‘Transitional’ foreign workers in the community: Facilitating settlement needs in Brandon, Manitoba

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Session Outline

- Municipal government’s role
- Temporary foreign workers (TFWs) & the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)
- Settlement needs of TFWs in Brandon
- Settlement challenges
- Impacts for Brandon & area
- Looking forward
Municipal Government’s Role

- Communication
- Statistics / projections
- Trends – identify & educate
- Facilitating body
  - Bridge between business & service providers
- Neutral & broad picture perspective
  - Labour market opinions
  - Identify linkage opportunities
Municipal Government’s Role cont’d

- Fill the gaps when possible
  - Socio-economic impact studies
  - Housing supply & demand studies
  - Stakeholder newsletter quarterly
  - Chair of the Immigrant Services Network Coordinating committee
  - Early stages – translated settlement package & prepared cultural awareness info
  - Website section dedicated to Maple Leaf Foods (MLF)
TFW Estimates, 2007-2009

Temporary is not always temporary

TFWs to Provincial Nominees (PN)

- Can apply to PNP after 6 months of working in Brandon
- In 2007, 536 of TFWs working at MLF applied to PNP & 533 have been approved – ‘temporary’ is not always ‘temporary’.
- Allows family reunification
TFW Estimates, 2007-2011 with Est. Family Arrivals

Source: Economic Development Brandon (2008)
Population Projection Scenarios for Brandon, 2011-2031
Settlement Needs

Initially
- EAL classes
- Housing
- Health care
- Transportation

After receiving PN status
- Family reunification
- Employment
- Education
Settlement Challenges

- Rapid demographic change impacts & challenges rural municipal governments & service providers.
- Temporary to permanent
- Language barriers
- TFWs have not been eligible for settlement services
- Access to information & data
- Families & housing
Impacts for Brandon & area
Service Provision Examples

Education
- Suggested class size is 25 students
- Approximately 1300 new students are anticipated through family reunification

Family Physicians
- Suggested patient load is 1,500 patients per physician
- At least 2 more physicians will be required to serve TFWs & family members
Looking forward

Ensuring successful settlement in the community

- Create & deliver a community orientation & settlement strategy
- Communication & information sharing amongst stakeholders regarding numbers of arrivals (TFWs & families).
- Plan proactively & community ‘readiness’
- Ensure a welcoming community
‘Temporary’ to ‘Transitional’

- Importance of seeing recruits as ‘transitional’
- ‘Temporary’ implies temporary needs for service provision
- Must develop local settlement strategies that acknowledge the transitional nature of temporary foreign workers.
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