A Multi-Actor Framework for Rural Immigration

The Case of Community Immigration Efforts in Manitoba, Canada

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Presentation Overview

1) Canadian / Manitoban Immigration in Context: Regionalization and Decentralization
2) A Multi-actor Framework for Rural Immigration: Examining the Manitoban Case
3) Immigration from a Rural Development Perspective: Community Capacity, and Impediments
Study Area
Immigration Context in Canada and Manitoba

- Majority of immigrants to 3 Canadian cities – Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver = Perceived need to regionalize immigration
- Rural demographic challenges: out migration and human resources shortages
- Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments have joint jurisdiction in immigration
Provincial Nominee Program (1998)

Core Criteria: To have sufficient
1) Education training and work experience
2) Language ability (Eng. and/or French)
3) Settlement supports in Manitoba to assist upon arrival (Adaptability)

* From 1999 to 2005, 15,787 newcomers have arrived in Manitoba through the PNP.
* In 2005, Manitoba accounted for 57.4 % (4,619) of all provincial nominees to Canada (8,047).
5 Priority Streams

1. Employer Direct Stream
2. International Student Stream
3. Family Support Stream
4. Community Support Stream
5. Strategic Recruitment Initiatives

+ General Stream
Province as Responsible for Settlement Services

Province as Provider of Collective Goods (information and supports)

Examples:

- Work with communities on overseas promotion and recruitment initiatives
- Development of Community Immigration Planning Guide
Towards a Multi-Actor Framework for Rural Immigration

Spheres of the Rural Immigration Experience
Rural Immigration as “Attractive Immigration Model”

- High mobility of immigrants + desire to retain and settle = need to ensure immigrants needs met
- Lifestyle elements to rural immigration: rural way of life, social/cultural/religious fits to be considered alongside economic factors
- Need to anticipate issues of integration, retention and settlement
Impediments and Challenges in Rural Immigration Initiatives

- Willingness
- Visibility
- Capacity
- Social Cohesion
Impediments and Challenges in Rural Immigration Initiatives

- Information/Expectations
- Dynamics of Attraction
- Employment/Entrepreneurship
- Isolation
Addressing Issues/Challenges

The Role of Research, Policy, and Practice
The Policy, Research, Practice Interface

- Strengthening Collaboration
- Community Capacity
- Ethical/Humanitarian Challenges
- Entrepreneurship and Employment
Reference Material

- Case Studies
  - Winkler
  - Parkland
  - Steinbach
  - Portage la Prairie
- CRRF-RDI National Think Tank
- Issues in Rural Immigration: Lessons, Challenges, and Response

All materials available at www.brandonu.ca/rdi
Contact Information

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