

Partnerships



By

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Presented at
Leaders' Roundtable on Immigration
Conference Board of Canada
Brandon, MB
April 18, 2013



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Rural Immigration: Research, Partnerships, Insights & Policy

By

Bill Ashton, PhD

Director, Rural Development Institute,
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Topics

- Research & context
- Partnerships
- Insights & policy implications

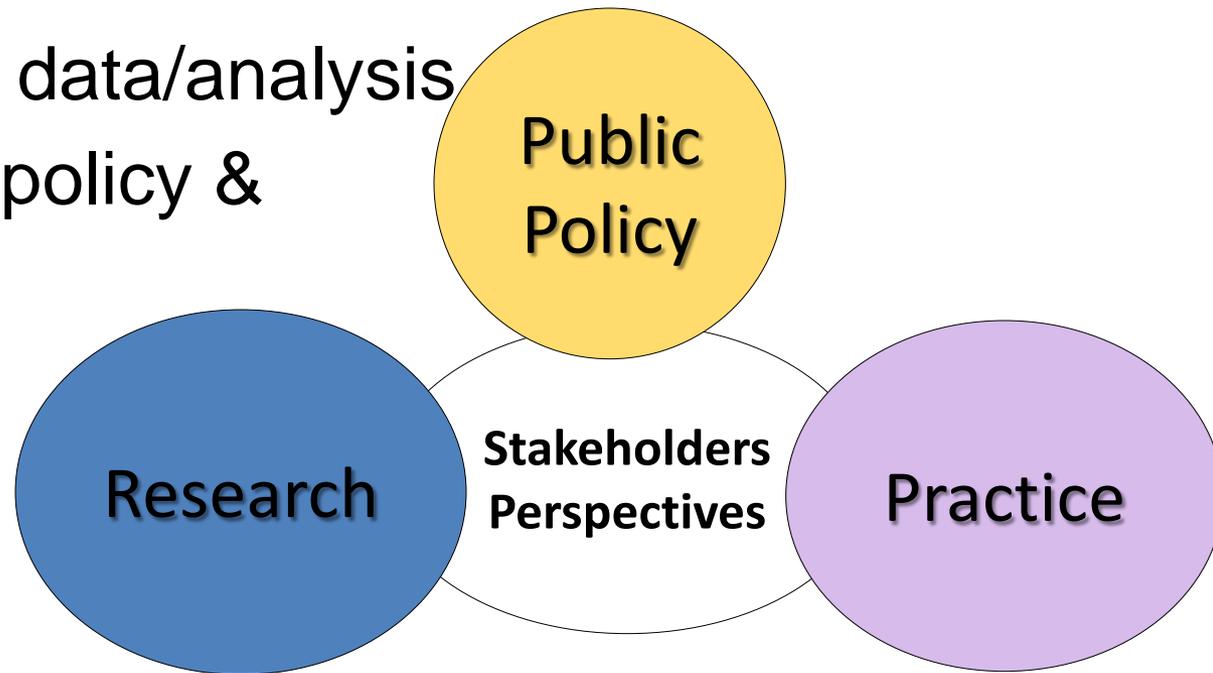
Main messages

Applied research informs partnerships, enlarges discussions, and clarifies policy implications



Rural research

- Engaging communities
- Collecting data/analysis
- Informing policy & practices

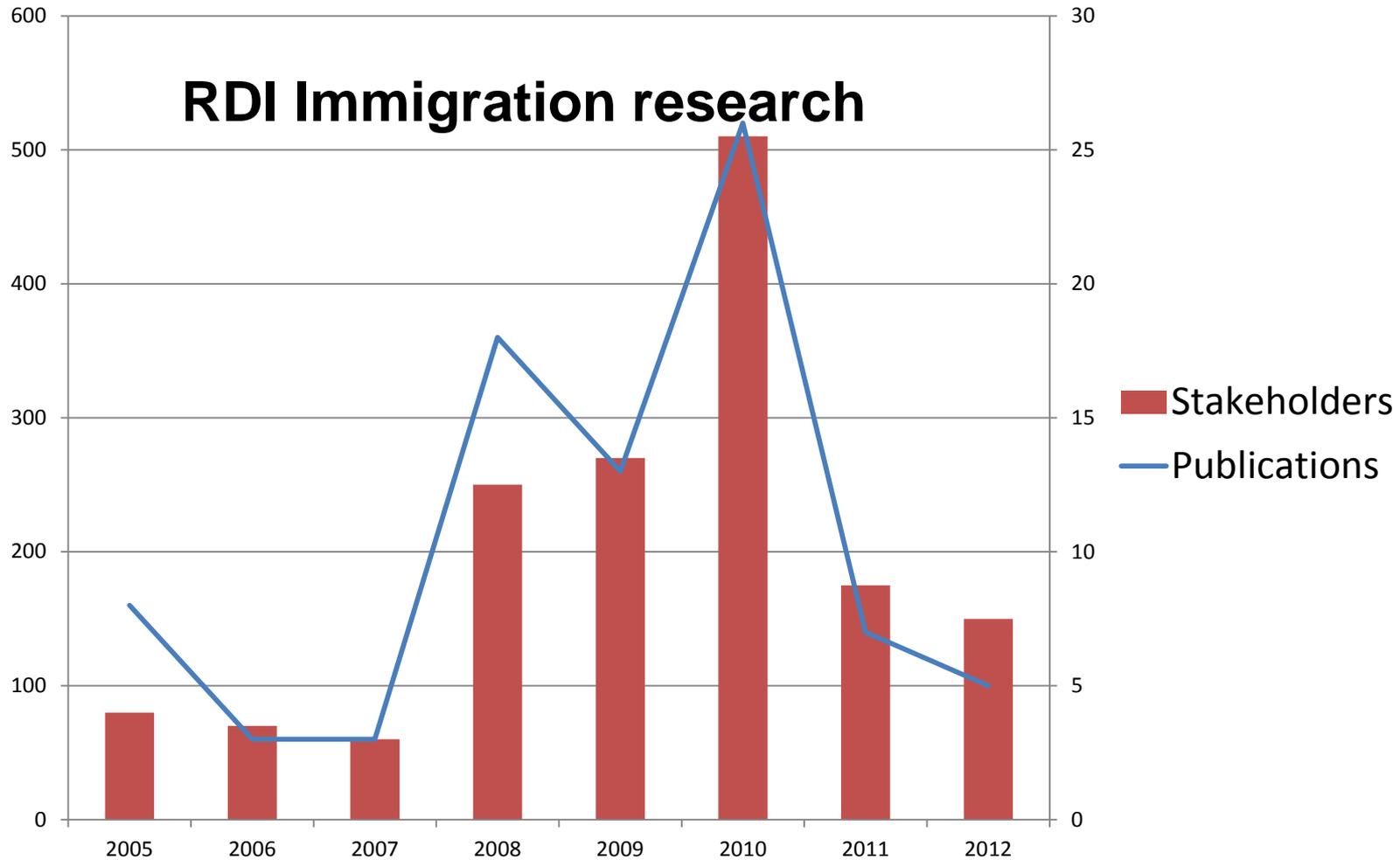


Research context:

- Rural, remote/northern Canada
- International comparisons



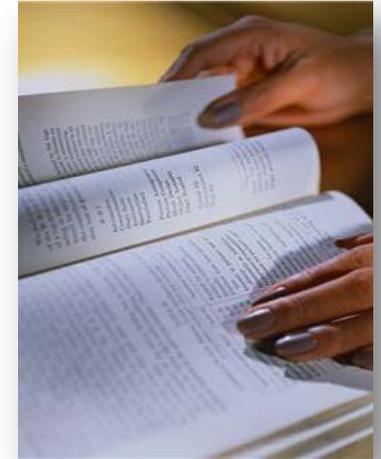
RDI Immigration research



Rural research

Faculty engagement

500+ faculty in MB, Cda, OECD
22 Research affiliates
91 faculty peer reviewed articles,
4 books and chapters, 39 reports,
25 conferences/posters
since 2009



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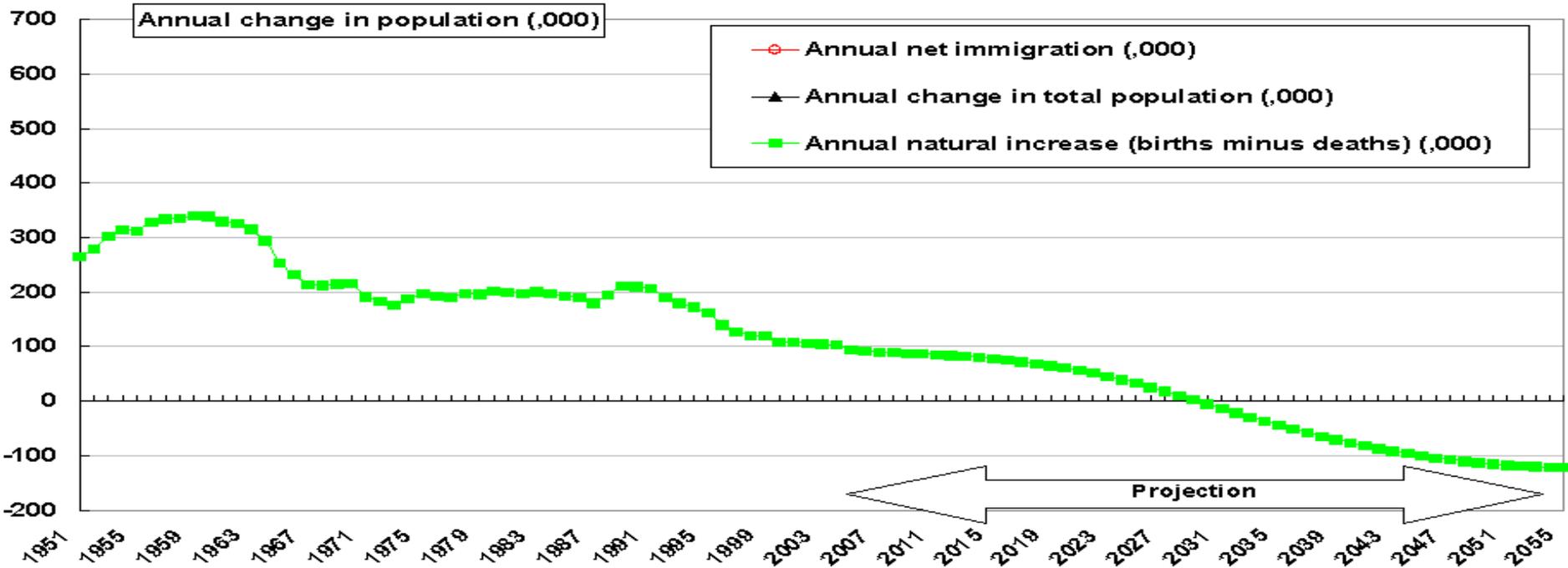


Student engagement

229 BU students
100 other students
31 reports, presentations &
\$334,000+ student wages
since 2009

Rural Immigrants in Canada: An Overview

Natural balance (births minus deaths) is projected to be negative in about 2030: then, all of Canada's population growth would come from immigration



Source: Statistics Canada (2005) Population projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-529-XIE). (www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=91-529-XIE#formatdisp)

Population Forecast

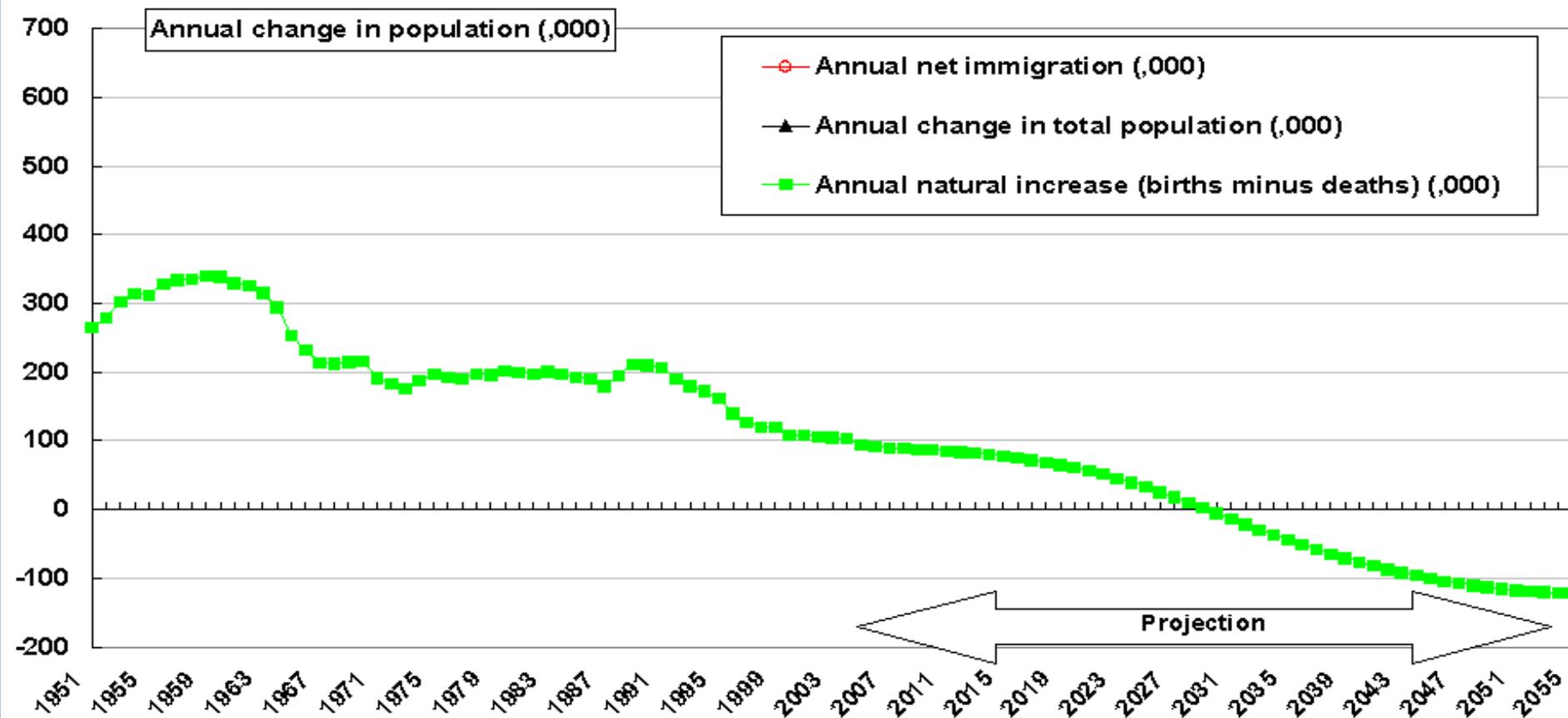
For Canada, deaths are expected to exceed births by 2030.

From that point forward the only source of population growth will be from immigration.



Rural Immigrants in Canada: An Overview

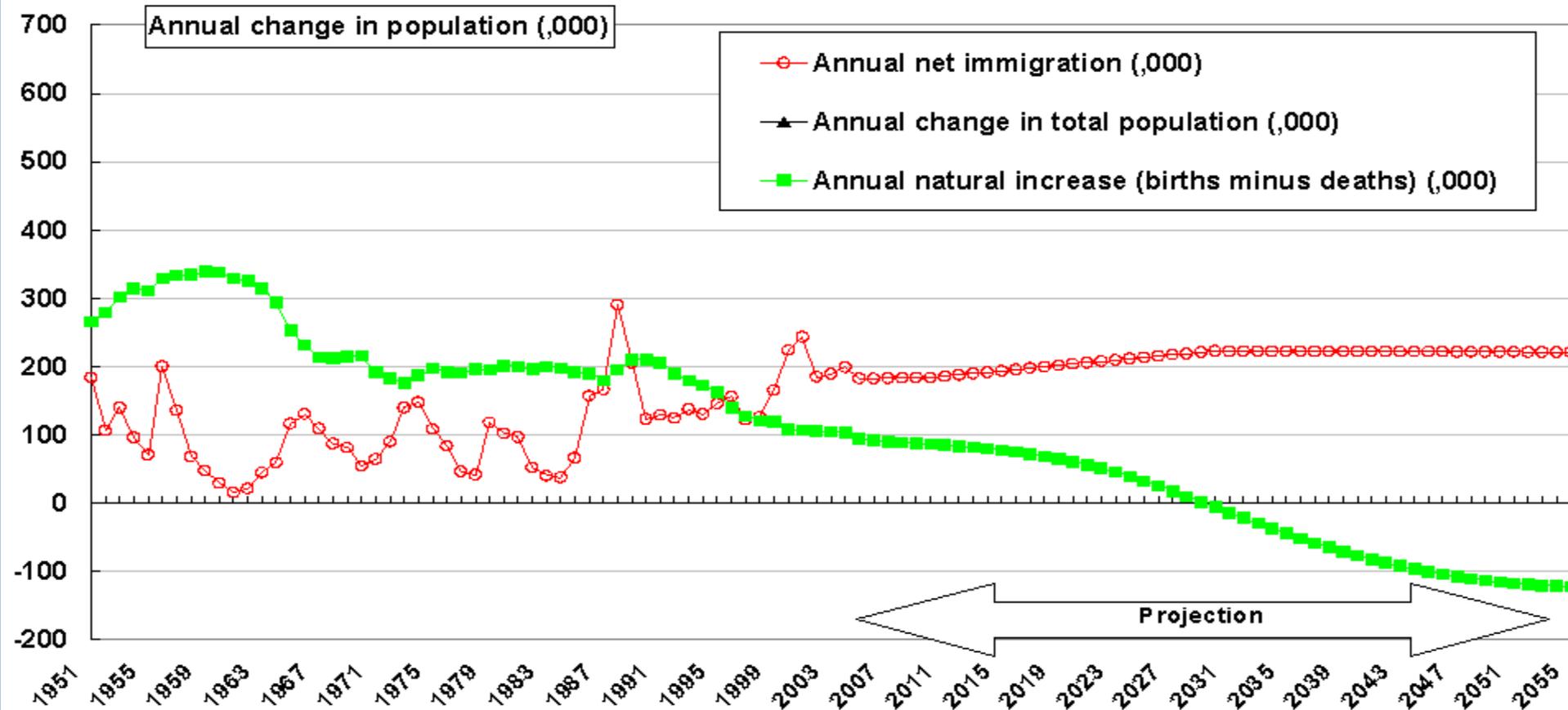
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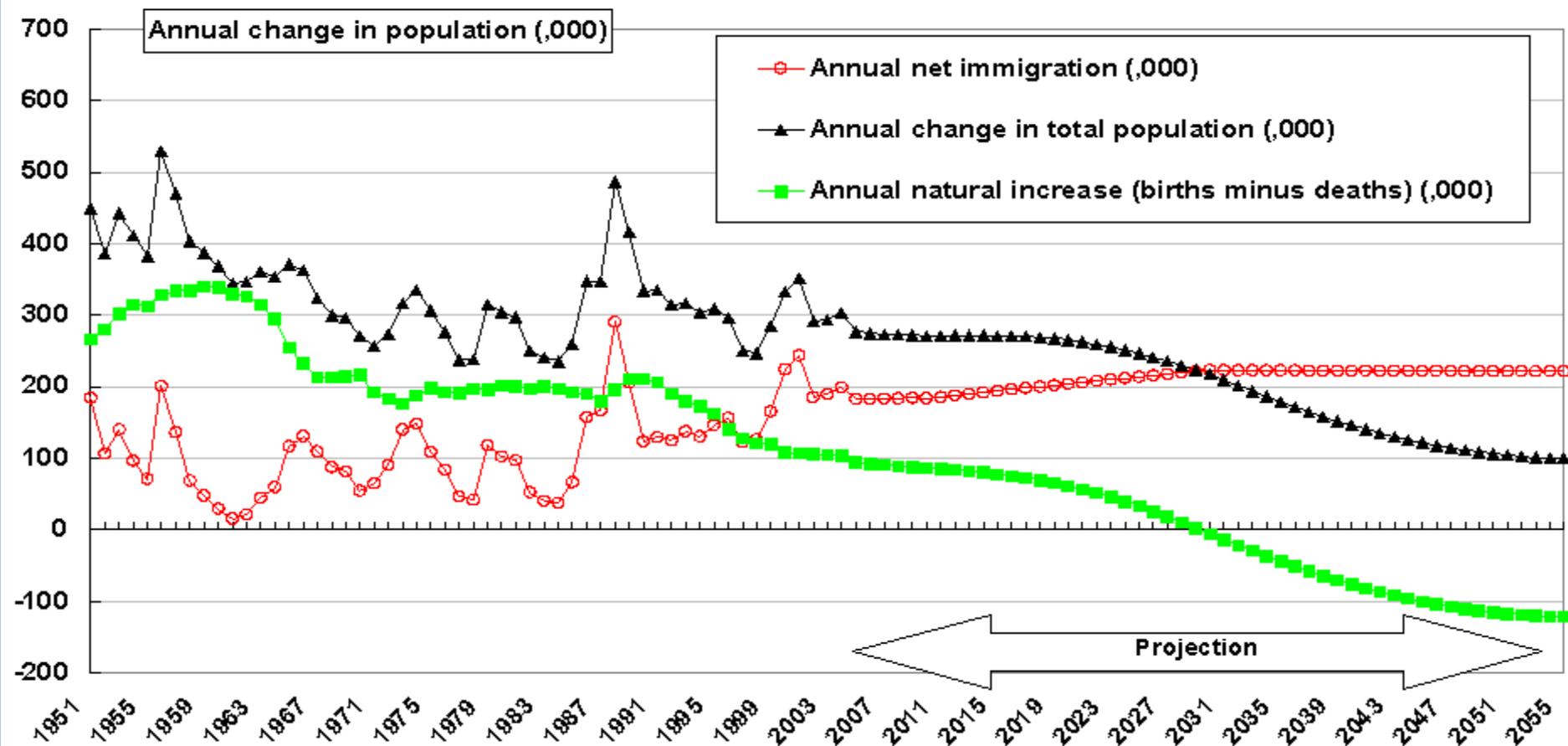
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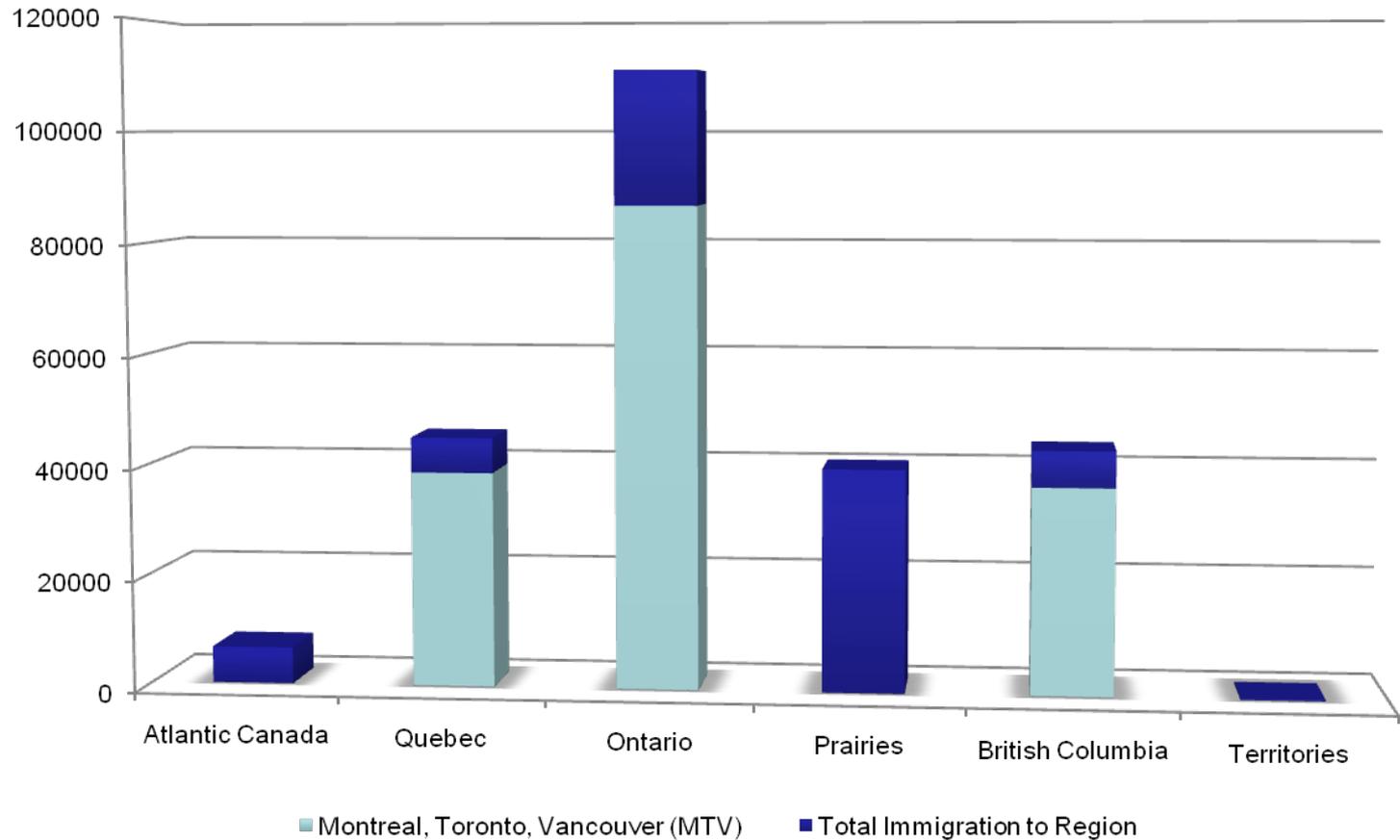
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Regional Distribution of Immigrants, 2008



Total: 247,423



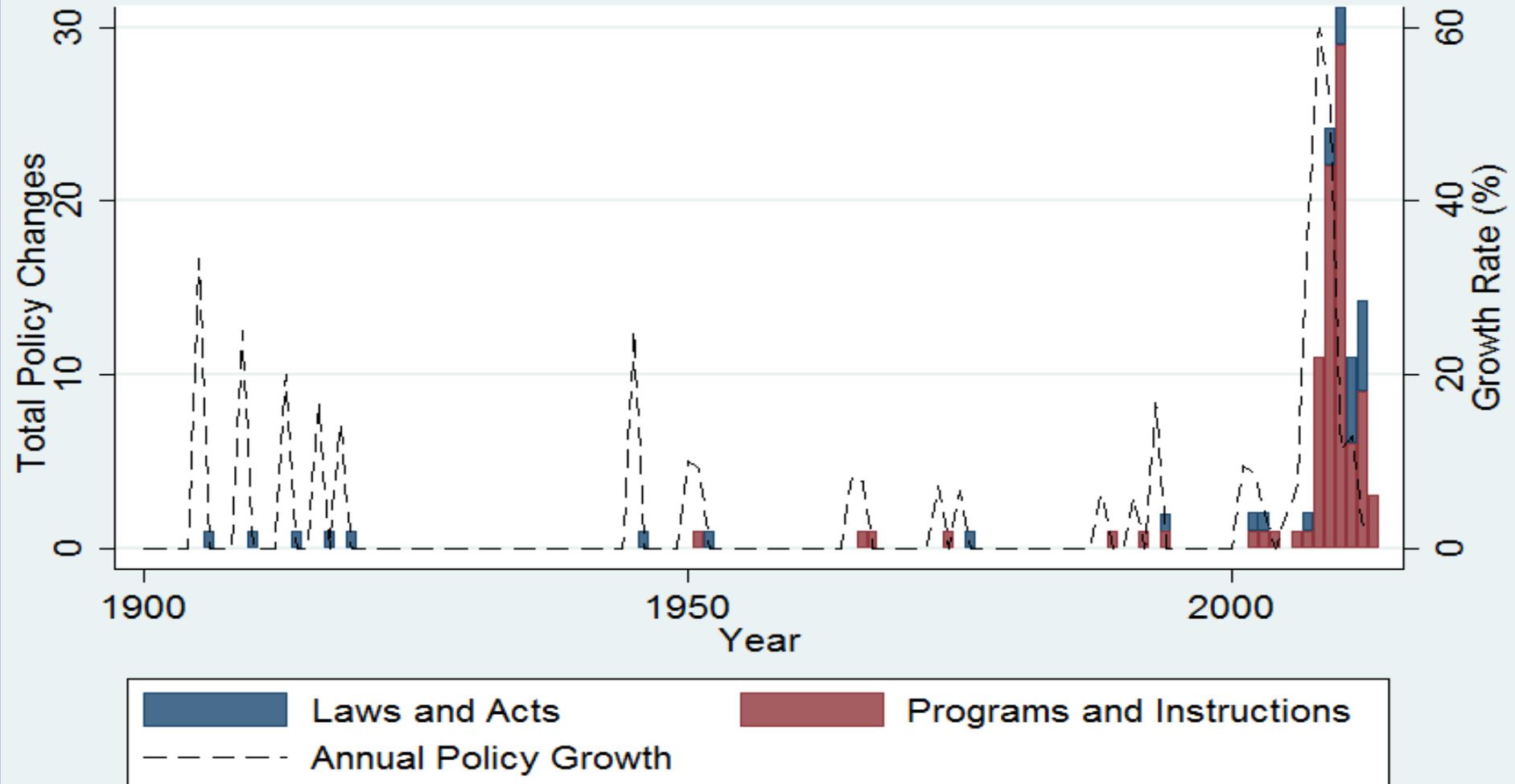
Immigration has many meanings:

- Local economic development strategy
- Reduce declining population
- Revitalize and reinvestment
- Diversify work force and community
- Keeps essential services local
- Rural lifestyle attractive



Rural context

Canadian Immigration Policy Changes
By Type and Year, 1900-2013



Individual level

With involvement

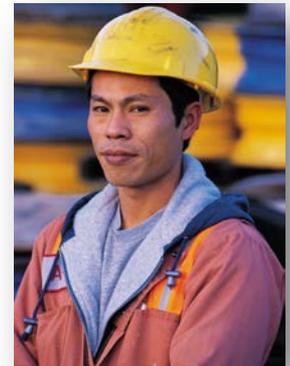
- Better integration
- Quicker jobs
- Reduce stress
- Improve health

Without involvement

- Social isolation
- Loneliness
- Depression
- Lack of identity



Source: CIC. 2011. Local immigration partnerships.



Partnership

MB PNP (outside of Wpg)

4 centres	7,816	75%
6 centres	558	5%
<u>Other</u>	<u>2,123</u>	<u>20%</u>
Outside	10,497	100%

Typical immigrant-MB

80% married
70% with children
85% employed
66% spouse working
\$49k avg income
18% < \$30k/yr



Typically, immigrant household have adequate earnings to afford a house.



Growth strategies

- Housing
- Schools
- Health care
- Transportation
- Business growth
- Cultural training
- Business hours



Access existing govt services with better coordination across Depts eg.,

- Special projects
- Inter-dept Cmt
- Inter-dept planning board
- Cmt of Cabinet

Hiring TFW's: Employer's Views



It's a big process for a small business

It's about a 2-year process now before you get all the paperwork in

Through the LMOs [Labour Market Opinion] there's no leeway it's like Simon says – one wrong move and you're out...that's the thing we dislike most is the fact that once it's rejected you have to start all over again

At lot of them [TFW's] haven't lived in cold climates, economic standards are different

Rural living isn't for everyone and sometimes that's the hardest thing

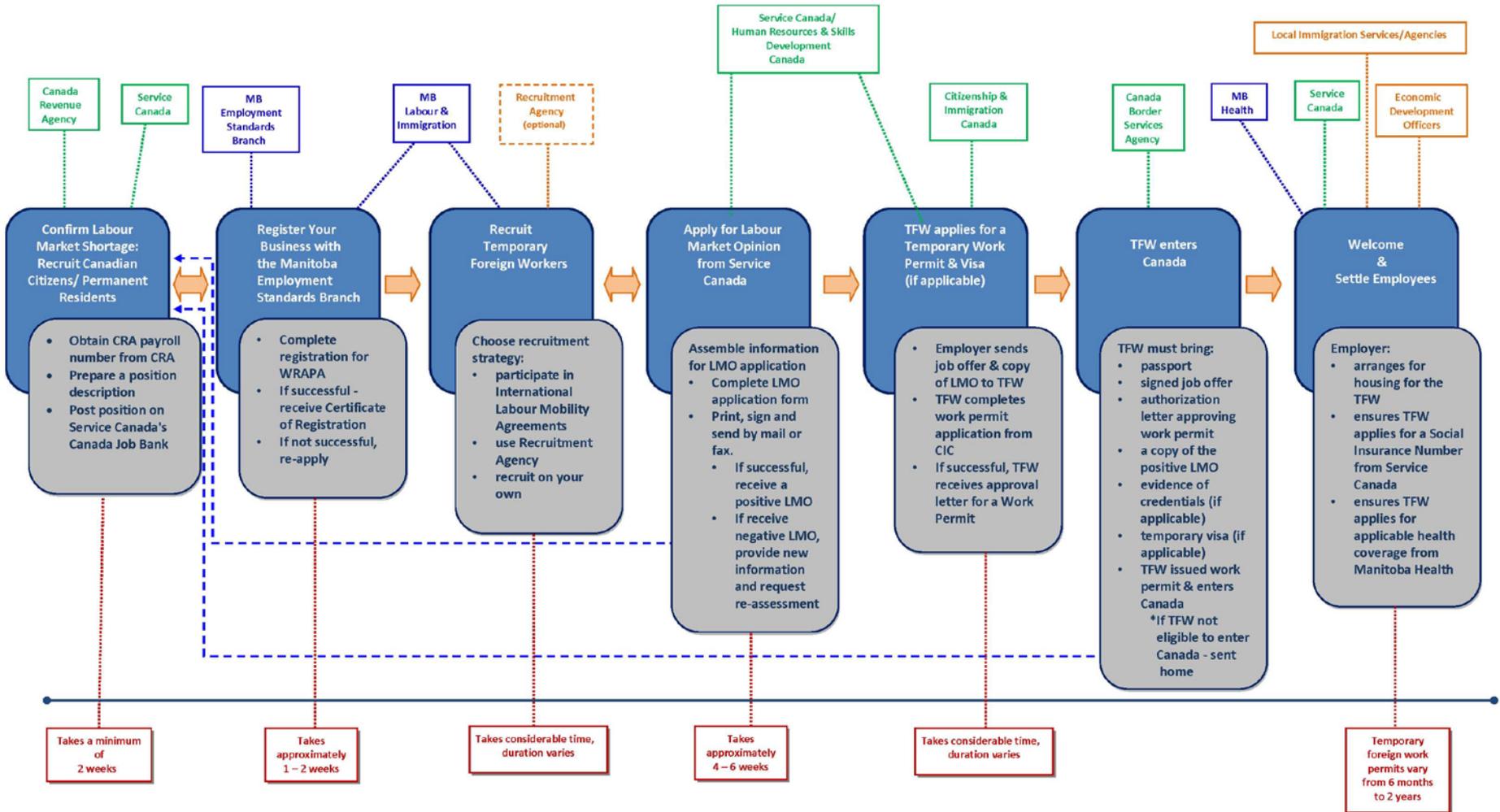
Our history with these people [TFWs] is that they are committed to the job

It's in our best interest [employer] to make sure that they're well settled & happy so we certainly endeavour to do that

There is a huge cost to recruitment, so it is better to retain the TFW's, settle them & have them contribute to the community



Hiring TFW: information pathway



Insights & policy implications

- Partnerships reflect various rural circumstances
 - Immigrants unevenly distributed in rural MB
- Better on-going coordination across Depts – especially for rapid growth
- WISR – focus on retention (all people)



Acknowledgements

- Brandon Welcoming Communities Dialogue Grp
- Southwest Rural Immigration Committee
- Rural Employers
- Rural and Cooperative Secretariat, Ag Canada
- Federal and Provincial government agencies, esp. MB Immigration & Multi-culturalism
- Local governments, agencies and organizations
- Metropolis, P2P, and CWICC



Thank you

Comments
Questions
Discussion

