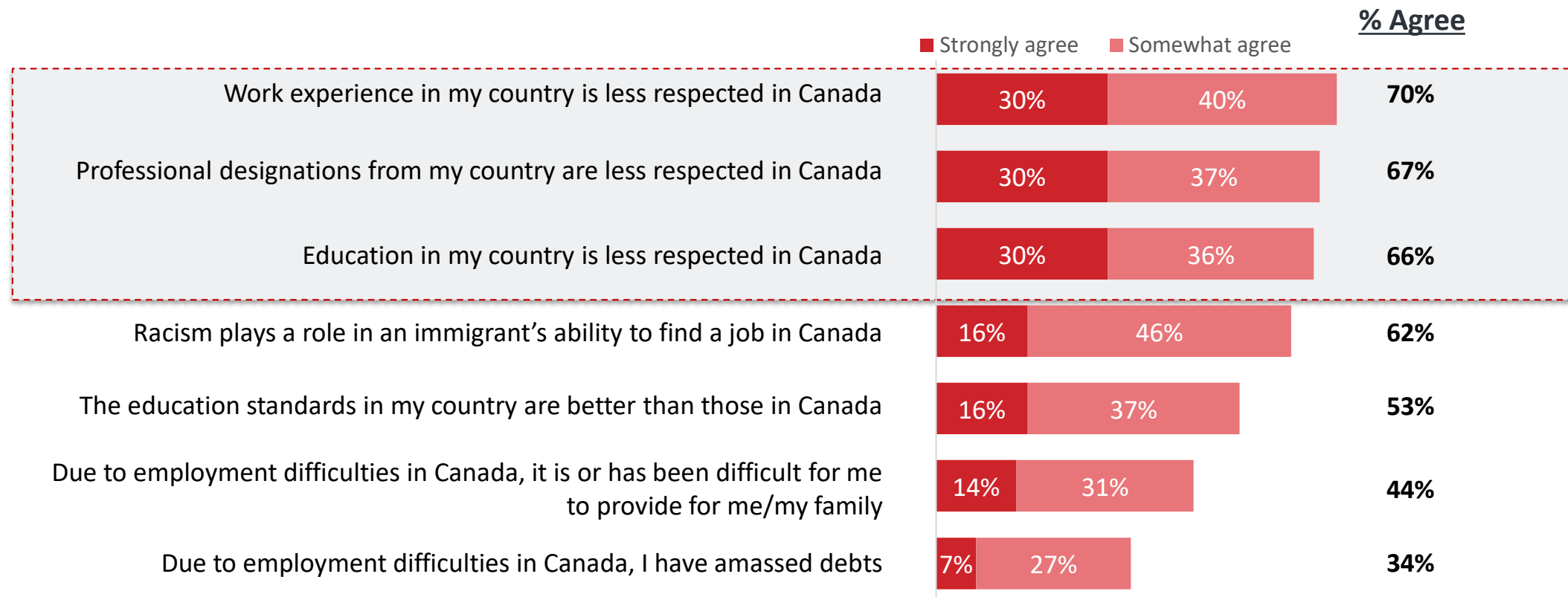
BC immigrants largely find Canada to be **accepting and supportive**, but when it comes to finding employment, immigrants acknowledge that there are **difficulties** associated with **foreign education and experience** that they must overcome.

# BC immigrants are generally very satisfied with their decision to move to Canada and find themselves in a welcoming environment.




However, when it comes to seeking employment, there is some frustration surrounding foreign credentials not being given the same level of respect in Canada.

Agreement with Statements



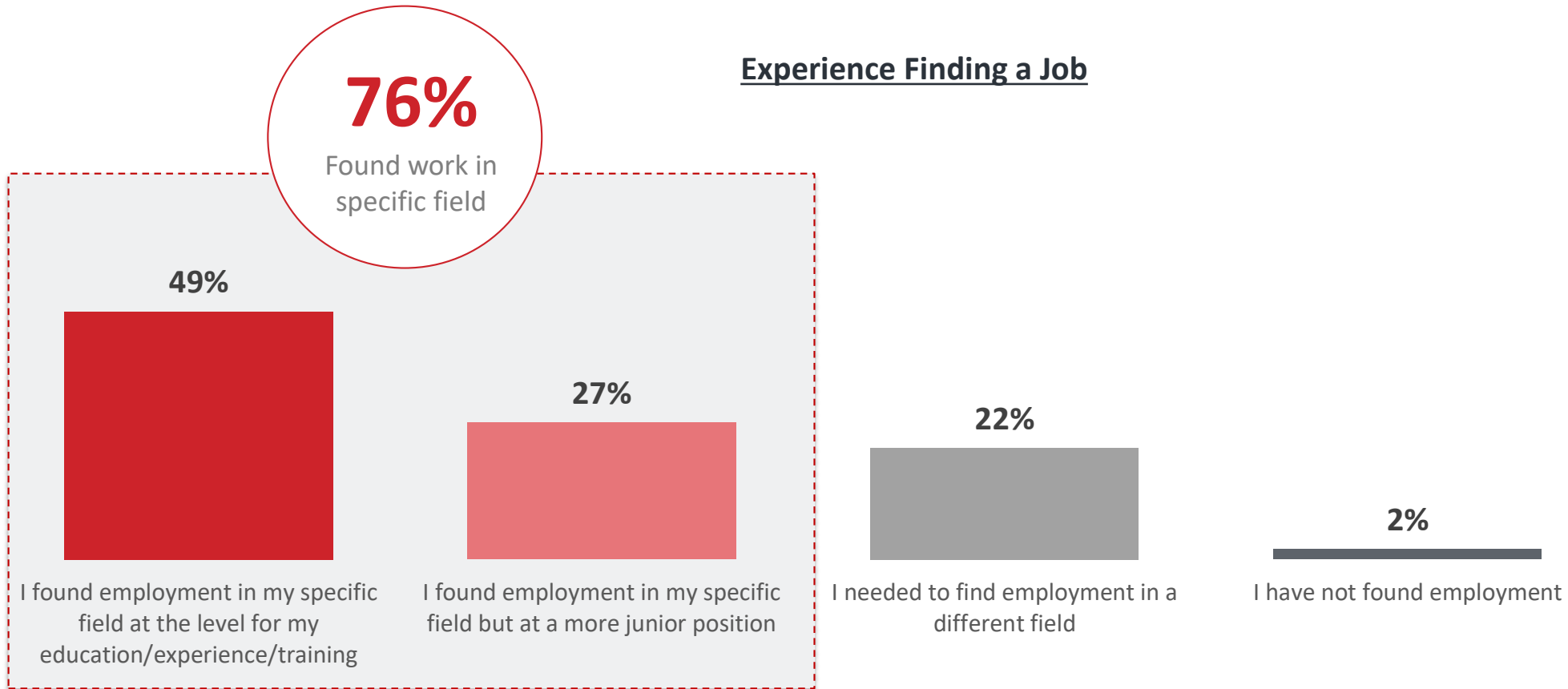
Base: All Respondents (n=400)  
E1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Many immigrants arrive in Canada **hoping to find employment in their specific field of expertise**, but often find the job process takes time, requires additional education/experience, and may not result in a position at the appropriate level.

# Of those seeking employment in their field, only one-half were able to find a job at an appropriate level to their credentials

## Experience Finding a Job



Base: = Those with expectation of finding employment in specific field (n=183)

D3. Which of the following best describes your employment?

Base: = Those with expectation of finding employment in specific field (n=183)

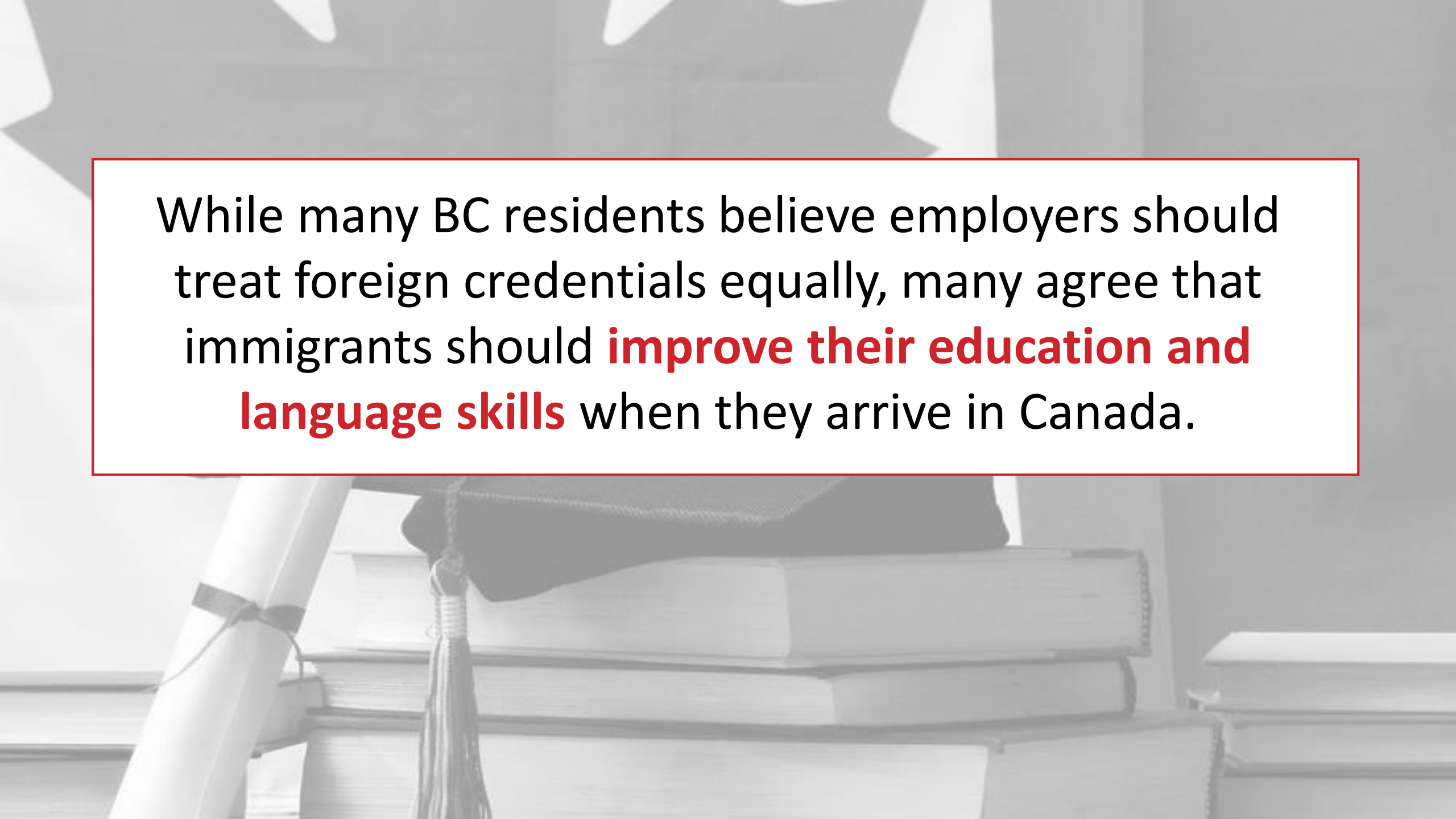
D4. Which of the following best describes your employment?





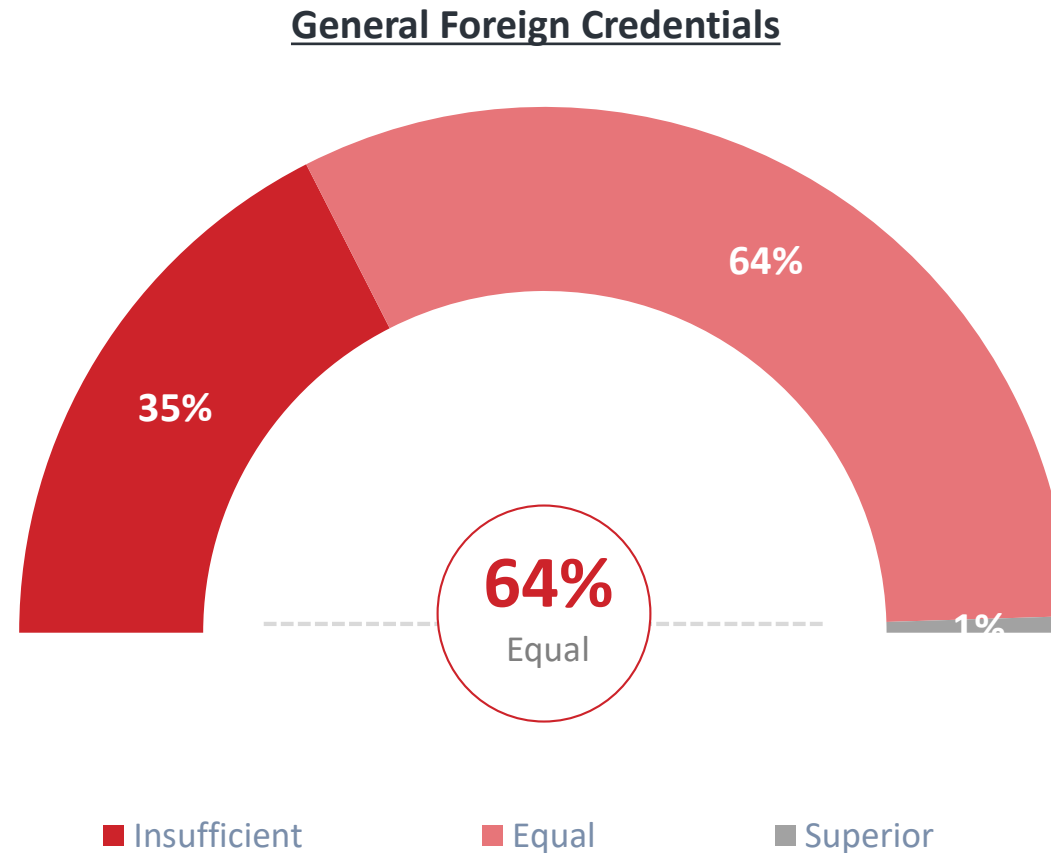


**PERCEPTIONS OF FOREIGN  
CREDENTIALS AMONG BC RESIDENTS**

The background of the slide is a grayscale image of a graduation cap (mortarboard) with a tassel, resting on a stack of several books. The cap is positioned in the upper center, and the books are stacked horizontally across the lower half of the image. The entire scene is rendered in a light, desaturated tone.

While many BC residents believe employers should treat foreign credentials equally, many agree that immigrants should **improve their education and language skills** when they arrive in Canada.

Most BC residents believe employers should consider foreign credentials as equal to Canadian credentials, but one-third believe they are insufficient.



Base: All gen pop respondents (n=800)

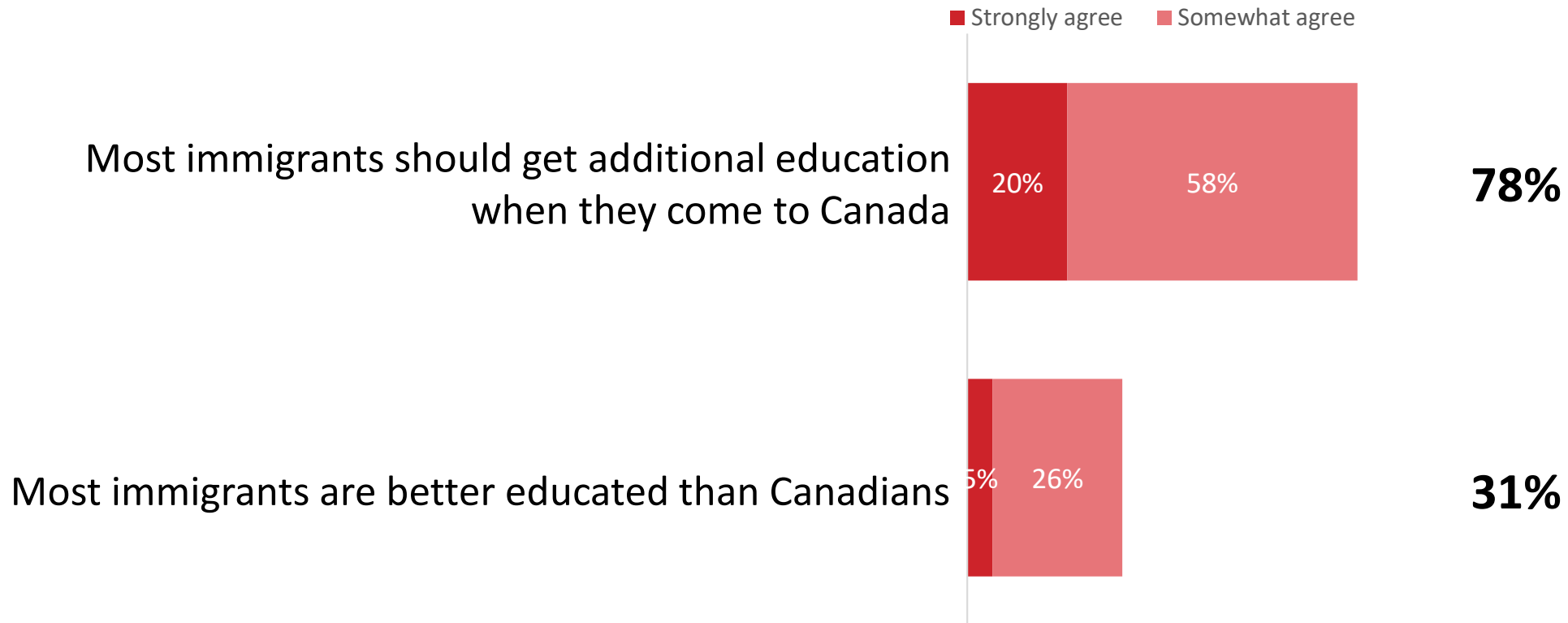
C1. Which of the following statements are closest in line with your thinking?

Generally speaking, employers should consider foreign credentials (education, training, experience and certifications) \_\_\_\_\_ to Canadian credentials.

Most do not think immigrants are better educated than Canadians, and most agree that immigrants should get additional education once they arrive in Canada.

Agreement with Statements

% Agree

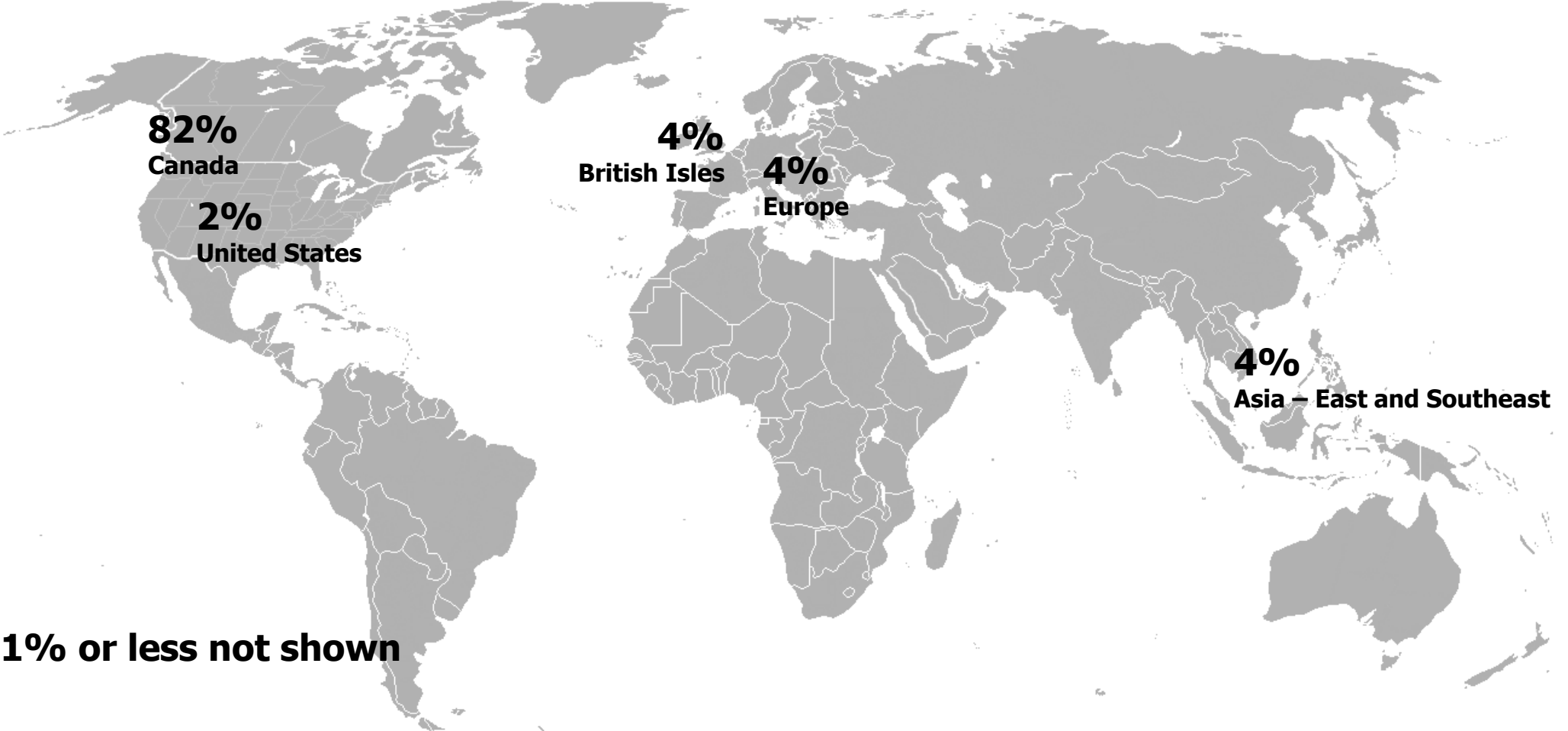




# **PROFILE: BC Residents**



# 82% of respondents to the BC residents survey were born in Canada



**Note: 1% or less not shown**

Thank you



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