

# Rural Immigration: Demographics & Temporary Foreign Workers in Brandon & Area



*Presented to*  
**Canada-Manitoba Working Group**

*Presented by*

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# Rural Development Institute (RDI)

**RDI is a research unit of Brandon University that focuses on rural Community Development research, practice & policy.**

***How can rural communities & stakeholders ensure successful immigrant attraction, settlement and integration?***





# RDI Initiatives for Expanding Rural Immigration Discussions

- **2005** - CRRF-RDI National Rural Think Tank *Immigration and Rural Canada: Research and Practice* held on April 28, 2005 in Brandon with 50 participants from policy, research, & communities across Canada.
- **2005** - Manitoba Rural Immigration Case Studies conducted in Steinbach, Winkler, Portage la Prairie, Parkland.
- **Currently** - Rural Immigration: Demographics & Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) in Brandon & Area.



# Our Current Research Goals

- **Contribute to collaborative, local-level research on TFWs outside of major metropolitan regions.**
- **Understand better the existing and expected TFW populations in Brandon.**
- **Bridge knowledge gaps with regards to the TFW program, process, and population.**
- **Provide demographic analyses to inform forward-looking programs and policies.**

# Research Areas & Interests

## Understanding the TFW Program

- Gain information on the process of recruiting and hiring TFWs.

## Understanding Retention Rates

- Explore TFWs' use of the Provincial Nominee Program.

## Understanding the Worker

- Explore workers' experiences with the TFW process.

## Understanding Workplace & Community Experiences

- Explore the implications of an influx of diverse cultures on Brandon and southwestern Manitoba, and in the workplaces.

## Understanding Demographic Shifts & Population Change

- Utilize traditional data analyses (Statistics Canada).
- Utilize demographic modeling.
- Build an international research network, exploring comparability.



# Preliminary Research Activities

## Government & Community Consultations

- Established a project steering committee of key stakeholders, including service providers, Brandon employers, and government representatives who met in May, 2007.
- On-going consultations with federal and provincial government has revealed a need for research on TFWs.

## Discussions with Employers

- Identified industries and businesses with expected labour shortages.
- Purpose of discussions is to understand intended strategies to cope with shortages.
- Determine which businesses use (or intend to use) TFW programs.

# Emerging Focus

## Engage Canadian researchers in international rural immigration research

- Research team includes partners from:
  - Brandon University, Canada; University of Missouri-Columbia, USA; University of Highlands and Islands, United Kingdom; University of Guelph, Canada; Statistics Canada; Norwegian Agricultural Economics Research Institute.
- Proposal submitted, project will move forward upon funding.
  - *Rural Immigration: Rural Demographic Analysis of Temporary Foreign Workers*
- Utilize a demographic modeling program to assist with analyses and projections.
  - **STELLA: S**tructural **T**hinking **E**xperimental **L**earning **L**aboratory with **A**nimation software uses a system dynamic approach to examine complex phenomena.
  - Process for modeling dynamic systems and examining change.



# Emerging Focus

## Create a RDI TFW Dialogue Group

- Encourage a dynamic exchange between community, employers, government, and researchers.
  - **Citizenship and Immigration Canada**, John Nychek & Brian Huzel; **City of Brandon**, Sandy Trudel; **Manitoba Labour and Immigration**, Bejanin Amoyaw, Antonio Alfaro, Lou Fernandez & Liz Robinson; **Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives**, Gary Zilkey; **Maple Leaf Foods**, Susan Boeve & Christina Escobeda; **Rural Secretariat**, Darell Pack & Christina Prasad; **Service Canada**, Garan Renghen & Darren Maginel; **Rural Development Institute**, Bob Annis, Marian Beattie, Jill Bucklaschuk & Alison Moss.
- Identify key topics and speakers for generating dialogue.





# Outcomes of RDI TFW Dialogue Group Meeting on Sept 11, 2007



# For Additional Information

Rural Development Institute

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