

IMMIGRANT FATHERS POINTS OF TENSION

Immigrant fathers often find themselves in a double bind, caught between the role they've been socialized to play and the situation and expectations of their new country.

ROLE AS A PROVIDER/LOSS OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

Deskilling and a loss of social standing can give immigrant fathers the feeling that they're failing to fulfil their paternal duties, which can have an impact on their self-esteem and family relationships.

SURVIVAL OF THE FAMILY IN QUEBEC/HELP FOR FAMILY BACK HOME

Immigrant fathers may find themselves torn between their responsibilities toward the people who immigrated with them and the people left behind (support for family members, repayment of debts, etc.).

WORK, SCHOOL, AND LANGUAGE LEARNING/ FILLING IN FOR EXTENDED FAMILY

Immigrant fathers may need to spend more time with their spouses and children, given the absence of a natural support network for child rearing, all while having to fulfil numerous outside obligations.

MAIN FIGURE OF AUTHORITY/ VALUES OF FREEDOM AND EQUALITY IN QUEBEC

Immigrant fathers may feel the need to maintain family unity through their role as an authority figure, while their spouses and children may be more drawn to values that offer greater individual freedom.

CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS/ ADAPTATION OF CHILDREN TO A NEW SOCIETY

For some immigrant fathers, it can be hard to reconcile their native culture and the heritage they want to pass on to their children with the culture of the country where their children will build their future, which may seem full of potential dangers and traps.

CUSTOMARY CHILD-REARING/ STATE INTERVENTIONISM

Immigrant fathers may feel torn between the desire to raise their children a certain way and the temptation to step back from that role or send the children back to their home country if their disciplinary methods are considered inappropriate or unacceptable in Quebec and they aren't aware of alternatives.

