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Rethinking Language Contact

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RETHINKING LANGUAGE CONTACT: MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN CANADA

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Multilingual Language Education (MLE) in *Glocal Perspective*
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Context



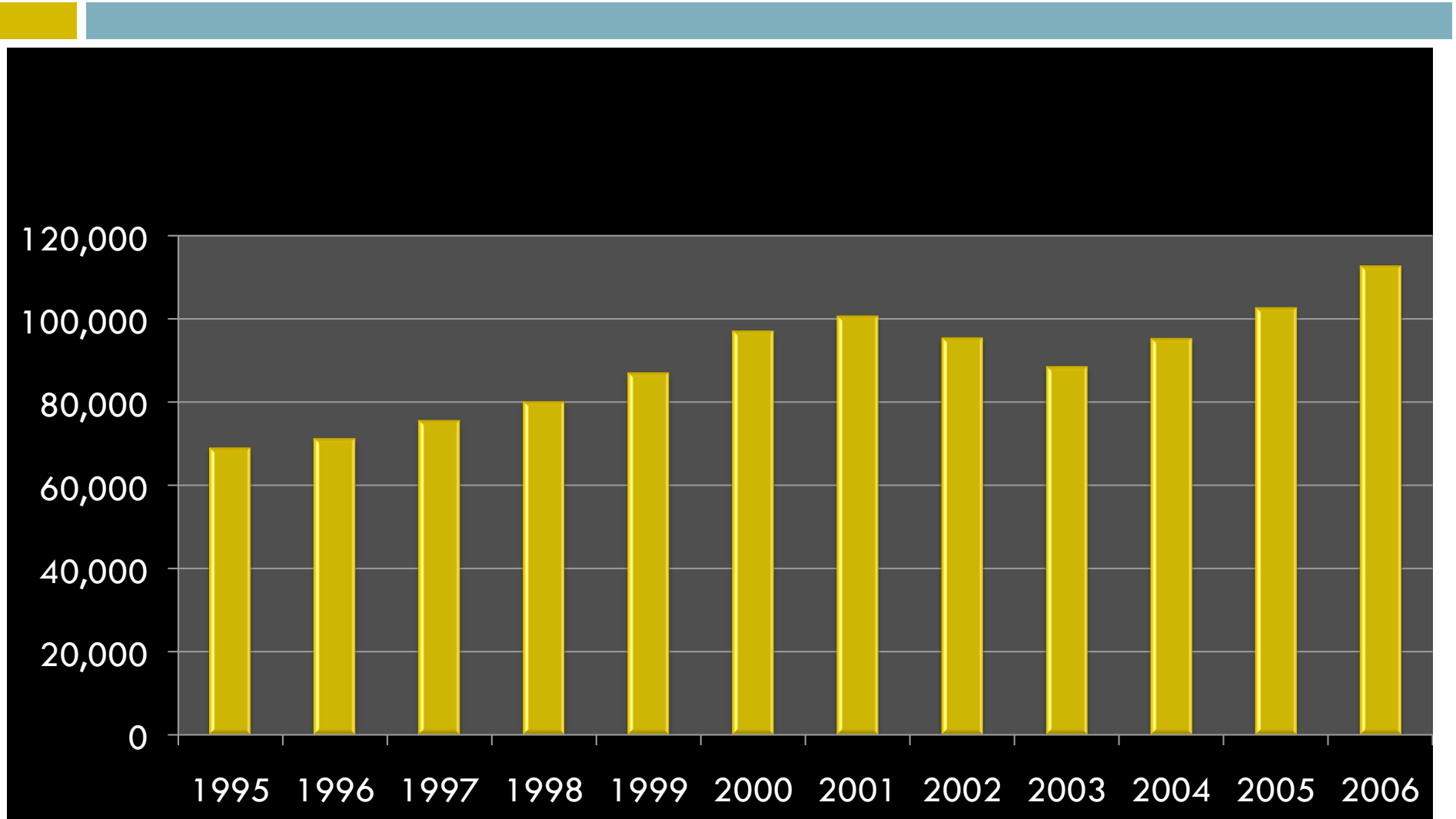
- Temporary Migration in Canada
 - ▣ Addresses labour shortages
- Foreign workers entry is driven by employer's demands
 - ▣ Employers hire foreign workers in any occupation
 - ▣ Provided that job offer meets the different programs' requirements
- Foreign workers programs
 - ▣ Skilled Occupations
 - ▣ Lower Skilled Occupations
 - ▣ Seasonal Agriculture Workers
 - ▣ Live-in Caregivers

Context



- The federal government's Temporary Foreign Worker Program allows eligible foreign workers to work in Canada for an authorized period of time if employers can demonstrate that they are unable to find suitable Canadians/permanent residents to fill the jobs and that the entry of these workers will not have a negative impact on the Canadian labour market. Employers from all types of businesses can recruit foreign workers with a wide range of skills to meet temporary labour shortages (CIC 2009).

ANNUAL FLOW OF FOREIGN WORKERS



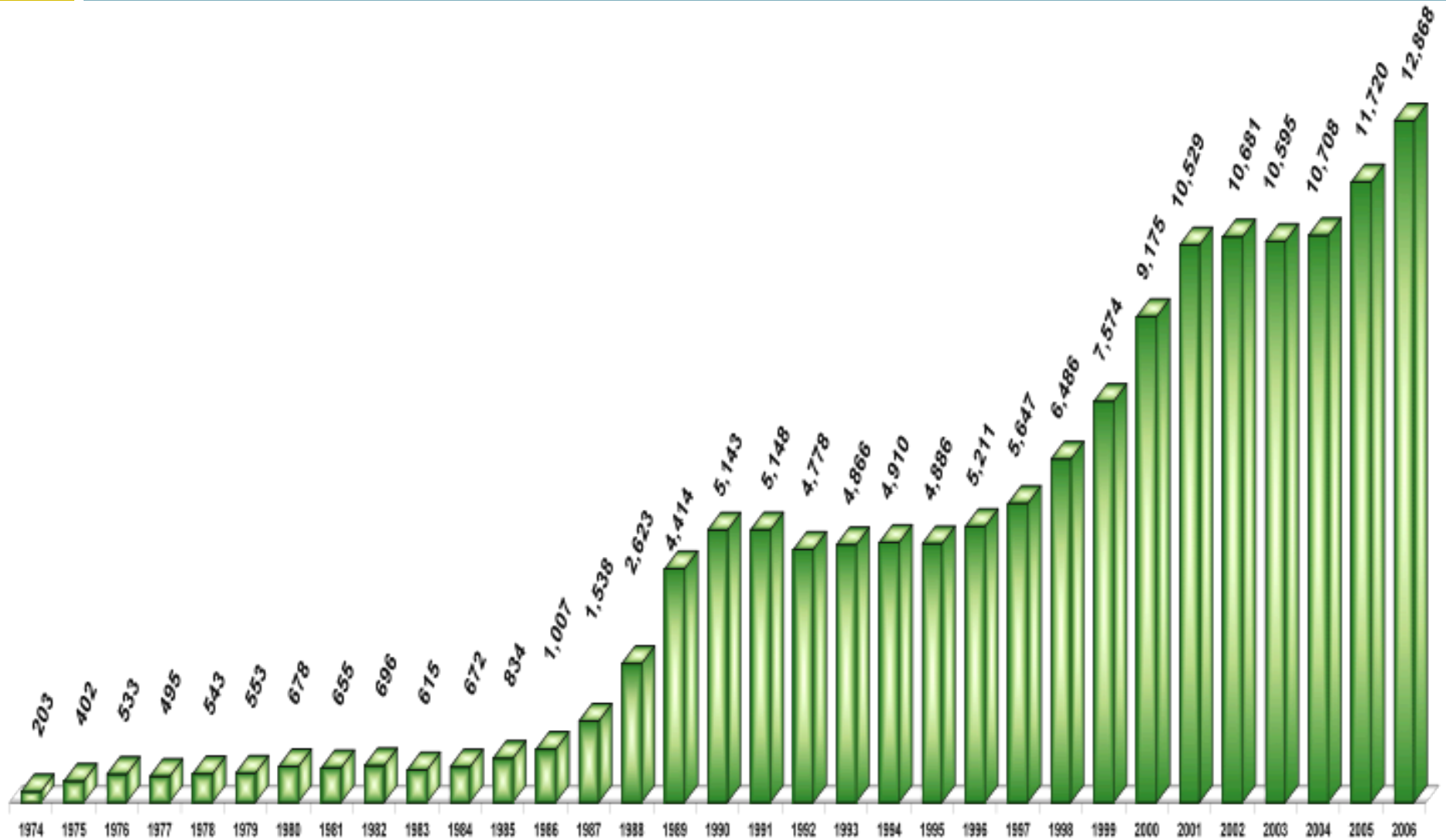
(Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2006)

Context

- Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program
- Objective
 - ▣ Address the labour shortage in Canada's farms
 - ▣ 'Importing' temporary agricultural workers from the Caribbean and Mexico



SAWP 1974-2006 (Mexican Embassy in Canada, 2006)



Participants

- 70 Participants
- Male
- 18 to 60 years old
- Married
 - ▣ With children
- Grade 3 to Grade 12
- Mother tongue
 - ▣ Spanish
 - ▣ Indigenous languages
- English/French
 - ▣ Basic level
- ESL/FSL
 - ▣ Limited access to classes



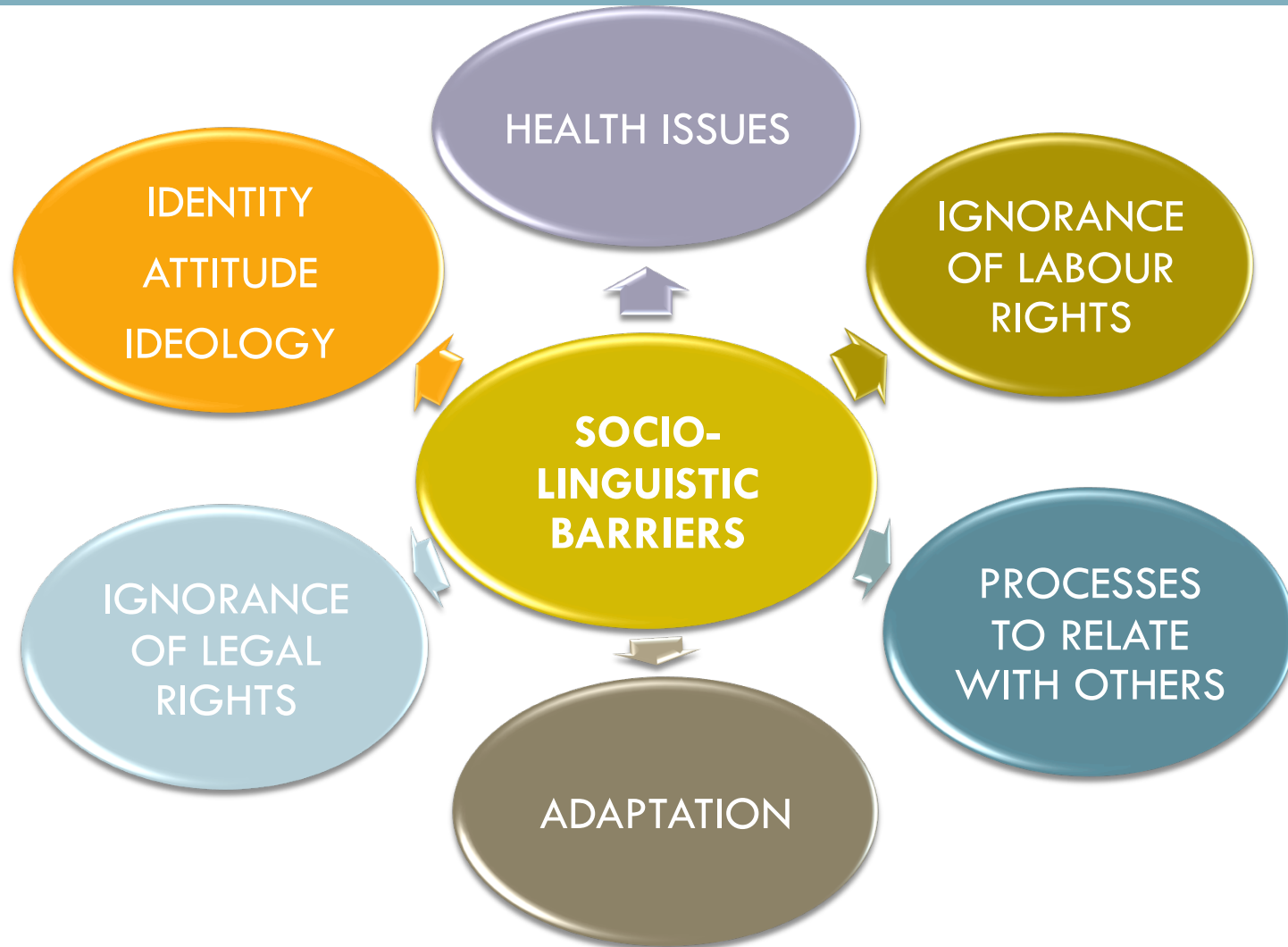
Purpose of the Study

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- Address the lack of sociolinguistic research about temporary migrants through a language and migration study
- Reunite and analyze sociolinguistic facts of Mexican Temporary Agricultural Migrants that come to Ontario and Quebec through the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program

Problematic

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The importance of the study

- To address a lack of linguistic studies of temporary migrants and provide a new perspective on languages and dialects in contact in a temporary migration setting
- To contribute to the literature on the societal, individual, ethnic and linguistic factors that are intertwined in the process of identity reconstruction of the MTAM
- To evidence the lack of MLE adult programs for Temporary Migrants as a result of their precarious status (Goldring et al, 2007)
- To demand full legal status for Temporary Migrants who fulfill permanent labour shortages in Canada permanently