Temporary Migration and Regional Economic Development: The Case of Brandon, Manitoba

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Should I Stay or Should I Go?
Policy-Research Seminar on Temporary Migration
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Session Outline

- Immigration in Manitoba
- Case example – Brandon, Manitoba
- Maple Leaf Foods (MLF) labour needs
- Labour shortage strategies
- Regional economic development
- Current & projected regional implications
- Current research endeavours
- Policy implication
Manitoba Immigration Policy and Directions

- New Targets – 20,000 annually
- New Settlement Strategy
- Improve Recognition of International Qualifications
- Protect Workers and Improve Partnerships
Provincial Strategies, Policies, and Programs

- Canada-MB Working Group on temporary foreign workers (TFWs)
- Support protection of TFWs through labour legislation
- Expanded recruitment initiatives with employers
- Enhance service planning and coordination
- Welcoming communities and planning
Manitoba Immigration Levels

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Prepared by Manitoba Labour and Immigration
Brandon, MB
Maple Leaf Foods: Labour Needs

- Demonstrated need for labour
- Brandon plant expansion
- Domestic and international recruitment
- Federal low skill TFWs program
- Developed International Recruitment Office and process
Labour Shortage Strategies

- Temporary Foreign Worker Pilot Program
  - MLF initiated utilization in 2002
- Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)
  - MLF TFWs began PNP process 2002
- City of Brandon support for addressing labour market needs
TFW Estimates, 2007-2009

TFW Estimates, 2007-2009 with Est. Family Arrivals

Population Projection Scenarios for Brandon, 2011-2031
Impacts for Brandon and area

Regional Economic Development

- Local business development
- Local infrastructure development
- Address demographic challenges and labour shortages
Impacts for Brandon and area

Service Provision Examples

- Education
  - Suggested class size is 25 students
  - 759 new students are anticipated through family reunification

- Family Physicians
  - Suggested patient load is 1,500 patients per physician
  - Brandon would require at least 2 additional physicians to serve TFWs and their family members
Will they stay or will they go?

Research Focus

- Community Experience
  - Welcoming communities
  - Community services, support, & ethnocultural organizations
  - Impact of an influx of diverse cultures

- Retention Rates
  - Use of the Provincial Nominee Program

- Perspectives & Experiences of the Worker

- Demographic Shifts & Population Change
Moving forward

- Impact of TFWs on regional economic development
  - Exploring the local & community role in ‘regional success’
- Bridge knowledge gaps & increase clarity
  - TFWs in non-metropolitan settings
  - Population projections
- Multi-level engagement, cooperation & collaboration
  - RDI TFW Dialogue Group
Policy Implications of TFWs

- Federal
  - Transitional nature of a program intended to be temporary impacts federally mandated immigration.

- Provincial (Manitoba)
  - TFWs as a source of permanent immigrants to meet aggressive immigration targets.

- Local (Brandon and area)
  - Addresses labour shortages and community development.
  - Impacts the operations of community service providers.
Rapid demographic change greatly impacts and challenges rural municipal governments and service providers.
For Additional information

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http://www.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/tfw.asp