Rural immigrants in Canada: An overview

Presentation to “On the Bright Side: What has worked in Canadian rural community development?”

2010 Annual Rural Policy Conference of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Brandon, October 14-16, 2010

Ray D. Bollman
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Statistics Canada
The overview:

- At the Canada level, deaths will exceed births in about 2030 and thus the only source of population growth will be from immigration.
Natural balance (births minus deaths) is projected to be negative in about 2030: then, all of Canada's population growth would come from immigration.

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- Within rural and small town Canada, 5.3% were immigrants in 2006.
  - And most arrived in Canada at least 20 years earlier.

- Within larger urban centres, 23% were immigrants in 2006.
  - And most arrived within the previous 20 years.
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- Although
  - immigrants represent a small share of the rural population and
  - a small share of immigrants choose a rural destination to settle
  - some rural areas in Canada are attracting immigrants
Within Manitoba, the three top ranked predominantly rural census divisions in terms of the share of the population that were new immigrants in 2006 (i.e. who arrived between 2001 and 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number of new immigrants in 2006</th>
<th>Percent of total population</th>
<th>Ranking among all (288) census divisions in Canada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4603</td>
<td>Division No. 3 - includes Winkler</td>
<td>2,305</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4602</td>
<td>Division No. 2 - includes Steinbach</td>
<td>2,095</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4607</td>
<td>Division No. 7 - includes Brandon</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
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- Although immigrants represent a small share of the rural population and a small share of immigrants chose a rural destination to settle, some rural areas in Canada are attracting immigrants.
- In rural and small town Manitoba, among immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1996 and 2001 and who were living in rural and small town Manitoba in 2001,
  - the retention rate by 2006 was ____%
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What is a “good” retention rate?

- If 60-70% stay 5 years?
- If 70-80% stay 5 years?
- If 80-90% stay 5 years?
- If 90+% stay 5 years?
In rural and small town Manitoba, the retention rate from 2001 to 2006 of recent immigrants (who arrived between 1996 and 2006) was 81% (i.e. 19% moved out).
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For further information:


Discussion
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