Welcoming Communities & Community Collaboration Efforts in Brandon

Presented by Jill Bucklaschuk
November 16, 2009
Outline

• History of Immigration Research at RDI
• Dialogue Groups
• What is a Welcoming Community?
• Researching Brandon as a Welcoming Community
Immigration Research at RDI

• 2005
  – Manitoba Case Studies: Parklands, Portage, Steinbach, and Morden/Winkler

• 2007
  – Temporary Foreign Workers

• 2008 to present
  – Ethnocultural Organizations
  – Welcoming Communities
Goals of Recent Projects

• Build multi-sectoral collaboration with community leaders, community-based organizations, government, and industry.
• Partnership and capacity building
• Knowledge building and dissemination
Temporary Foreign Worker Dialogue Group

• First meeting in September 2007

• Purpose
  – Encourage open and dynamic exchange of information
  – Build a network of expertise

• Topics
  – Roles and responsibilities
  – Settlement
  – Family reunification
  – Health and Education
Welcoming Communities Dialogue Group

- Transitioned late 2008
- Purpose is to determine characteristics of a welcoming community
- Increase awareness and knowledge regarding the factors and contributors to a welcoming community

**Membership**
- Economic Development Brandon
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
- Manitoba Labour and Immigration
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Rural Secretariat
- Service Canada
- Brandon School Division
- Brandon Regional Health Authority
- Westman Immigrant Services
- Maple Leaf Foods
Becoming Welcoming

- Organize in preparation for immigration
- Establish multi-stakeholder regional or community groups
- Foster capacity, community, and partnership building
- Develop local immigration plans
- Celebrate diversity
- Holistic approach to service provision
- 360 degree feedback
Welcoming Communities Survey

- Inventory of resources and tools on welcoming communities
- Interview 400 community residents
- Identify characteristics of a welcoming community
- Themes include
  - Multicultural Ideology
  - Tolerance/Prejudice
  - Appropriate public services
  - Attitudes Towards Immigration
Mutual Intercultural Relations in Plural Societies

- International collaborative project to build an understanding of intercultural relations
- Designed to understand intercultural relations by considering both recent immigrants’ and community members’ experiences and ideas

- Citizenship
- Mobility
- Ethnic Origin
- Neighbourhoods
- Languages
- Social Contacts
- Cultural Identity

- Security
- Acculturation Attitudes and Expectations
- Perceived Discrimination
- Multicultural Ideology
- Tolerance/Prejudice
- Attitudes Towards Immigration
Survey Overview

413 interviews conducted
7 interviews discarded due to substantial missing data
1 interview did not feel comfortable with confidentiality

TOTAL = 405 interviews
Data Limitations

- Data represents only the views of the 405 respondents
- Data suppression and confidentiality
- Translation of tool and responses
- Possible interviewer bias
Sub-Samples

• Long-Term Canadian Resident
  – Resided in Brandon for at least five years
  – Born in Canada

• New Resident
  – Resided in Brandon for less than five years
  – Latin American (Mexico, Central/South America)
  – Chinese (born in China)
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<td>New residents</td>
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Resources

• Temporary Foreign Worker Project:
  http://www2.bradonu.ca/organizations/rdi/tfw.asp

• Welcoming Communities Project:
  http://www2.bradonu.ca/organizations/rdi/welcomingcommunity.asp

• Ethnocultural Organizations Project:
  http://www2.bradonu.ca/organizations/rdi/ethnocultural.asp