Immigration Settlement Services & Gaps in the Western Region: Focus on Capacity

Presenter: Dr. Kim Lemky, Acting Director Rural Development Institute
Co-Presenters: Dr. William Ashton, RDI Director | Eleni Galatsanou, Research Associate
Introduction

**Percentage of Permanent Residents in BC, AB, SK, MB living outside the big cities, 2004-2013**

![Chart showing the percentage of permanent residents living outside the big cities in BC, AB, SK, MB from 2004 to 2013.](chart)

Source: CIC Facts and Figures 2013

**Possible reasons for the increase of newcomers in rural communities**

![Bar chart showing possible reasons for the increase of newcomers in rural communities.](bar_chart)

Source: Ashton, W., Pettigrew, R., Galatsanou, E. 2015, Immigration Settlement Services and Gaps in CIC’s western region
29 rural communities & 3 Territories
160 representatives of SPOs
35 reports

“Immigration Settlement Services & Gaps in the Western Region”, 2015 study
Are rural communities ready?

Capacity

- SPOs
  - Service offering
  - Organizational capacity

- Partnerships

- Broader community
SPOs’ Settlement Service Offering

Basic services (language training, help finding a job and with daily life, social inclusion/integration support) – **YES**, In almost all communities

Specialized services (Job specific/advance language training, health/mental health supports, specialized programming for youth, women and senior, assistance with foreign credential recognition) - **NO**, in the majority of communities

Basic services were identified as the most important ones needed. However, **expansion of services** is needed.
SPO organizational capacity

Does your organization have enough capacity to serve the newcomers in your community?

10 variables on SPOs’ organizational capacity
SPOs’ organizational capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Adequate Capacity</th>
<th>Inadequate Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinating services with other service providers</td>
<td>72.9%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet reporting requirements</td>
<td>72.4%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication with stakeholders</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff skills for delivery and maintenance of services</td>
<td>62.4%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation of governing and strategic plan</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff to provide services</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support to maintain current services from gov’t...</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPOs’ organizational capacity

AB-BC-SK-MB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mobilization of community to support and welcome newcomers</th>
<th>Adequate Capacity</th>
<th>Inadequate Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>55.4%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial support to maintain current services from other sources</th>
<th>Adequate Capacity</th>
<th>Inadequate Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provide services in both official languages</th>
<th>Adequate Capacity</th>
<th>Inadequate Capacity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>67.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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SPO’s needs

- Core funding
- Flexible policies that consider rural issues
- Sharing information and beneficial practices
Enhancing partnerships

Strong partnerships help rural communities maximize resources and use capacity efficiently

- More emphasis on integration activities
- Improve partnerships with employers
- Local Immigration partnerships

No LIP in the selected communities, however 90% of SPOs reported working in partnership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities in partnership</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Settlement</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcoming</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community settlement capacity

Housing

Childcare

Public Transportation
Conclusion

So, are small and rural communities ready to receive and retain newcomers?

Yes, with some help:

• Expand services
• Support for SPOs / Core funding
• Fostering partnerships – LIPS
• Community settlement capacity
Partners

Provincial Governments: BC, AB, SK, MB
Territorial Governments

Settlement Service Providers Associations
AMSSA, AAISA, SAISIA, MIRSSA, YTEC

Research Participants
Questions

Reports can be found at

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/research/immigration/3747.html

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