

The Latin Community in London



Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

John Howard

SOCIETY OF LONDON AND DISTRICT



LONDON & MIDDLESEX
LOCAL IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP



Citizenship and
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada

Introduction

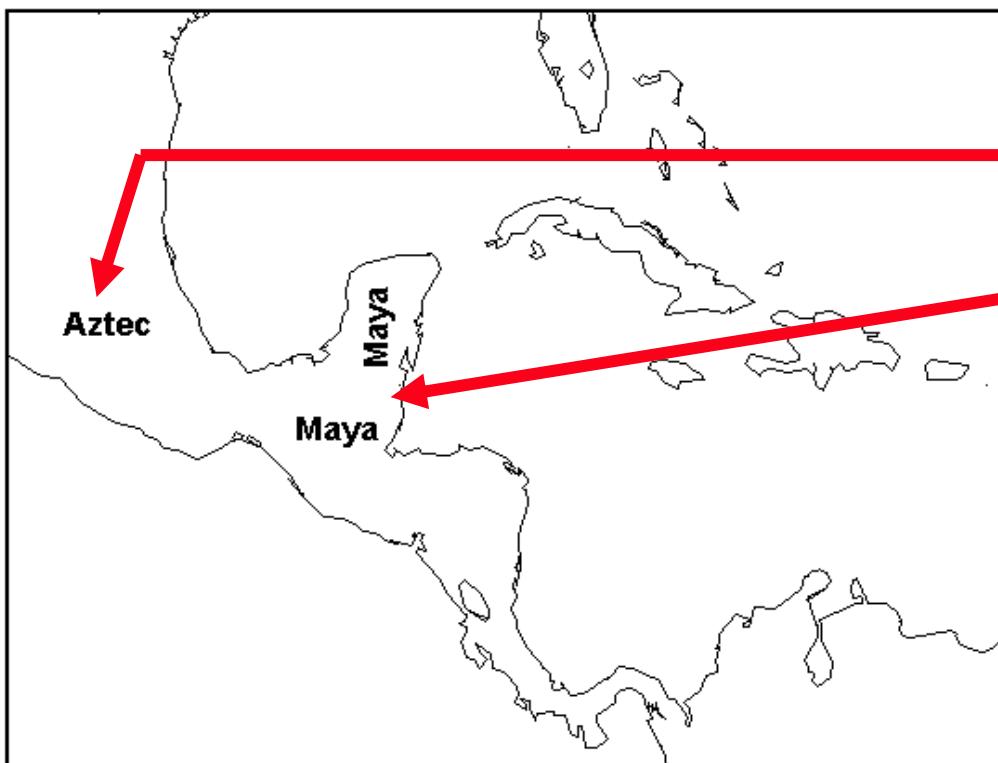
LATIN AMERICA



- **20 Latin countries**
- **Territories:**
 - Mexico
 - Central America
 - The islands of the Caribbean
 - South America
- **Colonized by Spain**
- **Large, diverse populations**
 - 490 million people total
 - Indian and African presence
 - 75% of the people live in cities
 - Several megacities (more than 10 million people)
- **Industrialization & development grew since 1960s**
 - Efforts to Integrate economies of Latin America, North America and the Caribbean (except Cuba)
 - Natural resource extraction remains important

HISTORY NATIVES CULTURE HEARTHS

- **Pre-Columbian Hispanic American, a source** from which radiated ideas, innovations, and ideologies that changed the world beyond.



Aztecs
Mayans





Native Culture Hearth – The Incas



Machu Pichu – terraced mountain top Inca city





HISTORY

- **Patterns of Ethnicity and Culture**

- Racial caste system – Spanish legacy: blanco/white (European), mestizo (mixed ancestry), indio (natives), negro (African)
- Colonial structure – transplanted feudalism
- Independence and equality of the different Latin countries
- Blancos dominated social, political, & economic systems for more than a century

Culture

- From Mexico to Argentina, Latin America consists of 20 countries that share traditions, food, holidays, ways of thinking and many more
- Even though most of them speak Spanish, accents are very distinguishable and each country has their own jargon.
- The Hispanic American people often feel united under the term “Hispanos” (or “Latinos” if we include the Portuguese speakers from Brazil)





“Machismo”

Male dominated societies

- Head of the household
- Tough
- Work to support the family
- Decision making

Female

- Morally strong
- Pure
- Housewives



Status of Women

- Many women work outside the home (30% - 40%)
 - Lower than rate in U.S. but comparable to many European countries
- Legally, women can vote, own property, and sign for loans, but less likely than men to do so
 - Reflective of patriarchal tendencies
- Low illiteracy rates
 - Highest rates in Central America
- Trend toward smaller families
 - Related to education and workforce participation

Culture - Sports

- Sports is something important in Latin America. Most countries use sports to keep their teenagers occupied
- Fútbol or Soccer is the major sport and passion in most of these countries
- Fútbol has the power to bring a nation together or to tear it apart
- In some countries, baseball is played more than fútbol: Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Cuba, Panama, Dominican Republic



Culture - Food

- Most of Latin America's gastronomy includes grains such as beans, rice and corn
- Food like tacos, empanadas, arepas, sopaipillas, baleadas, pupusas and tamales are greatly consumed



Culture - Music

- Latin America is a synonym for dancing and celebration
- Salsa, Merengue, Bachata, Tango, Cumbia, Rancheras and Punta are some of the genres that come from this region
- Latin Americans are outgoing people that will never refuse a chance to have a good time
- Top 100



Culture - Holidays

- Christmas is perhaps, the most important holiday in this region, as well as Holy Week(Easter) because of the big religious influence
- Dia de los Muertos is a holiday celebrated on November 1, in remembrance of all those who have passed away
- Other holidays like Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Day of the Child are given lots of importance.





Patterns of Culture

– Languages

- Spanish
- Indigenous languages in central Andes, Mexico, Guatemala

– Blended Religions

- 90% Roman Catholic (nominally)
 - El Salvador, Uruguay have sizeable Protestant populations

Culture - Politics

- Socialism, Communism and Capitalism are strong in this region
- Latin America has been characteristic of many dictatorships, coups, and civil wars.
- Most countries are considered democratic, but corruption in elections is something very common





Geopolitical Framework

- **Iberian Conquest and Territorial Division**
 - **The Trend Toward Democracy**
 - Long independence, but political stability has been a problem
 - Democratic elections since 1980s
 - **Most of the countries are free-market democracies**
 - **Insurgencies and Drug Traffickers**
 - Guerrilla groups have controlled large portions of their countries through violence and intimidation
 - FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia); ELN (National Liberation Army)
 - Mexico, Colombia , el Salvador and Honduras have the highest murder rate in the world
 - Drug cartels: powerful and wealthy organized crime syndicates



Long-standing Conditions

- Poverty – widening gap between rich & poor
- Military governments & dictators until recently
- Rule by the “aristocracy”
- Rather rigid social structure – natives usually left out of the “loop.”
- In agriculture, trapped in an international economic order they cannot change
 - One crop economies
 - Products which aren’t necessities

Principal Latin American Migration Flows





Important Recent Developments

- Democratically elected governments in all countries except Cuba –
 - Even in Cuba communism is changing due to the loss of Soviet/Russian financial assistance
 - Mexico's “one-party democracy” seems to have ended – President Fox of PAN



Economic and Social Development

Primary Exports

- Latin America specialized in commodities into the 1950s
 - Bananas, coffee, cacao, grains, tin, rubber, petroleum, etc.

Agricultural Production

- Since 1960s, agriculture has become more diversified and mechanized
- Machinery, hybrid crops, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, make agriculture very productive

Mining and Forestry

- Products: silver, zinc, copper, iron ore, bauxite, gold, oil, gas
- Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador export oil
- Mining becoming mechanized, laying off workers
- Logging
 - Exportation of wood pulp provide short-term cash infusion
 - Plantation forests of introduced species replace diverse native forests

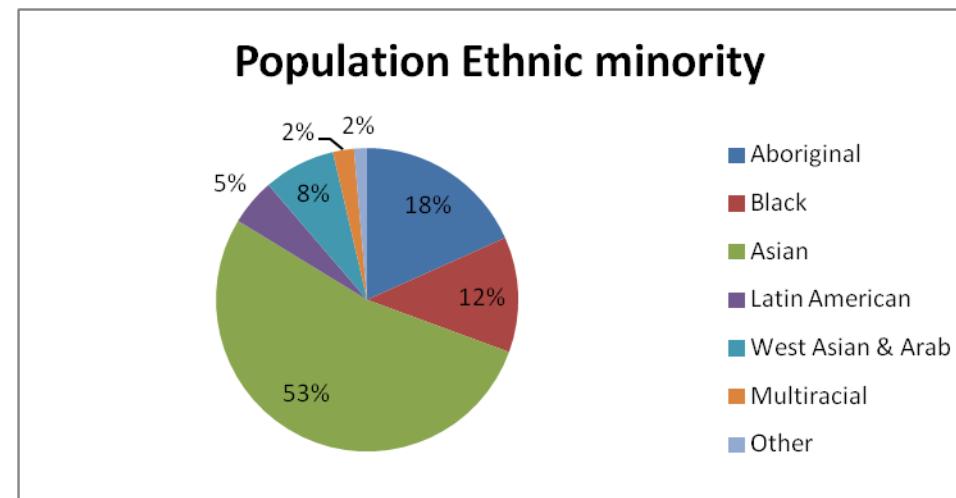


Social Development

- Marked improvements since 1960
 - Declining child mortality rate, along with higher rates for life expectancy and educational attainment
 - » Most countries had child mortality cuts of 50% or more
 - » Important role for non-govt. organizations (NGOs)
 - » Humanitarian organizations, churches, community activists
 - Still, regional social differences within countries
- **Race and Inequality**
 - Relative tolerance, but Natives and blacks over-represented among the poor
 - Hard to ignore ethnicity and race when explaining contrasts in income and availability of services

The Latin-Canadians

- According to data from Statistics Canada (2006 census), there are approximately 400,000 people of Latin origin living in Canada.
 - The definition of “Hispanic”, includes anyone who meets at least one of the following criteria:
 - a) Ethnic origin linked to a Spanish-speaking country;
 - b) Spanish as a first language; and
 - c) Birth (either their own or their parents') in a Spanish-speaking country.
- It's the fifth visible minority



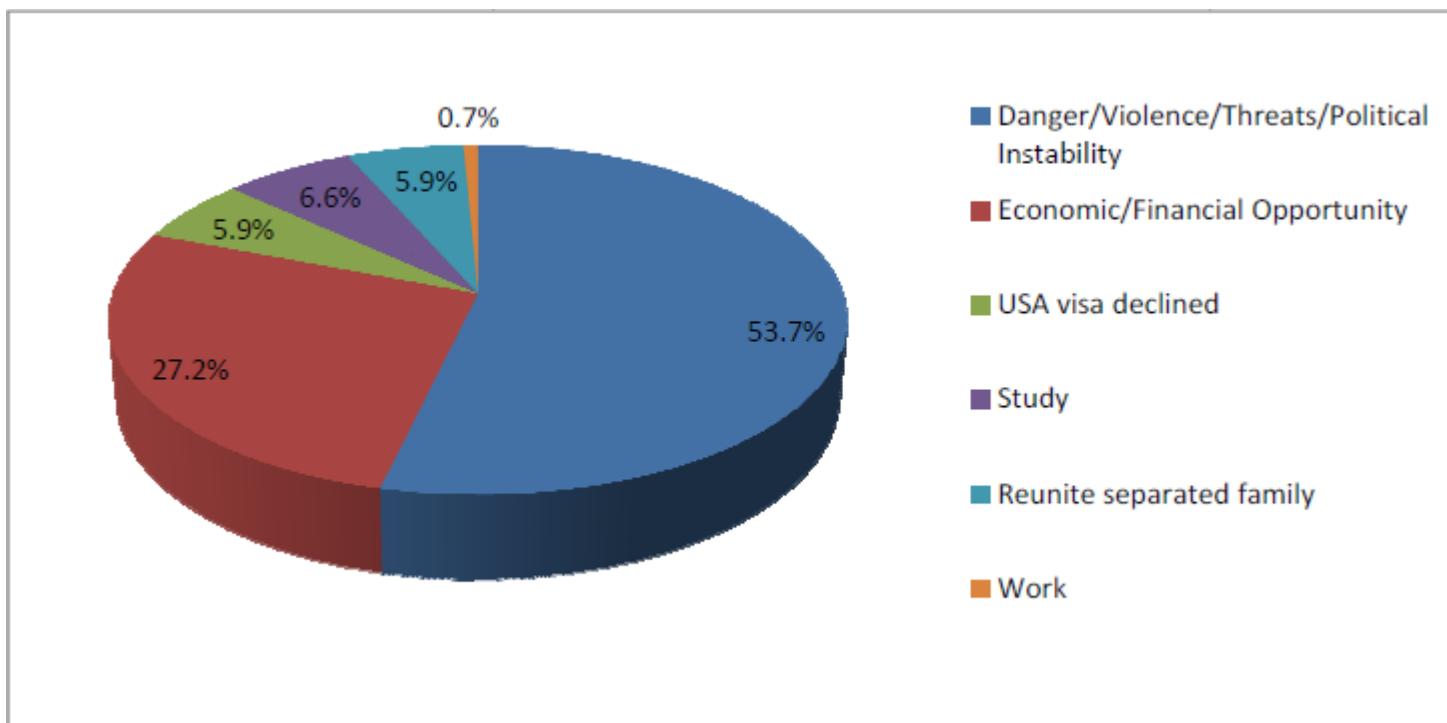


The Latin-Canadians

- Mass migration from Latin America to Canada began half a century ago, and has been constituted by several “migration waves”
- 50-60’s: The leading wave
- Early 70’s Andean wave
- Mid 70’s Coups d’état in the Southern cone nations
- 80’s Armed conflict in Central America
- 90’s The professional wave.
- This last wave, which still continues, was partly generated by the combination of Canadian government policy to attract highly qualified immigrants and the failure of the neo-liberal model in Latin America.

The Latin Community in London

- Violence is the most common reason for migration to London followed by desire for a better economy



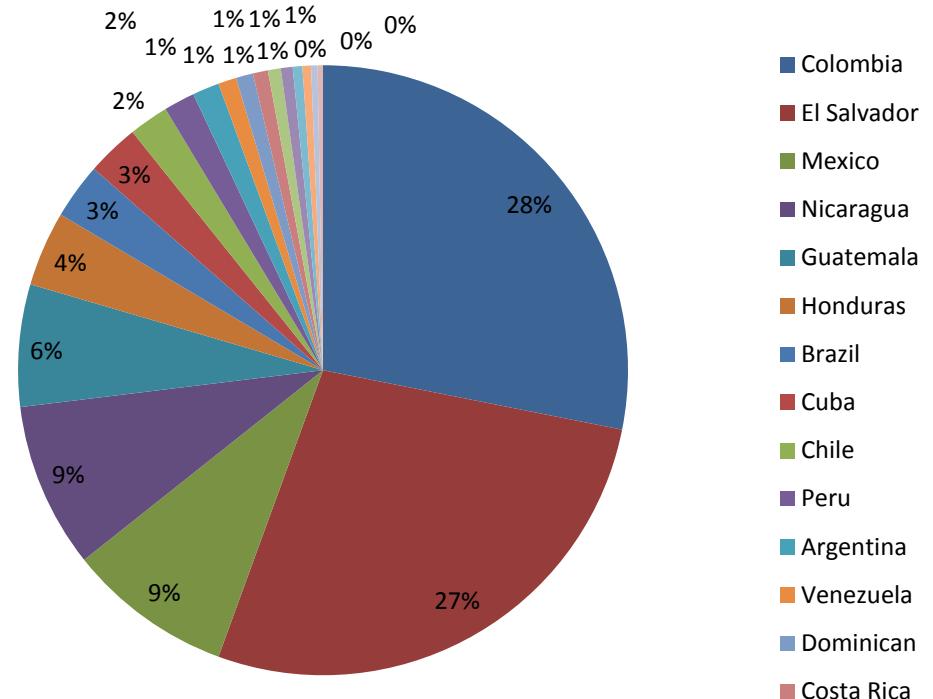
The Latin Community in London

- More than 2.2% of the population of the City of London (8,775 according to Statistics Canada 2006 census) are immigrants from Latin America

- However, the actual number of Latin Americans in London is generally accepted to be more than 10,000

- More than half came from Colombia and El Salvador

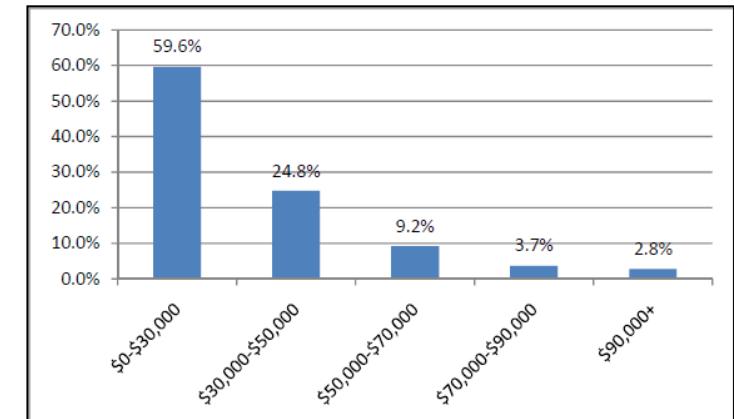
Latin American London Population



The Latin Community in London

According to a CALA's research

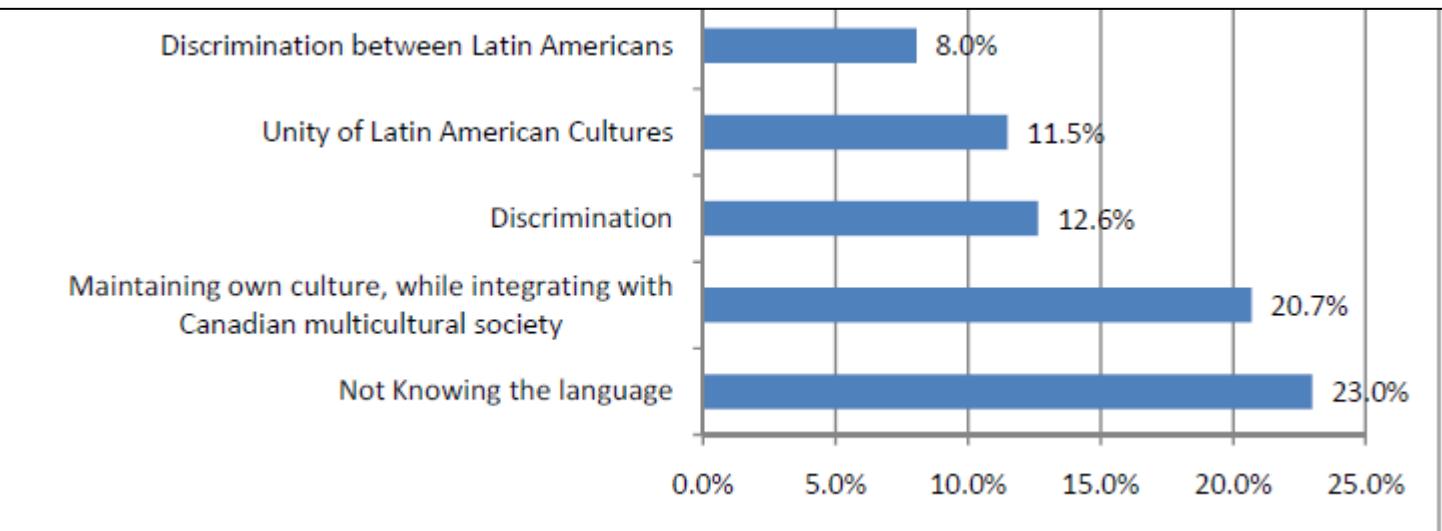
- More than half of the population are in low income categories
- 48% stated that quality of life of London was what they enjoyed most about the city, but lack of Jobs was what they disliked most
- 56% of the participants stated that they were considering moving from London in near future



The Latin Community in London

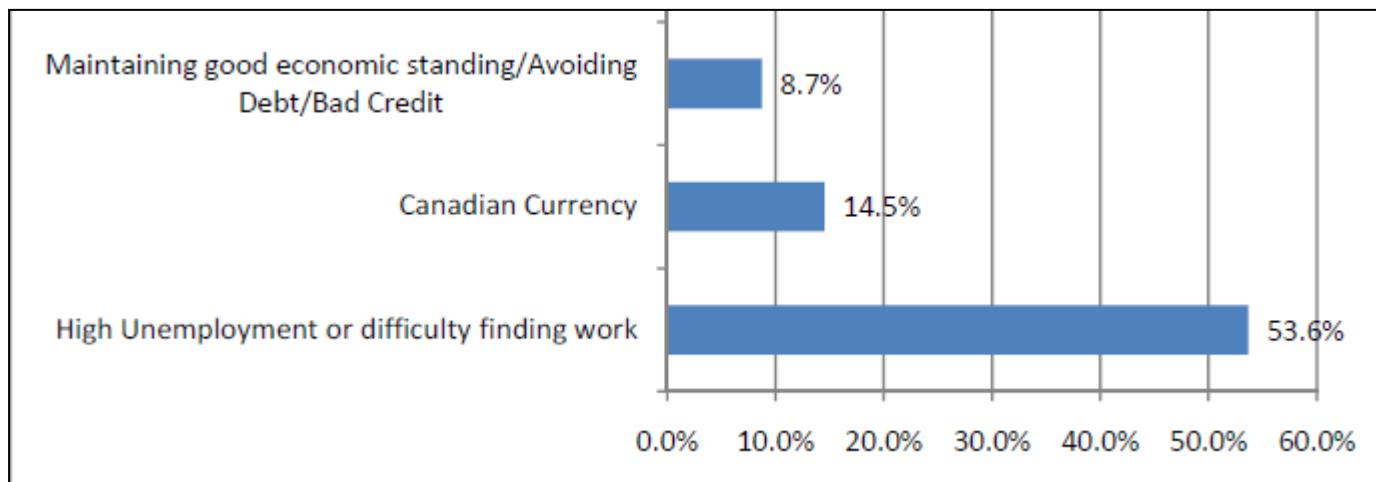
More than 60% of the participants stated the three greatest barriers to **Social Integration**:

- Inability to speak English
- Maintaining own culture, while integrating with the Canadian Society
- Discrimination



The Latin Community in London

More than 50% of the participants stated the high unemployment as the greatest barrier to **Economic Integration**

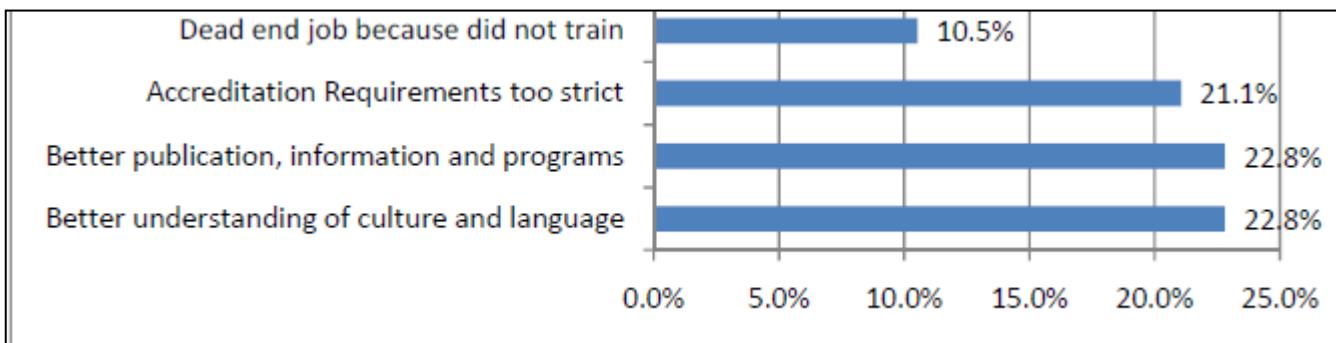


The Latin Community in London

More than 75% of hispanics who participated in this study stated the greatest barriers to **education/training**

Integration:

- Inability to speak English
- Lack of program information
- Lack of educational credentials
- Entry level jobs because of lack of appropriate training



CONCLUSION

As a service provider if you are working with the Latin community

- Take time to learn about the community and culture
- Do not generalize personal behaviour
- Do not make assumptions when you see a strange behaviour
- Work with gate keepers (ask questions to a Latin workers that can help you to empathize with the client)
- Respect community values even if they are different from yours
- Look for strengths instead of deficits



REFERENCES

- 2010, Globalization & Diversity: Rowntree, Lewis, Price, Wyckoff
- 2010 CALA – Guía de Recursos
- 2009, Reymar Consulting and Analytics. “CALA Latin American Community Needs Assessment for London and surrounding Area”
- Statistics Canada 2014





Gracias!!!
Thank you!!!