Session: Cities and Immigration

Integrating immigrants in making citizens: examining smaller areas as welcoming communities and policy implications

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Objectives

• Integration of immigrants in Canada
• Welcoming communities in smaller centres
• Research agenda of RDI

Presentation

1. About RDI
2. Immigration at national and provincial levels
3. Welcoming communities
4. Responding to needs
5. Policy implications
About RDI

History
• 21+ yrs
• University-based
• Rural, northern, remote
• Bottom-up and top-down
• Community-based research
• Policy implications

Mandate
• Applied research
• Knowledge transfer
• Learning

New Journal of Rural and Community Development
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<td>Reducing greenhouse gases</td>
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Emerging rural research topics

- Regional
  - problem solving (local & govt)
  - differential policy responses (govt)
- Policy implementation approach
  - social media and social marketing
- Applied disaster/emergency studies
  - as rural development
- Digital economy and broadband
- Aboriginal, northern, remote CED
Canadian Attitudes Towards Immigration

Immigrants are having a good influence on the way things are going in your country

Angus Reid Global Scan. 2006. n=7,986 in 8 countries
Immigration

Regional Distribution of Immigrants, 2010

Total: 280,681

CIC. 2010
Concentration of Immigrants: Top 10 Cities / Other

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2010
Provincial policy matters

- 1996 Canada Manitoba Immigration Agreement
- 1998 Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) and Settlement Services Negotiated
- 2002 Provincial Immigration Strategy Established: *Growing Through Immigration*
- 2002: 5 year target 10,000 arrivals/yr
- 2007: 10 year target 20,000 arrivals/yr
• 2009
  – Worker Recruitment and Protection Act
  – Established a Credential Recognition Assistance Unit – 10 professions (eng, teachers, mid wife)
  – Fairness Commissioner

• 2010
  – Immigration service continuum
  – Time: pre-arrival, settle, retain
  – Services: Orientation, ESL (3K in ‘02, 16k in ‘10), employment, family
Component of rural strategies

- A community economic development strategy
- To address declining populations
- To revitalize and diversify rural communities
- To attract higher skilled workers
- Rural lifestyle can be attractive to newcomers, but attraction, settlement and retention efforts are required
Welcoming communities attracts and retains newcomers

- identify & remove barriers
- promote a sense of belonging
- meet diverse individual needs
- offer services that promote successful integration

Esses et. al, 2009, p. 9
Welcoming Communities

Steinbach, Manitoba. Population = 11,000

• 2010 welcomed 313 immigrants
  – Consistently ranks in the top 4 destination communities in MB.

• Family and religious connections
  – Mennonites from Russia, Germany, and Paraguay

• Recent influx of Filipino immigrants (83)

• Successfully addressing many issues
  – Eg., housing, settlement, retention
Welcoming community

A model: WCs strive to improve capacity to invite, settle, and retain new residents

• **Invite** – attract and recruit immigrants to the community

• **Settle** – identify & remove barriers, and meet diverse individual needs, including sensitivity to and acceptance of cultural diversity

• **Retain** – integrate new residents into fabric of community and community celebrates cultural diversity of new residents
Brandon, Manitoba (41,511 pop.)

- 1999 Maple Leaf Foods (MLF) pork processing plant opened
- 2001 MLF’s 1st foreign recruitment campaign in Mexico
- 2007 Brandon had highest rate of immigration growth in the province
- 2011 940 international staff
  - Mexico, El Salvador, Ukraine, China, Colombia, and Mauritius
Welcoming community

• Support ethno-cultural organizations (ECO)
• Better understand needs and capacities of ECOs in rural MB
• ECOs lead to more inclusive, active communities
• Increase diversity of ECOs in rural MB

Research
– Interviewed immigrants -200 (Latin America, Chinese), 200 long-term Brdn residents
– Topics: Jobs, housing, welcoming
Current Employment

• Is your primary job an occupation related to your training and/or experience?

  affirmative responses……..

  – 73% of Canadian long-term residents
  – 34% of Latin American new residents
  – 8% of Chinese new residents
Welcoming communities

Obtaining housing in the community

- Great to extreme difficulty in obtaining housing:
  - 4% of Canadian long-term residents
  - 17% of Latin American new residents

![Bar chart showing the percentage of Canadian long-term residents, Latin American new residents, and Chinese new residents experiencing great to extreme difficulty in obtaining housing. The chart indicates that Canadian long-term residents have the highest percentage at 90%, followed by Latin American new residents at 70%, and Chinese new residents at 40%. The bars are color-coded: blue for slight-none, red for moderate, and green for great-extreme.]
Welcoming communities

Housing Strategies

Larger centres
Greater demand → build new units

Smaller centres
Limited demand → modify existing stocks
Welcoming communities

Pathway for SME rural employers when hiring TFWs

**Step 1:** Confirm Labour Shortage: Recruit Canadian Citizens

**Step 2:** Register your MB Business

**Step 3:** Recruit TFW

**Step 4:** Apply for a Labour Market Opinion-LMO

**Step 5:** TFW Applies for a Temporary Work Permit and Visa (if applicable)

**Step 6:** TWF Enters Canada

**Step 7:** Welcome and Settle Employees
Welcoming communities
Employment

- More integrated immigration processes (including TFW) among all levels of govt and NGOs
- Connect rural employment opportunities with available urban immigrants (provincially, nationally)
- Address persistent unfilled labour market opportunities in rural areas (eg. beginning with health, trades, and services)
Further Research

Systematic approach

• What strategies and engagement activities are used by rural communities to invite, settle, and retain immigrants and new residents? Which ones are working?

• What sequence of decisions, strategies, and activities are used by immigrants as they become long term residents in rural communities?
Differentiated rural policy response

• How best to adjust public services in response to an uneven distribution of immigrants across rural/northern regions?

• To what extent will rural immigration contribute to rural communities (economically, socially, culturally, politically, environmentally) and what is at risk if they do not?
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• Southwest Rural Immigration Committee
• Rural Employers
• Local governments, agencies and organizations