THE MANY FACES OF BRAZILIAN IMMIGRANTS IN ONTARIO

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INTRODUCTION

THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING MORE ABOUT BRAZILIANS LIVING IN ONTARIO

Bye, bye Brazil,
I think about all of you night and day
Tell them that everything is OK
(Chico Buarque)

Brazilians have a long history with immigration, but usually as the host country. Considered a land of opportunity, for four centuries Brazil welcomed countless immigrants who brought with them their cultures and helped to develop the country it is today. However, in the last 20 years of the 20th century, the country began to experience an exodus that initially went overlooked, but later began to make headlines. Starting in the 1980s, Brazilians began leaving their country in search of a better life. A myriad of reasons led Brazilians to begin the journey of suffering, passion, improvisation, companionship, identity, achievement and, almost always, great homesickness. Once the Promised Land that took in immigrants, Brazilians then began to listen to the stories of those who left.

Studies on the topic are sometimes contradictory, but as a rule they point to a fragmented community that is disconnected from its fellow countrymen and women, uncomfortable being described as “Latinos”, as they are commonly known in the United States, feeling discriminated against as Dekasegis in Japan, or experiencing prejudice in Portugal when their accent reveals they are Brazilian. In one way or another, Brazilian immigrants have not received the support they need, either from their own government, or from the governments of the countries to which they have immigrated.

Iracema flew to America
She sees a movie from time to time
 Doesn’t speak English well
Washes floors in a tea house
(Chico Buarque)

Some researchers have concentrated on studying the Brazilian Diaspora in order to understand the profile and needs of this population. Yet, there is little information available in Canada, most of which is outdated and cannot be used for developing actions to assist immigrants.

Since the 1980s, Brazilian immigration to Canada has increased considerably. Prior to 1991, there were 5,295 Brazilian immigrants living in Canada. By 2006, this population had grown to 15,120 (STATISTICS CANADA, 2007e). By researching the immigrant universe in each region of the country immigrants will be able to take a position in relation to their own group, creating objective conditions for discussing identity-based issues, as well as programs and policies to meet their needs.

Their children wandered blindly across the continent
Carrying rocks like penitents
Erecting strange cathedrals
(Chico Buarque)
ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project was developed within the Brazilian community living in Toronto, based on the need felt for greater information about who this group is and how they live, the Brazilians who, for one reason or another, have decided to come live in this part of the world.

The project was coordinated by the Brazil-Angola Community Information Centre (BACIC) and developed by Brazilian professors and researchers, who are also immigrants. The project also included, from the beginning, the creative and good-natured participation of many Brazilians living in Ontario, including many volunteers from BACIC.

In view of the project’s community-based nature, the goal was to gather data on Brazilians living in Ontario, covering areas such as where they live, as well as their singular experiences as immigrants: area of work, why they immigrated to Canada, satisfaction with their job and life in general, experience with discrimination, who their friends are and what they feel to be the face of Brazil in Ontario.

ABOUT THE REPORT

The first part of the report concentrates on a quantitative and qualitative description of the study respondents. The respondents are characterized according to: 1) sociodemographic data; 2) immigration and adaptation aspects; 3) family and social aspects; 4) labour aspects, and 5) social representations. The second part of the report covers points of analysis relating to all of the study respondents. In the third part, the respondents were sub-divided according to their migratory status in Canada. In that part these authors present: 1) a brief description of the group of immigrants living and working in Ontario without any legal status to do so, and 2) a more detailed description of the group of permanent residents 1 and of Brazilians who already have Canadian citizenship. In conclusion, we present some final considerations and recommendations for programs, policies and future studies.

This report is available on the BACIC website: www.centrobrasilangola.org/brasilmostratuacara.

ABOUT THE DATA

Studying the Brazilian population living in Ontario has its share of challenges. One main difficulty encountered by the researchers was establishing the size of this population, for two reasons: 1) because during the period when

1 Permanent residence is a type of Canadian government visa. Before applying for citizenship, approximately 3 years are needed. Applying for citizenship is optional, since resident status can be kept for a long period of time. The terms used for this group are “permanent resident” and “landed immigrant”.

The Many Faces of Brazilian Immigrants in Ontario
the study was developed, the Brazilian population was lumped together in Canadian statistics with other Latin Americans; 2) because part of the population studied is comprised of non-status immigrants (also called illegal immigrants), on whom no information is available.

Statistics Canada recently revealed (in 2007) that there were 2,810 Brazilians living legally and on a permanent basis in Ontario in 1991; between 1991 and 1995, another 1,570 immigrated; and from 1996 to 2000, another 1,690 immigrated. From 2001 to 2006, 2,795 more Brazilians arrived. In 2006, Statistics Canada recorded a total of 8,860 Brazilian immigrants residing in Ontario.

We have used the following selection criteria for this survey: being a Brazilian living in Ontario for at least 6 months, being over 16 years of age and speaking Portuguese. For participant recruitment, the research was announced in the media (radio, TV, online) and through the hard work of the BACIC volunteers.

Given the type of sampling, the statistical inferences are limited. For example, we believe that the sample from this study overestimates the level of education and income of Brazilians in Ontario, given the online nature of the study and the proportion of non-respondents to delicate questions such as income (about 30%). We were also unable to estimate the total number of Brazilians living in Ontario (with and without status).

The questionnaire (see appendix) was developed by researchers in consultation with BACIC representatives and volunteers. Fifty questions were formulated (42 multiple choice, some with space for comments, and 8 descriptive questions), and space was provided for additional comments at the end of the questionnaire. The descriptive questions and comments were entirely processed by content analysis. Although there were considerable similarities between various answers, we have also included here those with potential for explanation, regardless of their frequency.

A total of 622 people participated in the survey and the answers were gathered between May 1 and June 15, 2007. The data was collected primarily by electronic means through an internet research page. A hard copy was available for those who preferred one, but 90% of the questionnaires were completed online. Participation in the study was voluntary and completely anonymous. The project was approved by the Research Ethics Board of the University of Western Ontario.

For Ontario residents without status to work in Canada, corresponding to 7% of the study respondents, we have provided only a qualitative analysis of the results, since we consider that undocumented workers are underrepresented in our study and, as a result, a quantitative analysis would not be appropriate. In reality, the fact that 7% of respondents identified themselves as having an expired visa is already an achievement given the difficulty in studying vulnerable populations such as immigrants without status (LIAMPUTTONG, 2007). We believe that, although probably underestimated, this information was only obtained thanks to community partnership, the credibility of the BACIC, and the involvement of the actual researchers in the community.

The vast majority of study respondents (75%) is comprised of permanent residents and those having acquired Canadian citizenship. In the study, 403 respondents identified themselves as permanent residents or Canadian citizens, which corresponds to about 5% of the Ontario population according to Statistics Canada data (2007c). There are also Brazilian immigrants on tourist, student and work visas, which were not processed separately in the analysis by status.

Finally, we encountered challenges in analyzing the data according to migratory status in Canada (visa status). In addition to a large number of respondents not having revealed their status (11%), we identified considerable variation in visa status between the study respondents. Some respondents had come to study in Canada and extended their stay without renewing their visa, while others applied for permanent residence, but the response was delayed and, during that period, they used a tourist, student or work visa. Some permanent residents and Canadian citizens, selected through the process developed by the Canadian government, or those in a stable relationship with a citizen or permanent resident, have also been non-status workers in the past. There are also cases in which the same immigrant has been in Canada on a tourist, student and work visa, had permanent resident status, and finally obtained Canadian citizenship. Therefore, there is in many cases frequent changes in the visa status making it difficult to group immigrants according to status.
PART I – BRAZILIANS LIVING IN ONTARIO

1.1 SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1.1.1. AGE (ONTARIO, 2007)

Most of the respondents (72%) are between 25 and 44 years of age (productive work age). The most frequent age group is adults between 30 and 34 (24%). The percentage of respondents over 65 was minimal (1%).

1.1.2 SEX (ONTARIO, 2007)

The survey respondents were primarily female. Women correspond to 63% of respondents, i.e., 26% more than men.
1.1.3 SEXUAL ORIENTATION (ONTARIO, 2007)

Most respondents (91%) indicated being heterosexual, and 9% indicated being attracted to the same sex or both sexes. Of the 41 respondents who indicated being attracted to the same sex, 33 were men and 4 were women. Of the 10 respondents who indicated that they were attracted to both sexes, 4 were men and 6 were women.

1.1.4 RACE (ONTARIO, 2007)

Almost 80% of respondents identified themselves as White. The next most identified race was Mulatto (14%). Reference was made to the Latin race as a classification for Brazilians in Canada, and to the “change in race” during the migratory process – people considered White became Latinos. There was also identification with a mixed race (Asian and White) and multiethnic races. Some people expressed disapproval with the term Mulatto and used the classification “dark-skinned”.

White, Mulatto, Black, Asian, Aboriginal, Other
1.1.5 MARITAL STATUS (ONTARIO, 2007)

Most of the respondents (68%) indicated being married or living with a partner. Of these, 57% are legally married. A significant number of respondents (24%) indicated being single.

1.1.6 EDUCATIONAL LEVEL (ONTARIO, 2007)

Most of the respondents have a high level of education. Only 15% did not begin university studies and almost 70% completed university. Of these, 33% also completed graduate studies.

There is no significant difference when comparing the respondent’s level of education and sex.
1.1.7 RELIGION (ONTARIO, 2007)

Almost half of the study respondents are Catholic (49%). A significant proportion is Spiritist (17%). A total of 16% believes in God, but has no religious affiliation. Evangelicals amount to 13%. In total, the respondents cited 15 different religions. In addition to the 6 most mentioned religions (listed in the graph), the following were also cited: Seventh Day Adventist, Baha’i Faith, Christian, Eckankar, Esoteric, Hindu, Islam, Mormon and Jehovah’s Witnesses.

1.1.8 ORIGIN BY BRAZILIAN STATE (ONTARIO, 2007)

The Brazilian state of origin of the respondents partially reflects population distribution in Brazil. The three most populated states are highlighted: São Paulo, Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro. The state of São Paulo alone accounts for 38% of the respondents. It is worth noting that respondents from Bahia are not among the top five states of origin yet it is the fourth most populous state of Brazil. Only three Brazilian states were not represented. States with less than 1% representation were grouped together under the Other category. These include: Alagoas, Maranhão, Pará, Paraíba, Acre, Amazonas, Mato Grosso do Sul, Amapá, Mato Grosso, Piauí and Tocantins.
1.1.9 PREVIOUS RESIDENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES (ONTARIO, 2007)

In addition to Brazil, almost 20% of respondents lived in another country before settling in Canada. Of these, almost half (45%) previously resided in the United States. After the US, the countries with the highest rate of prior residence were: United Kingdom (10%), Australia (4%), France (4%), Portugal (4%) and Germany (3%). Other countries cited were: Spain, Israel, Switzerland, South Africa, Bahamas, Bolivia, South Korea, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina, Holland, England, Mozambique, Iraq, Italy, Japan and New Zealand. A small sampling of respondents (under 1%) mentioned having resided in more than one country before settling in Canada (including countries mentioned above, such as the USA, United Kingdom, France and Portugal).

1.1.10 PERIOD OF RESIDENCE IN CANADA (ONTARIO, 2007)

The study respondents characterized themselves as recent immigrants. Over 50% of them have been in Canada for 4 years or less. However, a significant number of respondents have been in Canada for 5 to 10 years (32%). Respondents who have been in the country for over 11 years amount to 16%.

1.1.11 VISA STATUS (ONTARIO, 2007)

The vast majority of the study respondents have legal status in Canada. Over 40% are Canadian citizens and almost 35% are permanent residents. About 15% of respondents indicated having a student visa or work permit, and 7% reported living in Canada with an expired visa.
1.1.12 PLACE OF RESIDENCE (ONTARIO, 2007)

The respondents of the study reside primarily in southern Ontario. Only 2 respondents do not live in this region. Most respondents live in the city of Toronto, particularly in the city’s west end, where Torontonians of Portuguese-origin live. Besides the province’s central-south region, the greatest concentration of respondent’s is in the Ottawa region.

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1.1.13 REGISTRATION WITH THE BRAZILIAN CONSULATE (ONTARIO, 2007)

Almost half of the study respondents have registered with the Brazilian Consulate (49%).
1.2. IMMIGRATION AND ADAPTATION ASPECTS

1.2.1 REASONS BEHIND BRAZILIAN IMMIGRATION TO CANADA

The reasons mentioned by the respondents for leaving Brazil were similar to the reasons given for coming to Canada. With respect to the reasons for leaving, those most often cited were violence, insecurity, corruption, inequality, prejudice, low quality of life and lack of respect for human rights in Brazil.

The desire to leave Brazil was also related to a context of few opportunities for professional growth and economic security, which, together with the search for professional challenges, led to the search for job opportunities in new lands.

Five central themes were presented by the study respondents to describe the reason for emigrating to Canada: 1) better job or academic opportunities, 2) having a partner in Canada (spouse, fiancé(e), boyfriend/girlfriend), 3) better quality of life, 4) desire to escape violence, corruption and the “Brazilian mentality”, and 5) need to learn English. Other reasons mentioned were: 1) easier immigration process than other countries, 2) dream of living outside Brazil or in a ‘first world’ country, 3) desire to discover other cultures and have new experiences, and 4) greater respect for sexual orientation.

“I was tired of so much violence and lack of opportunity.”

“I was looking for a better quality of life, where I could raise my children without walls and bars, without violence and with the chance for a promising future.”

1.2.2 WHY ONTARIO?

Ontario was described as a province of opportunity, where Brazilian immigrants arrived and created roots, which in turn attracted other Brazilian immigrants to the province. Four main reasons were given by the study respondents for choosing Ontario as the place to live: 1) better job and academic opportunities, 2) family members or friends who have already settled in Ontario, 3) location of a specific company or school, and 4) the “this is where I arrived, this is where I’ve stayed” syndrome, which covers the development of material and emotional roots, such as: employment, residence, relationships and sense of belonging. For many immigrants, Ontario is the “gateway” to Canada. Other reasons mentioned by the respondents were: 1) the existence of large cities, not unlike the respondents’ cities of origin, 2) cultural diversity, 3) beauty of or attachment to the city where they live, 4) ease of finding undocumented work, 5) concentration of Brazilians in the province, 6) climate is milder than the rest of the country, 7) proximity to the USA, 8) proximity to Brazil, and 9) lack of opportunity to go to other provinces.

“It’s a promising province, with a good structure for immigrants.”

“This is where I arrived; I’ve invested everything here.”
Almost half of the respondents received information on settling in Ontario through people they knew. Many had already come with all their settlement information organized from Brazil (30%). Almost 20% of respondents received information from Canadian immigration officers. About 15% received information through community centres. A similar proportion (16%) indicated not having received any information about settling in Ontario.

Almost half of the respondents were hosted in Canada by family members or acquaintances. A quarter of respondents used hotels, B & Bs or hostels.
1.2.5 ENGLISH PROFICIENCY ON ARRIVAL IN CANADA (ONTARIO, 2007)

Almost 60% of respondents indicated having intermediate proficiency or being fluent in English on arrival in Canada. Nearly 30% indicated having a basic or very basic level, and about 14% stated having no knowledge of English on entering the country.

1.2.6 ENGLISH PROFICIENCY OVER TIME (ONTARIO, 2007)

Proficiency in English improves the longer the respondents reside in the country. Most of the respondents appeared to be English speakers, stating that they were fluent in English or spoke with some difficulty. Only 8 out of 580 respondents declared not speaking English or speaking only the basics.
1.2.7 DIFFICULTIES SETTLING IN ONTARIO

The study respondents listed a wide variety of difficulties when settling in Ontario. It is noteworthy to mention that the variety of difficulties described are related as much to personal aspects as to social, cultural, environmental and professional aspects. The most common difficulties indicated by the respondents were: 1) difficulty finding work, especially the first job, 2) the English language, 3) very cold climate, and 4) loneliness, difficulty making friends, and longing for family. Many respondents also mentioned not having encountered any difficulty settling in Ontario.

Other difficulties mentioned by the respondents were: 1) delay in the immigration process, (2) lack of legal status to be able to find a home and work, 3) adapting to the Canadian lifestyle/culture, ‘coldness of the population’, 4) validation of professional credentials, 5) required bilingualism to get work in Ottawa, 6) access to information for immigrants or distorted information, 7) finding a home, 8) lack of financial resources and high cost of living, 9) difficulty finding good doctors, 10) learning about food and where to find the best supermarkets, 11) bias with respect to Latin American professional experience and discrimination against immigrants and 12) understanding ‘how things work’, cultural nuances and codes of conduct. According to the respondents, there is a vicious cycle for new arrivals, which makes settling in the country difficult. The absence of a credit history makes buying or leasing a car or home, getting a credit card and cell phone difficult. The lack of professional experience makes it difficult to get that first job. Without a permanent address, finding a first job is difficult, and without a job, getting a permanent address is difficult.

I had difficulty in adapting to the Canadian lifestyle. It took me a long time to feel comfortable here.”

“Not having credit is complicated. We had to pay one year of rent in advance.”

The socioeconomic difference among the study respondents becomes clear with respect to the differences described. The following stories provide examples of this difference.

“I had to go back to university for two years to try to have the same profession I had in Brazil. I underemployed despite speaking English fluently and having a university degree.”

“It’s not easy to get a job. They ask for Ontario work experience. How can an immigrant who has just arrived in the country have that experience?”

Housing. It’s very difficult sharing your space with strangers. It seems like a joke, but we were 57 people in a 3-storey home.”

“(The difficulty for me is) not having a weekend place or house on the beach.”
1.3. FAMILY AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

1.3.1 PARTNER’S NATIONALITY (ONTARIO, 2007)

Most of the respondents are in a relationship with people having only Brazilian nationality (55%). Almost 23% of respondents are in a relationship with people having only Canadian nationality. Portuguese nationals are the third largest group with respect to the nationality of the partner (4%). The various nationalities and combination of nationalities listed in the ‘other’ category should be highlighted. Almost 60 different nationalities or combinations of nationalities were listed by the respondents.

1.3.2 FAMILY MEMBERS IN ONTARIO (ONTARIO, 2007)

Approximately 1/4 of respondents (26%) indicated not having any family living in Ontario, 70% indicated having a spouse, boy/girlfriend or partner, 23% have siblings, cousins or uncles/aunts, and 44% have children.

1.3.3 NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND THEIR PLACE OF BIRTH (ONTARIO, 2007)

Most of the respondents with children have only 1 child (57%). Most parents of an only child had their offspring in Canada (55%). The proportion of children born in Brazil is greater in families with two and three children than in single-child families.
1.3.4 NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER RESIDENCE (ONTARIO, 2007)

A significant portion of respondents lives alone (15%). Most (64%) share residence with one or two people. Almost 20% of respondents share residence with 3 to 4 people. Few respondents share residence with 5 or more people (4%).

1.3.5 FREQUENCY OF CONTACT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN BRAZIL (ONTARIO, 2007)

Most respondents speak with family and friends in Brazil quite often, while about 10% rarely or never talk to people in Brazil.

1.3.6 TRAVEL TO BRAZIL SINCE MOVING TO CANADA (ONTARIO, 2007)

The study respondents tend to travel to Brazil frequently. There is, however, a significant group (almost 30%) of respondents who, even after being in Canada from 2 to 10 years, has never gone to Brazil.
1.3.7 FINANCIAL DEPENDENTS IN BRAZIL (ONTARIO, 2007)

Over 80% of respondents state not having financial dependents in Brazil.

1.3.8 NATIONALITY OF FRIENDS LIVING IN ONTARIO (ONTARIO, 2007)

The study respondents have more friends born in Brazil than in Canada or of other nationalities. Nearly 30% of respondents report not having any friends born in Canada. Of those, almost 75% have been living in the country for over 2 years.
1.3.9 CURRENT HEALTH STATUS COMPARED TO HEALTH IN BRAZIL (ONTARIO, 2007)

Most respondents (67%) stated that their health has not changed since coming to Canada. Nearly 20% indicated a worsening, and almost 15% indicated an improvement.

There is little change when comparing current health with health in Brazil in relation to time spent in Canada.

1.3.10 USE OF FREE TIME (ONTARIO, 2007)

Most frequently, during free time, the study respondents surf the net and perform housework. The least frequent activities in the categories listed were watching Portuguese-language television and participating in religious activities.
1.3.11 SATISFACTION WITH ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES IN ONTARIO

Over 60% of study respondents are satisfied with Ontario’s assistance and health services: 49% state that they are satisfied and 13% are very satisfied. The dissatisfaction index was also quite significant (38%), with 28% stating they were dissatisfied and 10% being very dissatisfied.

The reasons given by respondents for their satisfaction were more generic than those relating to dissatisfaction. More specific reports of satisfaction included: 1) ease of access, 2) quality service, 3) for publically funded system, 4) access for non status immigrants, and 5) positive references to service provided by community health centres.

The four main reasons given by the respondents for their dissatisfaction with Ontario’s assistance and health services were: 1) wait times for care/tests, 2) difficulty finding a family doctor, 3) discontent with doctor qualifications, and 4) discontent with doctor/patient relationship: consultation time is considered short, doctors are seen as impersonal and indifferent, not keen on listening to patients and they do not value the patient’s knowledge of his/her own body.

Other reasons given by respondents for dissatisfaction with assistance and health services were: 1) fear of doctors to commit to a diagnosis, 2) doctors avoid asking for tests, 3) high cost of care when not free, 4) health is highly focused on the doctor, 5) desire for direct access to a specialist, 6) little access to alternative medicine, 7) insufficient preventive medicine, and 8) difficulty gaining access to test results.

Many comparisons were made to the Brazilian healthcare system, considering both what was better and what was worse.

“We don’t have to worry about not being able to pay.”
“Care is very impersonal. You’ve barely got enough time to explain what you’re feeling, and they’re giving you Tylenol.”
“It took me two years to get a family doctor.”
“I’ve had to go to the hospital twice because I was hit by a car and needed stitches. I had to wait a long time to receive care.”
“Doctors here are inconsiderate and appear incompetent.”

“The Canadian healthcare system is very bad compared to the private healthcare system in Brazil. However, given that it is a public system, it is sufficient.”
1.4. LABOUR ASPECTS

1.4.1 AREA OF WORK (ONTARIO, 2007)

This being a multiple choice question, most study respondents declared more than one area of work, including housework, which was the most chosen category (15%). The next most popular areas of work were cleaning services (12%) and education (10%). The service sector, industry, financial services, civil construction and the hotel industry were reported by approximately 8% of respondents. The other areas of work had low representation.

1.4.2 JOB STATUS (ONTARIO, 2007)

Nearly 70% of respondents work full-time. Almost 20% work part-time. Fewer than 10% are unemployed.
1.4.3 INCOME (ONTARIO, 2007)

The study respondents declared an average monthly salary of CAD$3,900.00. The most frequently mentioned salary was CAD$2,500.00. This question received 405 valid responses, which means that the income of 30% of respondents is unknown (178 respondents did not declare their income and 39 responses were invalid).

1.4.4 METHOD FOR OBTAINING THE FIRST JOB (ONTARIO, 2007)

Over 35% of respondents got their first job with the help of Brazilian friends. Over 25% indicated that they got their first job without any outside help. About 6% never looked for work in Canada. About 3% were unable to find a job.
The study respondents are highly satisfied with working conditions in Ontario. There is, however, 20% dissatisfaction with the items mentioned. The item with least satisfaction refers to opportunity for professional development.

In total, 48% of the items were considered satisfactory, 34% very satisfactory, 14% slightly satisfactory and 4% terrible. The items of greatest satisfaction were environment/location and relationship with co-workers.
1.4.6 JOB SATISFACTION (ONTARIO, 2007)

As with satisfaction with working conditions, respondents stated that they were highly satisfied with their job in general. There was once again about 20% dissatisfaction in relation to the items mentioned. The item with the least satisfaction was vacations/holidays/benefits.

In total, 46% of the items were considered satisfactory, 33% very satisfactory, 14% slightly satisfactory and 6% terrible. The item of greatest satisfaction was working conditions/health and safety.
1.4.7 COMPARISON OF CURRENT JOB WITH JOB IN BRAZIL (ONTARIO, 2007)

Most of the respondents (44%) declared that their current job is better than the job they had in Brazil. However, 30% stated that their job was worse.

If we consider the amount of time the respondent has been in Canada, the comparison between the current job and the job the respondent had in Brazil progressively favours the current job in Canada.

1.4.8 CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN CURRENT JOB AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN BRAZIL (ONTARIO, 2007)

Over 55% of respondents stated that their current job does not correspond to their professional experience in Brazil.
1.4.9 STUDIES IN CANADA (ONTARIO, 2007)

Over 60% of respondents indicated attending English classes in Canada. About 25% attended workshops, lectures or continuing education courses, and slightly over 20% attended short-term technical courses. A significant proportion of respondents (18%) pursued undergraduate, master’s or doctoral studies in Canada.

1.4.10 VOLUNTEER WORK (ONTARIO, 2007)

Over 50% of respondents have or are currently volunteering.
1.5. SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS

1.5.1 SATISFACTION WITH LIFE IN CANADA (ONTARIO, 2007)

The study respondents stated that they were quite satisfied with life in Canada. Nearly 50% stated being satisfied, 33%, very satisfied, 8%, dissatisfied, and 2% would not repeat the experience.

1.5.2 STATED REACTION TO A HYPOTHETICAL LOTTERY WIN (ONTARIO, 2007)

Most respondents stated that they did not wish to return to Brazil, even if they were to win the lottery. Only 10% would immediately return to Brazil.

1.5.3 OPINION ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION (ONTARIO, 2007)

Most respondents disagree with the idea expressed in the statement made (55%). However, many respondents stated that there were insufficient options for responding to this issue.
1.5.4 DISCRIMINATION (ONTARIO, 2007)

Nearly 70% of respondents indicated that they did not experience discrimination. According to respondents, looking European (white) dramatically reduces the possibility of discrimination. Various respondents mentioned the welcoming nature of Canadians and support for immigrants. We cite, for example, the following statement:

“I never felt any discrimination. On the contrary, I experienced horrible situations and received all kinds of support, even when I couldn’t speak the language and didn’t have ‘my papers’.”

A significant portion of respondents (30%) stated having experienced discrimination. The most cited reason for discrimination was failure to master the English language or accent.

“I experienced great discrimination because of my accent, which I will obviously never lose. An accent is immediately associated with a lack of knowledge (idiocy).”

Another reason often mentioned was the difficulty of finding a job due to foreign credentials, prejudice against accent or culture.

Discrimination by the Portuguese community towards the Brazilian community was mentioned, in particular towards Black Brazilians, but always towards the Brazilian culture in general, describing Brazilians as opportunists and lazy. Respondents also mentioned the Portuguese community’s prejudice with respect to the Brazilian accent and the prejudice of Brazilians towards each other. Female respondents stated that they experienced discrimination due to the stereotype that Brazilian women are “easy”.

“Although it is quite subtle, there is a certain amount of suspicion with respect to my degree and, as a result, to my intellectual capacity. This ‘suspicion’ comes up when I mention that I received my doctorate in Brazil.”

“Brazilians are seen as being a population with low productivity. For partying only.”

“An HR company employee told me that none of its client companies would agree to interview someone without Canadian experience.”

“The Brazilian and Portuguese communities live together; however, it’s clear to me that to some of our Portuguese friends, being Brazilian is synonymous with being lazy, opportunistic, a crook, and someone whose word means nothing.”

“Stereotype that Brazilian women are easy. Job opportunities came with great effort, and sometimes humiliation.”
1.5.5 THE FACE OF BRAZIL IN CANADA

The study respondents described the face of Brazil in Canada as that of a country of opposites. On the one hand, Brazil is viewed as a cheerful country, with beautiful women, good music, a warm climate, Carnival, samba, soccer, parties and the beach. On the other hand, it is seen as a stereotype of an underdeveloped country, with great social inequality, prostitution, violence, hunger, misery, exploitation of people and natural resources.

It was also stated that when outside Brazil, Brazilians tend to reinforce stereotypical views about the country as a way of maintaining their identity.

Despite the stated disunity and recent immigration, several respondents attempted to define the face of the Brazilian community in Canada. Two faces stood out in this definition: one of “skilled workers” who immigrated legally to the country, and one of undocumented workers. This duality was stated as a way of reproducing the “microcosm of Brazilian society” and the big gap among social classes in Brazil. Discrimination between the social classes, and the lack of contact between them was also pointed out.

The two faces of the Brazilian community in Canada were commonly defined as: cheerful, fighters, nostalgic and hopeful. The group without status was also described as being the face of underemployment, enthusiasm, suffering, desire to overcome, courage and desire to save money.

The respondents also indicated that many Canadians are misinformed about Brazil. The common notion that Spanish is spoken in Brazil was pointed out.

The difficulty of defining the face of the Brazilian community in Canada was also of mention due to disunity, recent immigration and its small size. The desire for union was expressed by some respondents, and the disinterest in having contact with other Brazilians was expressed by others.

Another reason mentioned for the difficulty in describing the face of the Brazilian community in Canada was the lack of distinction between the Brazilian community in relation to other Latin American communities, the Italian community, and especially the Portuguese community.
reputation in the job market and are better adapted to the Canadian lifestyle.

1.5.6 WHAT ONTARIANS SAY WHEN THEY DISCOVER THEY ARE SPEAKING TO A BRAZILIAN

When they discover they are speaking to a Brazilian, many Ontario residents become curious and want to know why anyone would leave such a warm and beautiful country like Brazil to come live in a cold country like Canada. In general, Brazilian nationality is welcomed with a positive attitude, with expressions such as “cool” and “nice”.

Many people say they like Brazil and would like to visit it. Brazil is seen as a country of cheerful people. Comments about things that people relate with Brazil are often conversation starters, such as soccer, samba, Carnival, and Ronaldinho. Curiosity about the country as well as a certain lack of awareness were also brought up. Many people ask about the violence.

1.5.7 WHAT BRAZILIAN RESIDENTS SAY ABOUT THE DECISION TO EMIGRATE TO CANADA

“The question that always comes up is: Why did you leave the sun and that wonderful country? When we tell them why, they simply say it was the best decision.”

“They love Brazilians, our cheerfulness, culture, attitude (I think they like Brazil more than they like us).”

The study respondents also stated that many Canadians find it strange when Brazilians do not have the typical physical features expected (Black or Mulatto). Some respondents stated that they liked the Brazilian accent, finding it melodic. They also mentioned the prejudice from the Portuguese community when they discover they are dealing with a Brazilian and the prejudice of some men when they know the woman is Brazilian (considered easy and vulgar).

“I believe that Brazilians have a good reputation and are seen as hardworking and honest people here. A community with no unity, that has no sense of self or its own identity, with the exception of the World Cup of Soccer.”

“I’ve met only two Brazilians in Montreal and one in Toronto in the eight years I’ve been in Canada.”

“They don’t believe that I’m Brazilian because I’m white, blond and have blue eyes.”

“They are usually nice. Men, however, tend to act differently when I tell them I’m Brazilian. They become more daring and begin to flirt, which is irritating.”

“Must be great living in a first-world country where everything works.”

“They think it’s cool and tell me not to return to Brazil.”

“They miss us, but find it great that we were able to escape the violence and are living in a prosperous country.”
Reactions from family members, friends and acquaintances of the study respondents with respect to the fact that they decided to emigrate to Canada were mixed. Most people supported the decision, finding it to be a good one. They pointed out the great merit of living abroad, in a first-world country, and the admiration for the initiative and courage. Living in Canada is considered “chic”. According to the respondents, many Brazilians would like to have the same opportunity and get information on how to emigrate. Brazilians living in Brazil talk about the quality of life in Canada and the difficulties of living in Brazil, in particular with respect to the violence and lack of opportunity. They also emphasized the homesickness Brazilians living in Canada feel for family and friends.

Others do not understand choosing a cold country and/or leaving family, friends, language and culture. They feel that, despite its problems, Brazil is still a better place to live.

"They feel I’m courageous for being able to survive the cold."
"They think we’re crazy because Brazil is a great place to live."

Many respondents also stated that Brazilian residents think that people living in Canada are rich. There is a tendency to exaggerate the difficult things (like the climate) and the easy things (quality of life, job opportunities, high wages).

1.5.8 OTHER ASPECTS MENTIONED

In an open-ended question, study respondents mentioned other aspects they feel are relevant about their Ontario experience, and/or aspects that were not mentioned in the study. Most comments repeated topics addressed in other questions, such as the difficult and easy aspects of the immigration process, and positive and negative points about Canada and Brazil. However, a few new categories came up: 1) tips for Brazilian immigrants in Canada and for Brazilians thinking about emigrating to Canada, 2) needs of the Brazilian community in Ontario, 3) description of the illegal Brazilian community and of Brazilian community ghettos in Ontario, 4) reference to how to raise children, and 5) criticisms and suggestions for the survey questionnaire.

With respect to tips for immigrants and Brazilians thinking about emigrating to Canada, it was suggested to: 1) not continually compare Canada to Brazil, 2) extricate oneself from life in Brazil, 3) volunteer, 4) become involved in local activities of interest, 5) plan for immigration and prepare oneself professionally, 6) for those coming illegally, chose the province of Ontario, 7) seek out as much information as possible from community centres on arrival, 8) not spend too much money on immigration consultants, 9) become acquainted with Canadians as soon as possible after arriving, 10) get information about the difficulties of immigration, and 11) be persistent and remember that things are more difficult at the beginning.

"If you want to leave Brazil, do it legally. Many people leave Brazil, but Brazil doesn’t leave them. This is another country: some things are better, others worse, but it is definitely different."
"Associate right away with Canadians as soon as you arrive, instead of looking for help from Brazilians."
"The most important thing is avoiding comparisons between Brazil and Canada."
"The more I opened myself up to the local culture, the more opportunities became available."
"Canada has as many good things as Brazil. If you decided to come live here, try to live like Canadians, try to find the good things here and accept your new life."
With respect to the issue of Brazilian community needs in Ontario, the following needs were described:
1) more unity, 2) more cultural events, 3) greater promotion of Brazilian culture, 4) more information about the country and province, 5) more information for illegal immigrants about how to legalize their status, 6) more information on how to make the most of the education and certificates obtained in Brazil, 7) greater support from the Brazilian embassy and consulate, 8) more assistance for new arrivals, 9) better quality English classes for immigrants, 10) Brazilian Portuguese classes, and 11) services and centres geared exclusively towards the Brazilian community.

Reference was also made to the difference between how children are raised in Brazil and in Canada. It was stated that, in Brazil, punishment is more severe, and that physical punishment (“to be smacked on the bottom”) is not allowed in Canada. This prohibition has already caused problems for some respondents. It was also mentioned that laws in Canada result in children not respecting their parents.

With respect to the criticisms of and suggestions for the survey questionnaire, criticisms were raised about the opinion on illegal immigration, which, from the respondents’ perspective, did not provide enough options to respond. Suggestions were made for various questions that could be explored in future studies, such as: 1) non-status immigration, 2) proximity of the Brazilian community, 3) separation rate between immigrants and the impact of immigration on the family, 4) shops visited, 5) what immigrants would do differently if they could, 6) what government services they used, 7) whether they follow politics in Brazil and Canada, and 8) if they intend to return to Brazil in the short, medium or long term.

"I'd like to have a status and be able to lay my head on my pillow saying ‘I’m a Canadian citizen’, and have my daughter with me. I left her behind to come here to find us a better life. Having to leave her knowing that I can’t go back is very sad and even maddening. I’ll never be able to be complete. I’m begging for help. Please, somebody hear my plea!"

“The Brazilians who have arrived here recently are not a good breed. I’ve met many prostitutes, people who do drugs, are opportunists and crooks.”

“The reputation of the gay Brazilian is that of a go-go boy, promiscuous.”

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PART II – COMPARATIVE ANALYSES

Below are a few analyses on 5 chosen topics. The topics for analysis were selected because they are important in the context of the migratory process, or because they provide a critical view on the social organization of Brazilians in Ontario.

2.1 BRAZILIAN IDENTITY

Statements were made in the study describing dilemmas with respect to building a Brazilian identity in Canada: about the feeling of being Brazilian and Canadian, more Brazilian or more Canadian, and the difficulty imagining oneself as a Canadian citizen.

“I love Canada. My husband says I’m 60% Canadian and 40% Brazilian. But I don’t agree. I feel that it’s 50/50. I share the thrill of the victories of my “Brazilian Brazil”, in the same manner that I sing ‘Oh Canada’.”

The identity issue is a frequent theme in studies on immigration, including on the emigration of the Brazilian community (MARTES & FLEISCHER, 2003). Brazilian immigrants in Ontario complain about the stereotype of their people as ‘casual characters’, concerned only with partying, soccer and samba, yet Brazilians themselves tend to “sell” this “party-going” image as a way of preserving their identity.

Greater understanding is needed of the Brazilian/Canadian identity-building process and of its repercussions on the image of Brazil in Canada, and on the image Brazilians have of themselves. This understanding could, on the one hand, help us to develop policies to support Brazilians in Canada, and, on the other hand, help the Canadian population overcome stereotypes and preconceived ideas about the Brazilians.

Another identity-related aspect that emerged from the narratives was the classification of Brazilians as Latinos. There is a great deal of confusion in the literature regarding Latino classification with respect to race and ethnicity. This classification is not used in Brazil and the meaning of being Latino is different from the way it is described in North America (MARTES, 2003). In the United States, which has a history of Latin American immigration that is much older and more robust than the Canadian experience, the classification of a Latin race ceased to exist in 2000. Separate information is gathered on race and origin. The Canadian census still uses the classification of Latin American race, which confuses and displeases many Brazilians who don’t see themselves as Latinos. With globalization, the different migration groups and the increasing mixture of people from different origins, the classification of race associated to origin is becoming more complicated. It is surprising that a multicultural country such as Canada has not yet separated these two variables in the process for gathering information about its population.

2.2 SOCIAL CLASS ANALYSIS

Some study respondents stated that the Brazilian community in Ontario reproduces the class-based behaviour of Brazilian society, in which social relationships are only established with people from the same social class. Many respondents referred to the lack of solidarity among the Brazilian community in Ontario, a factor already identified in previous studies on Brazilian immigrants (OLIVEIRA, 2003).

“The interest of Brazilians in getting together depends on the ‘social class’ to which they belonged in Brazil.”

Respondents often mentioned mistrust and insecurity in relation to other Brazilians, which reinforces the lack of solidarity. The establishment of spaces and programs where Brazilians can help other Brazilians in an organized and sustainable manner may be one way to break the lack-of-trust cycle and empower the community.

2.3 GENDER ANALYSIS

In analyzing the sex-related data of the respondents, we noticed significant differences in relation to discrimination, work, and how free time was used.

Over 50% of women stated having experienced some type of discrimination since arriving in Canada. This figure is 24% higher than that described by male respondents. In their narratives, women mentioned experiences with discrimination related to being a Brazilian woman, considered “easy” and more sexually open than women of other nationalities.
There are also significant differences between the sexes with respect to work. The most common areas of work among women are: housework (21%), cleaning services (13%), education (11%) and non-profit organizations (9%). The beauty and personal services areas, although rarely mentioned, are exclusively run by women. Among the men, the most common areas of work are: civil construction (23%), industry (11%), cleaning services (10%) and financial services (9%). Female study respondents did 10% more volunteer work than men. The similar proportion between the sexes in the area of cleaning services, which is widely seen as an area of female work among the Brazilian immigrant population, is worth highlighting (MARTES, 2000).

Despite the proportional distribution among the sexes in paid cleaning work, housework continues to be done mostly by women. About 20% of women and 5% of men state that they work exclusively or partially at home. In the question about free time, women indicated the option “very often” for “performing housework” 20% more than men. The latter stated, however, the option “sometimes” 17% more than women.

2.4 RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY

The Portuguese community is the eighth largest immigrant community in Ontario, comprised of 110,000 members (STATISTICS CANADA, 2007c). Due to its significant presence over several decades, its community status and sociocultural and language similarities, the Portuguese community is a fundamental part of the social network of Brazilians in the province, especially for non-status Brazilians. The Brazilian community is the 58th largest immigrant community in the province of Ontario (STATISTICS CANADA, 2007b), but given the Portuguese presence, its language is the ninth most spoken in the province (STATISTICS CANADA, 2007c).

The relationship between the Brazilian and Portuguese communities in Ontario is territorial, cultural, linguistic and social. Many Brazilians tend to live in areas of Portuguese concentration, get jobs through contacts in the Portuguese community and establish friendships in this community.

However, despite the close relationship between the two communities, discrimination by the Portuguese community towards the Brazilian community was frequently mentioned by the study respondents, a fact that has already been reported in previous studies (VIDAL, 2000; GOZA 2003).

The social support group for Brazilian and Portuguese immigrants in Ontario must not be marked by prejudice and discrimination. For some Brazilian immigrants living in Ontario, the Brazilian and Portuguese communities are their only reference points in Canada. Working on the relationship between these two communities in order to develop health and social support networks is fundamental for the mutual and equitable development of both communities.

2.5 SOCIAL INCLUSION

The data show 4 types of problems that prevent the full inclusion of Brazilian immigrants living in Ontario: 1) misinformed Canadians on cultural aspects and the development of Brazilian society; 2) the internal division within the Brazilian community, which results in discrimination among Brazilians themselves; 3) misinformed Brazilian immigrants on the Canadian system and on Canadian social habits and standards;
and 4) the difficulty of many Brazilians in establishing friendships with Canadians.

“There were so many difficulties... not knowing how the system works, social isolation, etc.”

My life here is closely connected to my Brazilian friends. I’d like to interact a bit with Canadians and would also like Brazil to be more present in Ontario.”

In addition to the problems aforementioned, the absence of Brazilian representatives in the different social and government forums, leads to difficulties in addressing the specific needs of this immigrant group.

PART III – ANALYSIS BY STATUS IN CANADA

As described in the section entitled “About the Report”, the data presented in this section has been separated in subgroups and analysed according to the respondents’ migratory status in Canada.

3.1 EXPIRED VISA: THE MANY FACES OF LIFE WITHOUT A STATUS

The most pronounced feature of the group of respondents with an expired visa is its diversity. This group is formed of men and women, aged 22 to 60, coming from over 15 Brazilian states, with an education ranging from high school to graduate studies, and who have lived in Canada from 1 year to over 16 years.

What these individuals have in common is the fact that they are Brazilian, live in Ontario, have an expired visa and, as a result, do not have a work permit. However, the expired visa does not prevent these immigrants from having a valid driver’s license, working and using certain public healthcare services. This access, however, is quite limited and depends on networks of influence. Community health centres were stated, by some, as being more open to immigrants without an OHIP (Ontario Health Insurance Plan) card. Some immigrants indicated the lack of information and services. There are also doubts and uncertainty with respect to the best way to go about legalizing one’s status in the country. Some respondents criticized the Canadian immigration policy, considering it too demanding and not agile enough.

The difficulties of non-status immigrants in settling in Ontario are in part similar to those of all the study respondents: learning English, lack of Canadian work experience, recognition of credentials, adaptation to the cold climate, cultural differences and loneliness. However, these difficulties are compounded by not having documents, which limits the options of this group of immigrants for professional development and social support networks.

“Thereal immigrants face many difficulties and cannot experience the real Canada.”

The difficulty interacting outside the Brazilian and, in some cases, the Portuguese and Italian communities, makes cultural adaptation difficult and limits this group’s options for integration. Many do not have any friends born in Canada. There are references to loneliness and trouble making friends. Contact with family and friends in Brazil is frequent.

Despite improving their command of the English language over time, immigrants with expired visas tend to come to Canada with a level of English that is much lower than that of legal immigrants who, due to the points system, must meet the English language fluency criteria in order to immigrate to Ontario. However, as is the case with legal immigrants, many non-status immigrants have university degrees, and some even have graduate degrees. Most did not report their income. The average of those who did report income was much lower than that of legal immigrants. The monthly wages reported by non-status immigrants ranged from CAD$500 to CAD$2,500.

Low-paying unskilled jobs are part of the reality of many non-status immigrants, who subject themselves to precarious working conditions. There were reports of lost professional opportunities because of a lack of a work permit, as well as cases of exploitation and discrimination due to a lack of status. The respondents state that they work much more than legal workers. Many indicate that their job status is worse than in Brazil. The areas of work most frequently reported were: cleaning, industry, construction, hospitality and domestic jobs.

Despite the difficulties due to a lack of legal status, this group’s job satisfaction is still significant, as is its satisfaction with life in Canada. Despite this tendency, some respondents expressed dissatisfaction and a desire to return to Brazil.
The uncomfortable feeling of living like a foreigner is mentioned in the context of illegality. These immigrants gave up their life as citizens of Brazil but cannot fully assume a Canadian identity.

3.2. PERMANENT RESIDENTS AND CANADIAN CITIZENS: HOMOGENIZATION DUE TO THE SELECTION PROCESS

The selective immigration process, comprised of a defined points criteria system, results in great social homogeneity among this group. Over 70% of this group’s respondents are relatively recent immigrants (up to 10 years), are of a productive age group and are employed; they are married or in a stable relationship; they speak English fluently and are university graduates; they are satisfied with their job and life in Canada, and state that they would not return to live in Brazil even if they won the lottery.

Canada is commonly referred to by this group of respondents as a country with quality of life, opportunity, security, and academic and professional development. The most frequently mentioned negative points are the coldness of both the social relationships and the climate.

Brazil is, in turn, commonly associated with violence, poverty and lack of opportunity. The group of respondents has highlighted as positive aspects of Brazilian people their cheerfulness, creativity and casualness.

3.2.1 Sociodemographic Aspects

Women make up the highest number (63%) of respondents among Permanent Residents and Canadian Citizens, about 30% more than men, which is common in volunteer or community-based studies.

The group is mostly comprised of people who are married or in a stable relationship (76%). About 15% are single and 7% are divorced.

Almost 80% of the group’s respondents are White, 12% indicated that they were Dark-skinned, while only 1% were Asian, Aboriginal or Black, whereas the racial distribution in 2006 in Brazil was: 49.7% White, 6.9% Black, 42.6% Mulatto and 0.8% Native and Asian (IBGE, 2007).

The sexual orientation of the group’s respondents is mostly heterosexual (90%). Of the remaining 10%, about 8% indicated they were attracted to members of the same sex, and 1% to both sexes. There were reports from respondents who immigrated to Canada because of their homosexuality.

Almost half (47%) of the group’s respondents stated being Catholic, 18% stated being Spiritist, and 12%, Evangelical. About 17% indicated not having any religious affiliation and 3% stated being Atheist.

The state of origin for most of the group is São Paulo, with about 40% of immigrants, followed by Minas Gerais (14%), Rio de Janeiro (11%), Paraná (7%) and Rio Grande do Sul (7%).

Over 75% of the group’s respondents immigrated to Canada less than 10 years ago, and almost half (47%) immigrated less than 5 years ago.

Over 70% of the group’s respondents have a university degree, and, of those 34% also have a graduate degree. When adding the respondents who have an incomplete university degree (15%), almost 90% of the group’s respondents have gone to university.

These social characteristics reveal that Brazilians who become permanent residents in Ontario come from Brazil’s middle to upper classes, being mostly White, with a high level of education and from the states with the greatest economic affluence. We also noted that immigration has increased in the past five years.

3.2.2 Immigration and Adaptation Aspects

The social contact network of many of these immigrants had already begun before coming to the country: 21% spent the first night in the home of a family member, 17% with Brazilian friends/acquaintances, and 14% with Canadian friends/acquaintances.

Over 45% received guidance on settling in Ontario from people they knew. About 15% did not receive any information, 24% received official guidance, 18% went to a community or information centre, 35% sought out information themselves, and 30% came from Brazil with all settlement information organized.

Over 75% of the group’s respondents already spoke English on arriving in Canada. Of these, 29% spoke fluently, 33% with some difficulty, and 14% with great difficulty. Only 11% indicated being able to
communicate only the basics, and 12% stated that they did not speak English on arrival. With the passage of time, English fluency increases considerably: 82% indicated communicating in English fluently, and 16% with some difficulty.

3.2.3 Family and Social Aspects
The respondents from this group have Brazilian and Canadian friends, and friends from other nationalities residing in Ontario. About 10% indicated having no Brazilian friends, 18% indicated having no friends of other nationalities, and 26% indicated having no Canadian friends.

“The greatest difficulty in adapting is understanding Canadians and their concept of individuality. Friends, but just to a certain point.”

About 73% of the group’s respondents indicated having a spouse, boy/girlfriend or partner, 23% siblings/cousins or aunts/uncles, and 25% children. Of parents with children, most have 1 to 2 children. The nationality of the person with whom the group’s respondents have an emotional relationship is mostly Brazilian (42%), followed by Canadian (23%) and Portuguese (4%).

Most of the group’s respondents (43%) live with only one other person, 21% with two other people, 14% with 3 or more people, and 13% live alone.

About 15% of the group’s respondents indicated having financial dependents in Brazil. Most of the group’s respondents have visited Brazil after coming to live in Canada. Only 16% have never gone to Brazil. Most of the respondents (34%) have visited Brazil 5 or more times.

The majority of respondents have stated that their health has not changed (63%), 17% indicated that it is worse and 14% that it is better. Over 30% indicated having experienced some type of discrimination since arriving in the country.

The social integration of Brazilians in this group appears to be permeated by a social network of family and friends, which facilitates the immigration and adaptation process, either by providing housing on arrival, or socialization information or opportunities. This network is comprised primarily of Brazilians, then of other immigrants, and, to a lesser degree, of C

3.2.4 Labour Aspects
Nearly 90% of the respondents in this group have gainful employment, with 70% working full time and 18% working part time. Almost 10% indicated doing unpaid work. Only 5% indicated being unemployed and looking for work. Only 1% indicated being retired. Those in school amount to 16%, with 7% in school full time and 9% part time.

The areas of work indicated by the respondents in this group are quite diverse. Those most frequently mentioned were: housework (12%), education (10%), computer science (9%), financial services (9%), non-profit organizations (8%) and industry (8%). Also mentioned were: hospitality (7%), cleaning services (7%), health (5%), government/military (5%) and civil construction (4%).

Over 40% of the group’s respondents indicated having a better job today than the one they had in Brazil; 24% considered it to be equal; and 20% worse. About 50% have already volunteered in Ontario. About half of the group’s respondents stated that their current job did not correspond to their professional experience in Brazil.

“I had many difficulties when I arrive. I have a graduate degree and a social worker offered me a course as a school bus driver.”

Over 50% of the group’s respondents got their first job through Brazilian friends (30%), Canadian friends (10%) and friends of other nationalities (12%). About 5% indicated that they got their first job through immigrant assistance centres, and 31% did not have any outside help.

The average monthly income of the group’s respondents is CAD$4,018. Many respondents, about 30%, did not provide income information.

Over 60% of respondents took English classes, 13% took preparatory courses for the English proficiency exam, 25% took short-term technical courses, 18% took community college courses, 21% took university courses, 27% took continuing education workshops, 8% took courses for diploma equivalence, and only 14% stated that they did not take any training course.

The labour integration of Brazilian immigrants reinforces the notion that the social network plays a major role in the process, but it is also leveraged by
additional training through courses in Canada. Only 5% are unemployed, a similar rate of unemployment in Ontario, which was 6.3% in 2006 (STATISTICS CANADA, 2007d). It should be pointed out that 50% of respondents reported working in areas that do not use their professional training acquired in Brazil, and 20% are in worse jobs than the ones they had before, which may be the case with cleaning services, hospitality and civil construction jobs.

3.2.5 Social Representations

Over 30% of the group’s respondents indicated having experienced some type of discrimination since arriving in Canada. The reasons for discrimination most frequently mentioned are related to being an immigrant, English fluency, accent, lack of Canadian work experience, and non-recognition of professional credentials obtained abroad.

Most of the statements related to discrimination concern the working environment, but there are also reports about the difficulty of making friends and covert discrimination towards immigrants by Canadian-born citizens.

Discrimination based on race (towards Blacks), origin (towards Latin Americans and Brazilians) and sex (towards women) was also reported. There is also mention of discrimination from members of the Portuguese community towards Brazilians, and also certain pejorative manifestations by Brazilians towards other communities of immigrants.

Over 61% of respondents are satisfied (47%) or very satisfied (13%) with assistance and health services. However, nearly 25% are dissatisfied and 9% are very dissatisfied.

The reasons for dissatisfaction are not unlike those usually indicated by the Canadian population in general, such as line ups and waiting lists for tests. In addition, there is discontentment with the doctor-patient relationship, which is considered superficial, with little politeness and effectiveness.

The group’s satisfaction with life in Canada is quite significant. Over 35% indicated being very satisfied, 42% indicated being satisfied, 7% dissatisfied, and 3% would not repeat the experience. Only 7% of respondents indicated that they would return to Brazil if they won the lottery. About 40% would continue to live in Canada and/or would bring their family here, and 31% would live here part time and in Brazil part time. These data corroborate the findings of another study (GOZA, 1999).

Despite the satisfaction of most Brazilian immigrants, experiences of discrimination and dissatisfaction with public services were also mentioned by a third of them and 10% are unhappy with the immigration process, which is akin to the experience of other groups of Latin American immigrants regarding the feeling of “belonging” in Canada (STATISTICS CANADA, 2001).

3.2.6 Income and Educational Level in relation to the Ontarian and Brazilian Population, and the Population of Latin American Immigrants in Canada

The study respondents who are permanent residents or Canadian citizens have a higher income and level of education than the Ontarian, Brazilian and Latin American average in Canada.

Although somewhat expected, due to the Canadian immigration points systems, it emphasizes the high level of education of the group’s respondents. The university level completed by the group (72%) is significantly higher than the average university level of the Canadian population, which, according to the 2006 census, was 26% for the population between the ages of 25 and 64 (STATISTICS CANADA, 2007a).

Also with respect to the educational level, although most of the data available on the Brazilian community in Canada is linked to the Latin American community, the percentage of Brazilians with a university degree in Ontario is substantially higher than the average among Latin American immigrants in Canada, which was 17% in 2000 for people over 15 years of age (STATISTICS CANADA, 2001).

This rate is also quite different from the Brazilian university rate. According to the Brazilian census, in 2000, the population rate with post-secondary education was 7% for the population over 25 years of age, which is 65% lower than the rate for the group of residents who are permanent residents or Canadian citizens (IBGE, 2000). The outflow of skilled professions to richer countries, a phenomenon called “brain drain”,

“I love living here. It’s not easy, especially when you’re used to having everything: maid, manicure, pedicure, car washer. But I wouldn’t trade what I have here for anything in the world.”
is a problem for poorer countries; there are, however, positive effects due to the remittance of funds and an increased cultural and intellectual exchange, a process called the “brain circulation.”

With respect to Canada, the study data points towards an efficient immigration policy for capturing skilled labour, but which is inefficient in its ability to use the prior professional experience of a large number of those immigrants, since 50% of people with status who answered the survey are not working in their areas of training.

The income of the group’s respondents also stands out as significantly higher. In 2005, the average monthly income of Ontario residents was $3,729 (STATISTICS CANADA, 2008a). In 2000, the average monthly income of Canadians of Latin American origin was $1,875 (STATISTICS CANADA, 2001). The group’s respondents reported an average monthly income of $4,018, which is much higher than the average for Latin Americans living in Canada and also a bit higher than the Ontario average. This phenomenon is explained in part by the high level of education among the group, but may also be partially related to the research sample and to the fact that 30% of respondents did not answer the question regarding income.

The average monthly income of the study respondents is, however, lower than the average income for Ontario residents between the ages of 25 and 54 who have a university degree and were born in Canada ($4,666), but significantly higher than that of other immigrants living in Ontario. The average monthly income of immigrants aged 25 to 54 living in Ontario was $3,248 in 2005. The 2005 average income of Ontarians who immigrated less than five years ago (immigration period of nearly 50% of the group’s respondents) was $2,194 per month (STATISTICS CANADA, 2008b).

PART IV – FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Despite the different faces of the Brazilians living in Ontario, what unites them is the search for a better life through work in the province. They bring with them professional, educational and cultural background that makes Canada a richer country. In exchange, Brazilians living here feel rewarded through public security and the opportunity to earn a decent living, despite the frequent career changes this experience entails. Sayings such as “Ontario, mine to discover” encompass the feeling of belonging that many people have and why they would continue living in Canada even if they were to win the lottery and could choose where to live.

The challenge for the Brazilian community that has settled in Ontario is building its own identity, one that highlights its cultural hybridism and is affirmed by examples of racial and cultural exchanges as an expression of respect and value for differences, and that affirm the mix as an advantage and source of richness, enabling one to belong to many different worlds in a single lifetime. This cultural capital may help in the search for paths to deal with today’s great challenges, such as multicultural life and the social and economic integration of newcomers to Canada.

PART V - RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

5.1.1 Recommendations for Community Programs and Action

- Counselling programs and information for Brazilians on aspects of Canadian society (working environments, schools, healthcare system, etc.) to be developed by support agencies, government agencies, school boards, in close collaboration with representatives from the Brazilian community and in line with the community’s needs, taking into account language and cultural barriers.
- Expansion of intergovernmental communication channels aimed at optimizing the recognition of professional credentials obtained in Brazil.
- Creation of transnational professional integration programs aimed at accelerating the process for acquiring the required Canadian experience.
- Creation of programs that facilitate the expansion of the support system beyond the Brazilian community – the greater the participation of Brazilians in Canadian society, the greater the exchange between Brazilians, Canadians and other immigrants.

3 The data relating to income should be interpreted with caution: questions regarding income are usually considered delicate and many respondents prefer not to reveal this information, as was the case in this study. It is also possible that the data related to income are distorted due to “social desirability”, i.e., a tendency by some people to give answers considered more socially acceptable.
• Offering of community leadership courses together with other ethnic communities.
• Creation of programs aimed at teaching Portuguese (Brazilian) and the Brazilian culture to the children of Brazilians and other interested people.
• Creation and enhancement of cultural programs that highlight Brazilian production (cinema, literature, cuisine, scientific development, etc.)
• Encouragement of Brazilian volunteers to help guide new arrivals through reception centres and other community organizations.
• Promotion of the inclusion and valorization of diversity within the Brazilian community itself.

5.1.2 Recommendations for the Development of Public Policies

• For Statistics Canada: provide free access to cross-tabulated data from the census by country of origin as a community empowerment policy.
• Creation of actions for promoting the legalization of Brazilians who currently have no status in Canada. Offer dependable legal counselling, as well as humanitarian assistance and protection to the children of these immigrants.
• Creation of special community counselling systems (also called local votes) to encourage greater participation of permanent residents at the local levels of administration.
• Guarantee the participation of Brazilian community representatives in decisions that affect Brazilians (both in government agencies and community organizations).
• Set up Brazil/Canada exchange boards in the business, social, cultural and research areas.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE STUDIES

• We recommend studying the Brazilian-Canadian identity-building process. This study could look at understanding the image that Brazilian immigrants have of Brazil and how this image penetrates their social and professional relationships in the adopted country.
• In order to better understand the relationship between the Brazilian and Portuguese communities, we recommend conducting a qualitative study on the two communities in the city of Toronto so as to understand how the social support networks, power relationships, discrimination and prejudice between the two communities function. The study should be coordinated by researchers from both communities.
• We recommend a study on the change or stagnation of the Brazilian community’s social classes in Canada in relation to Brazil as a way of understanding the influence of the Canadian social structure on the conduct and opportunities of Brazilians. It would be interesting to explore aspects such as social mobility, social capital, prejudices and the social support network.
• We recommend a more in-depth analysis of the difference in income between Brazilian immigrants and other nationalities, in order to identify the reasons for the apparent success of Brazilian immigrants in Canada.
• The Canadian government recently tabled new legislation introducing the Canadian Experience Class, which allows students to work. Given the variation in the types of visas already mentioned, this appears to be a measure that will facilitate entry into the workforce for those who initially came to Canada on a student visa. We recommend a follow-up study on this new policy within the country’s Brazilian immigrant community.
• We recommend a detailed analysis of the performance standards of Brazilian immigrants both in work environments and in the academic universe. It would be interesting to develop projects that assess the adaptability of Brazilians to the Canadian work culture, as well as to the educational models adopted in Canada.
• Investigate the impact of formal and informal education, and volunteer work on facilitating the inclusion of Brazilian immigrants in Canadian society.
• We recommend creating a database for gathering detailed information on the arrival of Brazilian immigrants in Canada. This database would facilitate not only the development of new research projects, but could also offer dependable information to government and community organizations, as well as the private sector.
REFERENCES


Statistics Canada. Highest level of educational attainment for the population aged 25 to 64, percentage distribution (2006) for both sexes, for Canada, provinces and territories, and census divisions - 20% sample data (table), 2007a.


Statistics Canada. Median(1) 2005 earnings for full-year, full-time earners by education, both sexes, total age group 25 to 64, for Canada, provinces and territories – 20% sample data (table). Income and Earnings Highlight Tables. 2006 Census, 2008a.

Statistics Canada. Median(1) earnings of recent immigrants and Canadian-born earners, both sexes, aged 25 to 54, with or without university degree, 2005, for Canada, provinces and territories – 20% sample data (table). Income and Earnings Highlight Tables. 2006 Census, 2008b.


What is the goal of the survey?
The goal of this questionnaire is to obtain information on the living conditions of Brazilians living in Ontario, regardless of their status. There are currently no data on Brazilians in the Canadian statistics because data on South America are always grouped together. Nevertheless, the various organizations serving the Brazilian community need reliable information in order to plan programs or propose public policies.

Who is conducting the survey?
The Brazil-Angola Community Information Centre (BACIC) is conducting the survey in collaboration with four Brazilian researchers who are all currently Ontario residents (see names and institutions below).

Who can participate?
In order for the data to be of statistical value, we need a large number of participants. Therefore, please inform all Brazilians you know in Ontario (the last day for completing the questionnaire is July 2). Anyone who has been in Ontario for over 6 months and is over 16 years of age may participate. For example, in a family comprised of a mother and 2 children over 16, all three can complete the questionnaire, which takes on average 25 minutes to fill out.

Who will use the survey results?
The results will be fully disclosed by the BACIC to the entire Brazilian community and the organizations serving it. The results will be published in both Portuguese and English.

Are there any risks or benefits in participating in the survey?
There are no risks in completing this questionnaire, but there are benefits. It is important to understand our community’s reality in order for the BACIC to be able to offer better services to our compatriots and propose programs to the government that may benefit Brazilians living in all parts of the province.

How is confidentiality and anonymity guaranteed?
The survey is entirely anonymous. The only identification we request is the first part of your postal code in order to know in which neighbourhood or city you live, but you may choose not to answer this question. We will not have access to your IP address on your computer because we have asked the company Survey Monkey not to gather that information.

Finally, all the data will be presented together, and if you write something that may identify you, that data will not be used.

All the information gathered will be stored in a computer with a password and locked cabinet, both stored in a locked office, in a secure building at the University of Western Ontario. Once the study is completed, the electronic information will be recorded on CD and deleted from Survey Monkey’s website.

The stored information will be kept for 5 years and then destroyed. When the study results are published, your name will not be used and no information identifying you will be disclosed or published since the survey is anonymous. Only the collective data will be published.

Is participation voluntary?
Yes, participation in this study is voluntary. You may refuse to participate, refuse to answer any question or withdraw from the study at any time.

Why is everything written in the masculine?
We apologize to Brazilian women, but in order to simplify the questionnaire’s style, we have used the masculine to include both men and women.

Questions?
If you have any question or comment, please contact the researchers by e-mail at pesquisa@centrobrasilangola.org or call Dr. Lilian Magalhães at (519) 661-2111 ext. 80476.

You consent to participate in the study by completing and sending the questionnaire online. If you have any questions about the ethics of the study, or about your rights as a survey participant, please contact the Director of the UWO Research Office by calling (519) 661-3036, or by e-mail at ethics@uwo.ca.

Thank you very much for your participation!

Lilian Magalhães, PhD, Principal Researcher, Assistant Professor, University of Western Ontario, e-mail lmagalha@uwo.ca
Denise Gastaldo, PhD, Researcher, Associate Professor, University of Toronto
Guilherme Martinelli, MSc, Researcher, Statistics Administrator, College of Nurses of Ontario
Adão Hentges, PhD, Researcher, Associate Professor, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
Brazil, Show Us Your Face:
Survey on the profile of Brazilians living in Ontario

Instructions for completion
For questions indicating “1 answer only”, please choose the option that best describes your situation.
For questions indicating “multiple answers allowed”, please choose all the options that apply.
For “open-ended” questions (with no options to choose), please provide a complete answer in your own words.

1. In what year were you born? __ __ __ __

2. From which Brazilian state do you come?
   - ( ) Acre (AC)
   - ( ) Amazonas (AM)
   - ( ) Bahia (BA)
   - ( ) Ceará (CE)
   - ( ) Distrito Federal (DF)
   - ( ) Espírito Santo (ES)
   - ( ) Goiás (GO)
   - ( ) Maranhão (MA)
   - ( ) Mato Grosso (MT)
   - ( ) Mato Grosso do Sul (MS)
   - ( ) Minas Gerais (MG)
   - ( ) Pará (PA)
   - ( ) Paraíba (PB)
   - ( ) Paraná (PR)
   - ( ) Pará (PA)
   - ( ) Pernambuco (PE)
   - ( ) Piauí (PI)
   - ( ) Rio de Janeiro (RJ)
   - ( ) Rio Grande do Norte (RN)
   - ( ) Rio Grande do Sul (RS)
   - ( ) Rondônia (RO)
   - ( ) Roraima (RR)
   - ( ) Santa Catarina (SC)
   - ( ) São Paulo (SP)
   - ( ) Sergipe (SE)
   - ( ) Tocantins (TO)

3. How long have you been living in Canada?
   ____________________________________________

4. Please list all other countries where you lived before arriving in Canada:
   ____________________________________________

5. What is the first part of your Ontario postal code (e.g.: M6J)?
   __ __ __

6. How many times have you returned to Brazil since coming to live in Canada?
   (1 answer only)
   ( ) never
   ( ) 1 time
   ( ) 2 times
   ( ) 3 times
   ( ) 4 times
   ( ) 5 or more times

7. What is your marital status? (1 answer only)
   ( ) single
   ( ) married
   ( ) common-law (living together)
   ( ) divorced
   ( ) widowed
   ( ) other: specify __________________________

8. If you are in a relationship, what is the other person’s nationality? (1 answer only)
   ( ) Brazilian
   ( ) Portuguese
   ( ) Canadian
   ( ) Dual nationality: specify __________________________
   ( ) Other nationality: specify __________________________

9. What is your sex? (1 answer only)
   ( ) Female
   ( ) Male
   ( ) Other: specify __________________________

10. What is your sexual orientation? (1 answer only)
    ( ) I’m attracted to the opposite sex
    ( ) I’m attracted to the same sex
    ( ) I’m attracted to both sexes

11. What is your religion? (multiple answers allowed)
    ( ) Atheist
    ( ) No religious affiliation
    ( ) Catholic
    ( ) Afro-Brazilian Beliefs
    ( ) Spiritist
    ( ) Evangelical
    ( ) Other: specify __________________________
12. Why did you come to Canada?

13. Why are you in Ontario?

14. Why did you leave Brazil?

15. Indicate if you have in Ontario: (multiple answers allowed)
   ( ) spouse/boy(girl)friend/partner
   ( ) siblings/cousins/aunts and uncles
   ( ) no family
   ( ) children born in Brazil: how many _______________________
   ( ) children born in Canada: how many _______________________

16. Including yourself, how many people live in your home? (1 answer only)
   ( ) 1 person
   ( ) 2 people
   ( ) 3 people
   ( ) 4 people
   ( ) 5 people
   ( ) 6 people
   ( ) 7 people
   ( ) 8 or more people

17. What is your highest level of education? (1 answer only)
   ( ) 1 to 4 years of schooling
   ( ) 5 to 8 years of schooling
   ( ) 9 to 12 years of schooling (equivalent to Brazilian high school)
   ( ) incomplete university studies
   ( ) completed university studies
   ( ) graduate studies

18. How do you identify yourself in terms of race? (1 answer only)
   ( ) Asian
   ( ) White
   ( ) Black
   ( ) Aboriginal
   ( ) Dark-skinned (e.g.: Mulatto, Caboclo, Mameluco, Cafuzo)
   ( ) Other: specify _______________________

19. Were you able to communicate in English when you arrived in Canada? (1 answer only)
   ( ) Fluently, without any problem
   ( ) With some difficulty
   ( ) With great difficulty
   ( ) Only the basics to get around
       (e.g., good morning, good afternoon, numbers and days of the week)
   ( ) I did not speak English

20. Are you currently able to communicate in English? (1 answer only)
    ( ) Fluently, without any problem
    ( ) With some difficulty
    ( ) With great difficulty
    ( ) Only the basics to get around
       (e.g., good morning, good afternoon, numbers and days of the week)
    ( ) I do not speak English
21. What is your area of work? (multiple answers allowed)
   ( ) housework (in your own house)
   ( ) cleaning services (for others)
   ( ) beauty services
   ( ) business
   ( ) industry
   ( ) financial / banking / insurance services
   ( ) restaurants / hotels / tourism
   ( ) civil construction
   ( ) education (schools / faculties)
   ( ) non-profit organizations
   ( ) government / military
   ( ) health (hospitals / healthcare centres)
   ( ) personal services (e.g., caring for people)
   ( ) other: specify ________________________________

22. In relation to your job, you: (multiple answers allowed)
   ( ) work full time
   ( ) work part time
   ( ) study full time
   ( ) study part time
   ( ) do unpaid work
   ( ) do not work for health reasons
   ( ) are unemployed and looking for work
   ( ) are unemployed and not looking for work
   ( ) are retired
   ( ) other: specify ________________________________

23. What is your income in Canadian dollars? Indicate the amount or an average of what you earn per month before taxes.
   CAD$ ________________________________

24. You have: (multiple answers allowed)
   ( ) Ontario driver’s license
   ( ) expired visa
   ( ) valid student visa
   ( ) valid work permit
   ( ) permanent residence status
   ( ) Canadian citizenship
   ( ) Other: specify ________________________________

25. Are you registered with the Brazilian Consulate? (1 answer only)
   ( ) yes    ( ) no

26. On arriving in Canada, where did you spend your first night? (1 answer only)
   ( ) hotel, B&B or hostel
   ( ) home of a family member
   ( ) home of a Brazilian
   ( ) home of Canadian friends/acquaintances
   ( ) Other: specify ________________________________

27. When you arrived, where did you get information about settling in Ontario? (multiple answers allowed)
   ( ) I did not receive any information
   ( ) I received instructions from immigration officers (e.g.: Citizenship and Immigration)
   ( ) I received information from people I knew
   ( ) I went to a community centre or information centre
   ( ) I searched for information
   ( ) I came with everything already organized from Brazil
   ( ) Other: specify ________________________________

28. What was your greatest difficulty settling in Ontario?
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

29. When you arrived in Canada, you took: (multiple answers allowed)
   ( ) English classes
   ( ) preparatory course for English proficiency exams
   ( ) short-term technical course(s)
   ( ) community college course(s)
   ( ) university course(s) (undergraduate, master’s or doctorate)
   ( ) workshop(s), lecture(s) or continuing education class(es)
   ( ) diploma equivalence course
   ( ) no course or training
30. You got your first job: (multiple answers allowed)
   ( ) through Brazilian friends
   ( ) through immigrant friends of other nationalities
   ( ) through Canadian friends
   ( ) through immigrant support centres
   ( ) without any outside help
   ( ) I didn’t find work (==> go to question 35)
   ( ) I didn’t look for work in Canada (==> go to question 35)
   ( ) other: specify ________________________________

31. With respect to your job, how would you rate your current working
conditions? (Rate each item according to the following scale)
   1 very bad  2 slightly satisfactory  3 satisfactory  4 very satisfactory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remuneration / salary / benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job security / stability</td>
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<td>Possibilities for development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relationship with co-workers</td>
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<td>Relationship with superiors / bosses</td>
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<td>Environment / location</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work load</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respect for workers’ rights</td>
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</table>

32. With respect to your job, how would you rate your satisfaction with
your current job? (Rate each item according to the following scale)
   1 very bad  2 slightly satisfactory  3 satisfactory  4 very satisfactory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working conditions, health and safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>(e.g., helmets, belt, mask)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identification with the company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal satisfaction with the work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance between personal and professional life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacations, holidays and benefits</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

33. Think about the job you had in Brazil. Today, in Canada, your job is:
   (1 answer only):
   ( ) better  ( ) the same  ( ) worse

34. Does your current job correspond to your professional experience in
Brazil? (1 answer only)
   ( ) yes  ( ) no

35. Are you doing or have you done any volunteer work in Ontario?
   (1 answer only)
   ( ) yes  ( ) no

36. Since arriving, have you experienced any type of discrimination?
   (1 answer only)
   ( ) yes  ( ) no

Elaborate:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

37. Since coming to Canada, your health: (1 answer only)
   ( ) has improved
   ( ) has not changed
   ( ) is worse

38. What is your level of satisfaction with Ontario’s assistance and health
services?
   ( ) Very satisfied
   ( ) Satisfied
   ( ) Dissatisfied
   ( ) Very dissatisfied

Elaborate:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
39. During your time off, how often do you do the following activities? (Use the following scale)
   ① never - ② rarely - ③ sometimes - ④ often

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>①</th>
<th>②</th>
<th>③</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watch television – in Portuguese</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watch television – in English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do housework / groceries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surf the net</td>
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<tr>
<td>Go to the movies or cultural events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Go to bars, restaurants, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet with friends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participate in religious activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Play sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do other activities: specify:</td>
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40. How and how often do you communicate with family or friends in Brazil? (Use the following scale)
   ① never - ② rarely - ③ sometimes - ④ often

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>③</th>
<th>④</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By computer</td>
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<tr>
<td>By telephone</td>
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41. Is somebody in Brazil financially dependent on you?
(1 answer only)
   ( ) yes       ( ) no

42. How many of your closest friends currently live in Ontario and were born in Canada? (1 answer only)
   ( ) None
   ( ) 1 to 3
   ( ) 4 to 7
   ( ) 7 to 10

42. How many of your closest friends currently live in Ontario and were born in Canada? (1 answer only)
   ( ) None
   ( ) 1 to 3
   ( ) 4 to 7
   ( ) 7 to 10

43. How many of your closest friends currently live in Ontario and were born in Brazil? (1 answer only)
   ( ) None
   ( ) 1 to 3
   ( ) 4 to 7
   ( ) 7 to 10
   ( ) More than 10

43. How many of your closest friends currently live in Ontario and were born in Brazil? (1 answer only)
   ( ) None
   ( ) 1 to 3
   ( ) 4 to 7
   ( ) 7 to 10
   ( ) More than 10

44. How many of your closest friends currently live in Ontario and are immigrants of other nationalities? (1 answer only)
   ( ) None
   ( ) 1 to 3
   ( ) 4 to 7
   ( ) 7 to 10
   ( ) More than 10

44. How many of your closest friends currently live in Ontario and are immigrants of other nationalities? (1 answer only)
   ( ) None
   ( ) 1 to 3
   ( ) 4 to 7
   ( ) 7 to 10
   ( ) More than 10

45. In a few words, define the face of Brazil in Canada:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

45. In a few words, define the face of Brazil in Canada:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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46. In Ontario, what do people most often say about you being Brazilian?

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46. In Ontario, what do people most often say about you being Brazilian?

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________________________________________________________________________
47. What do people you know in Brazil think about you living abroad / in Canada?

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48. When you read the following opinion in the media: (1 answer only)
“Illegal immigrants should be deported. They don’t pay taxes and don’t work any more than legal immigrants, who pay the fees for the immigration process and have to deal with the waiting period.” J. T., Toronto, 22/03/2006

You:
(  ) agree
(  ) disagree
(  ) are indifferent

49. If you won a million dollars in the lottery, you would:
(1 answer only)
(  ) go back to Brazil immediately
(  ) bring your family to Ontario
(  ) live part of the year here and part in Brazil
(  ) continue to live in Ontario as you do today
(  ) other: ____________________________________________________________

50. How satisfied are you with your life in Canada?
(1 answer only)
(  ) Very satisfied
(  ) Satisfied
(  ) My life has barely changed
(  ) I’m dissatisfied
(  ) I would not repeat the experience
(  ) Other: ____________________________________________________________

51. Please comment on other aspects of your experience that you consider relevant and were not mentioned in the questionnaire. You can also provide examples to illustrate your life in Ontario.

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Thank you very much for participating!

For the study results, please visit the BACIC website at www.centrobrasilangola.org
BRAZIL-ANGOLA COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE (BACIC)

The BACIC is an organization made up of volunteers who offer free services to newcomers to Canada to help them integrate and participate in Canadian society. Our mission is to serve the minority Portuguese-language communities (Brazilian and Angolan, among others) residing in the Greater Toronto Area.

We are available to meet with the public personally every Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Christopher House, 248 Ossington Avenue. We can also be contacted during the week by calling (416) 760-2665.

www.centrobrasilangola.org