



Youth Migration in Francophone Manitoba

Boom Bust Economies Impact on Rural
and Remote Communities

Inuvik, NWT 2008

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Project Origins

- Rural Team Manitoba Youth Committee research initiative
- Funding partners: Canada Rural Secretariat; Manitoba Education, Citizenship & Youth; Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs;
- Research partners: le Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba (CDEM); Rural Development Institute



Research Goal

To develop a deeper understanding about rural and northern youth migration in Manitoba.



Research Objectives

Three research objectives:

1. Investigate the extent of youth migration to and from rural communities;
2. Explore reasons for youth migration; and
3. Provide data to assist communities, regions, government departments and others to identify opportunities to keep youth in Manitoba and to attract youth back to rural communities.



Project Design

- Collaborative approach to assist in research design and implementation
- Case study approach encompassing multiple methods
 - Secondary data analysis
 - Literature review
 - Policy review
 - Semi-structured interviews
 - Focus groups
- 2 phase project:
 - *Phase 1* December 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008;
 - *Phase 2* April 1 – December 31, 2008)



Study Sites

3 Manitoba Regions

- Francophone communities (Phase 1)
 - Notre Dame; La Broquerie; St. Laurent
- Parkland communities (Phase 2)
 - Dauphin; Grandview
- Northern communities (Phase 2)
 - TBD



Question & Themes

Background

- Age
- Gender
- Education Level

Knowledge

- Ability of levels of Government to Address Rural Issues Pertaining to Youth

Opinions and Attitudes

- Employment Opportunities
- Education and Training Opportunities
- Recreation and Social Activities

Behaviour

- Family Ties
- Community Connection



Secondary Data

- Population Pyramids
 - Used to illustrate population structure between 1981 and 2006
 - Useful tool for communities
 - Comparative tool for regions and communities over time
- Line Graphs
 - Used to illustrate population changes over time for 3 age cohorts



Francophone Manitoba

- Economic Development Council for Francophone Manitoba (CDEM)
- 16 bilingual municipalities in Manitoba
- Overall stable growth
- 24% increase between 1981 and 2006



Francophone Study Sites

- La Broquerie
- St. Laurent
- Notre Dame de Lourdes



Community Youth Findings

- Mobility patterns vary
- Educational goals
 - St. Boniface College
- Employment



Community Youth Findings

- Variation along a continuum of age
- Rural advantages
 - Family
 - Community
 - Nature
 - Cost of living
- Impact of culture
 - Identity



Community Youth Findings

- Rural disadvantages
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - Services
- Need for social opportunities
 - Combat isolation



Community Findings

- Sense of identity
 - Culture
 - Language
 - Heritage
- Proximity to an urban centre
- Balanced economic growth and opportunity
- Availability of housing
- Appropriate services



Lessons Learned

- Importance of culture, community, and identity
- Importance of economic opportunities and a creative approach to earning a living
- Importance of housing and basic services
- Importance of effective communication



Next Steps

- Comparative analysis
- Special data runs
- Share findings with community partners



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