Establishing roots beyond the perimeter: Immigrant retention strategies

Retaining Immigrants in Rural Communities Webinar
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Hosted by: Rural Development Institute
Manitoba Migration

- Immigration – policy response for population and labour growth
- Permanent & temporary residents, both significant
- Provincial economy outpacing growth of provincial labour market
Retention

• Improvements for social and economic integration

• Rural retention factors – special consideration

• Rural communities – lack of capacity to serve diverse needs
Retention

- Inventory of retention strategies
- Retention factors affecting rural communities
  - Regionalization
  - Housing
  - Employment
  - Social capital
  - Education

(Say I do, 2002)
(1) Regionalization

- Increasingly common strategy to revitalize growth
- Manitoba has been used as a great example to follow

Example:
Strategy: Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program - Employer Stream
(2) Housing

- Availability of affordable, appropriate, and acceptable housing
- Limited financial resources
- Unfamiliarity with the local housing scene.

Example

Strategy: Create housing units to provide newcomers with temporary housing
(3) Employment

- Acceptable employment opportunity
- Field of employment that match their skills

Example:

Strategy: Avenues for paid work experience to help newcomers build employment skills
(4) Social capital

• Connections within and between individuals

• Presences of rooted social networks

Example:

Strategy: Create events that increase cultural awareness by celebrating changing community diversity

(Say I do, 2002)
(5) Education

• Training workers
• Recognition of credentials
• Consider the needs of both youth and adults

Example:

Strategy: Streamline the licensing or certification processes for foreign trained engineers
Conclusion

Rural and remote setting of Manitoba – unique

Public policy focus on rural and remote.