Youth Migration in Francophone Manitoba

Boom Bust Economies Impact on Rural and Remote Communities

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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.
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

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

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

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
Contact

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