

Parti Pris?

Minority Representation in Quebec Provincial Politics

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Are minorities well represented in the Québec provincial legislature? Looking at the 2003 and 2014 elections and their related 2001 and 2011 electoral maps, this study demonstrates that in spite of improved minority participation and representation, most minority groups face obstacles in formal provincial politics. Québec's electoral map disadvantages diverse urban areas with consequence for the number of ridings where minorities are numerous enough to influence the outcome of elections. Ridings where the visible minority population exceeds 35% are minimally three times more likely than other ridings to have a PQ or CAQ/ADQ visible minority candidate, however, few minority PLQ/QLP candidates run in ridings with large minority populations. Parties seldom nominate minority candidates in safe ridings and minorities are less involved in left-leaning Québec nationalist parties. The representation of all visible minority groups, and increasingly Quebecers of British descent, are the most undermined by these patterns.

Québec provincial ridings by population ratio and visible minority population (2011)

