# Rural Immigration: Demographics & Temporary Foreign Workers in Brandon & Area



Presented to

Canada-Manitoba Working Group

Presented by

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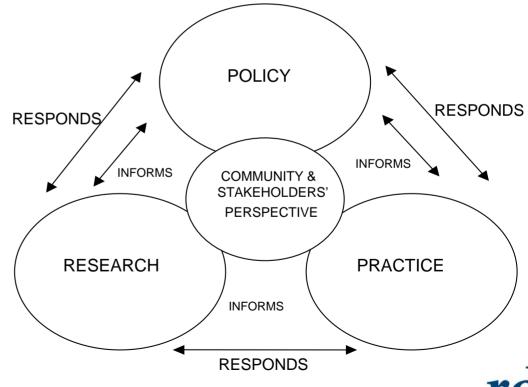




## Rural Development Institute (RDI)

RDI is a research unit of Brandon University that focuses on rural Community Development research, practice & policy.

How can rural communities & stakeholders ensure successful immigrant attraction, settlement and integration?





## RDI Initiatives for Expanding Rural Immigration Discussions

- 2005 CRRF-RDI National Rural Think Tank Immigration and Rural Canada: Research and Practice held on April 28, 2005 in Brandon with 50 participants from policy, research, & communities across Canada.
- 2005 Manitoba Rural Immigration Case Studies conducted in Steinbach, Winkler, Portage la Prairie, Parkland.
- Currently Rural Immigration: Demographics & Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) in Brandon & Area.





## **Our Current Research Goals**

- Contribute to collaborative, local-level research on TFWs outside of major metropolitan regions.
- Understand better the existing and expected TFW populations in Brandon.
- Bridge knowledge gaps with regards to the TFW program, process, and population.
- Provide demographic analyses to inform forward-looking programs and policies.





## **Research Areas & Interests**

#### **Understanding the TFW Program**

Gain information on the process of recruiting and hiring TFWs.

#### **Understanding Retention Rates**

Explore TFWs' use of the Provincial Nominee Program.

#### **Understanding the Worker**

Explore workers' experiences with the TFW process.

#### **Understanding Workplace & Community Experiences**

Explore the implications of an influx of diverse cultures on Brandon and southwestern Manitoba, and in the workplaces.

## Understanding Demographic Shifts & Population Change

- Utilize traditional data analyses (Statistics Canada).
- Utilize demographic modeling.
- Build an international research network, exploring comparability.





## **Preliminary Research Activities**

#### **Government & Community Consultations**

- Established a project steering committee of key stakeholders, including service providers, Brandon employers, and government representatives who met in May, 2007.
- On-going consultations with federal and provincial government has revealed a need for research on TFWs.

#### **Discussions with Employers**

- Identified industries and businesses with expected labour shortages.
- Purpose of discussions is to understand intended strategies to cope with shortages.
- Determine which businesses use (or intend to use) TFW programs.



## **Emerging Focus**

# Engage Canadian researchers in international rural immigration research

- Research team includes partners from:
  - Brandon University, Canada; University of Missouri-Columbia, USA; University of Highlands and Islands, United Kingdom; University of Guelph, Canada; Statistics Canada; Norwegian Agricultural Economics Research Institute.
- Proposal submitted, project will move forward upon funding.
  - Rural Immigration: Rural Demographic Analysis of Temporary Foreign Workers
- Utilize a demographic modeling program to assist with analyses and projections.
  - STELLA: Structural Thinking Experimental Learning Laboratory with Animation software uses a system dynamic approach to examine complex phenomena.
  - Process for modeling dynamic systems and examining change.



## **Emerging Focus**

#### **Create a RDI TFW Dialogue Group**

- Encourage a dynamic exchange between community, employers, government, and researchers.
  - Citizenship and Immigration Canada, John Nychek & Brian Huzel; City of Brandon, Sandy Trudel; Manitoba Labour and Immigration, Bejanin Amoyaw, Antonio Alfaro, Lou Fernandez & Liz Robinson; Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives, Gary Zilkey; Maple Leaf Foods, Susan Boeve & Christina Escobeda; Rural Secretariat, Darell Pack & Christina Prasad; Service Canada, Garan Renghen & Darren Maginel; Rural Development Institute, Bob Annis, Marian Beattie, Jill Bucklaschuk & Alison Moss.
- Identify key topics and speakers for generating dialogue.





## Outcomes of RDI TFW Dialogue Group Meeting on Sept 11, 2007





## For Additional Information

### **Rural Development Institute**

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