Immigration Settlement Services and Gaps in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut

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Research Objectives

- An extension of a larger project called “Immigration Settlement Services and Gaps in Citizenship and Immigration Canada’s Western Region”
  (Ashton, Pettigrew, & Galatsanou, 2015)
- Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia

- **Primary Objective**: Inventory settlement services in the 3 territories (Nunavut, Yukon & Northwest Territories) and to identify gaps, barriers and needs.

- **Secondary objective**: Determine existing partnerships and applicability of the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP).
Definitions

• **Newcomers** (in Canada from 1 day to 5 years)
  – Permanent Residents
  – Refugees
  – Refugee Claimants
  – Temporary Foreign Workers
  – Naturalized Citizens
  – International Students

• **Newcomers ineligible for services** - no access to CIC funded settlement services
Yukon, Northwest Territories & Nunavut
Territorial Increase in Permanent Residents

Permanent Residents (PRs) in the 3 Territories (Yukon, Northwest Territory and Nunavut) in comparison to Canada, 2005-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total PRs in the 3 Territories</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total PRs -Canada</td>
<td>262,242</td>
<td>280,687</td>
<td>248,747</td>
<td>257,903</td>
<td>259,023</td>
<td>260,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Canada’s PRs</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Territorial Demographic Changes

• Despite rural/remote location all 3 territories are seeing a rise in the number of newcomers settling (Nunavut – steady and small)
• **Yukon** reports the highest increase in newcomers with a 369% in the number of permanent residents between 2005-2014
• Proportionately small percentage of Canada’s PRs
Territorial Increase in Permanent Residents

Permanent Residents by Territory 2005-2014

Source: CIC’s Facts and Figures 2014- Immigration overview: Permanent residents by province or territory and urban area (Accessed on August 8th, 2015)
Research design and methods

Phone surveys with 13 senior officials from Settlement Service Provider Organizations

• Conducted by a SPO umbrella organization in 2015

Tops Covered:

- Available settlement and integration services
- Gaps in services
- Newcomer needs for services
- Ease of newcomer settlement and finding employment
- Partnerships
- Organizational capacity
## Sample & Feedback

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Territory</th>
<th>Population 2011 census</th>
<th>Permanent Resident Landings* 2014</th>
<th>Surveys completed</th>
<th>Feedback requested</th>
<th>Feedback received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Territories</td>
<td>41,462</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yukon</td>
<td>33,897</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nunavut</td>
<td>31,906</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>107,265</strong></td>
<td><strong>495</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* (CIC Facts and Figures, 2014)

Participants and other community stakeholders provided feedback on the draft territorial report, which was applied to the final report.
Limitations

- Data was collected from SPO representatives. Newcomers were not consulted. SPO’s perception about those newcomers who access or look for services.

- Recruitment challenges: due to limited SPO availability, only 1 participant from Nunavut
Territorial Results

• **All territories report an increase in newcomers**
  – Due to mainly economic opportunities, but also family reunification.
  – Yukon nominee program

• **Ease of settlement**
  – Yukon and Nunavut reported settlement as easy for newcomers
  – Responses from NWT were mixed
  – Settling in larger centers (e.g., Yellowknife) facilitates ease of settlement
    • Increased availability of services and potential presence of ethno-cultural supports
Territorial Results

Newcomer settlement hindered by:

• High cost of living
• Shortage of housing
• Language difficulties
• Harsh climate
• Isolated geographic location
Territorial Results

Finding employment

• Majority of SPO reported newcomers could find work easily, however newcomers (especially those with language difficulties) are often under employed or in low paid positions

• Cultural understanding of the Canadian workplace and expectations needed

• With improved language skills and Canadian work experience newcomers can easily move into better roles
Territorial Findings

• **Services most needed by newcomers**
  (Needs were similar for newcomers either eligible or ineligible for CIC services)
  – Language training and related supports
  – Help finding housing and employment
  – Information and orientation on community and Canadian culture
  – Help filing citizenship and permanent resident paperwork
Territorial Findings

• Barriers to accessing services
  – Language difficulties
  – Financial difficulties
  – Ineligibility for services
  – Access to childcare during service delivery
  – Confused where to find support
  – Transportation difficulties
  – Lack of services in some areas
Territorial Findings

SPO Organizational Capacities

Yukon, Northwest Territories & Nunavut

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Adequate Capacity</th>
<th>Inadequate Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meet reporting requirements</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff skills for delivery and maintenance of services</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication with stakeholders</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinating services with other service providers</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support to maintain current services from government sources</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobilization of community to support and welcome newcomers</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support to maintain current services from other sources</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation of governing and strategic plan</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide services in both official languages</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff to provide services</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Territorial Findings

GAPS in services offered in the 3 Territories

- Lack of services that focus on integration (most services were focused on settlement activities)
- Expansion of services needed (both hours of offerings and into remote areas)
  - Capacity to offer services in both official languages
  - Support citizenship and permanent resident applications
  - Computer training
Territorial Findings

Partnerships

• All SPOs reported working in partnership with someone in the community
• Employers
• An example of collaborative partnerships, *The Immigration Strategy Working Group*, in Yukon
Conclusion

• In light of harsh climate and limited funding and resources, all 3 territories are seeing growth in their newcomer population
  – This growth is projected to continue

• Newcomers can expect to settle and find employment easily (at least entry level and low paid)
  – Strong English language skills improves odds of both.

• Most significant need in all 3 territories was plentiful and affordable housing
  – Compounding effect: newcomer underemployment + high cost of living = newcomers working multiple jobs to cover housing costs
Conclusion

• Increase in English language supports is needed
• Funding is needed for integration support activities
• Increase in funding overall in order to meet growing demand
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
and
http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/research/immigration/3747.html

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