



Rural Canada and Immigration: The Interface of Research, Policy and Practice

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Building on two initiatives:

- Manitoba Rural Immigration Community Case Studies
- CRRF-RDI National Rural Think Tank 2005- Immigration and Rural Canada: Research and Practice



The Belief:

- Opportunities in the area of immigration must be commensurate with rural needs and realities
- Immigration can be a viable option to communities when accompanied by appropriate action and planning



How this is achieved:

- An appropriate knowledge base
- Adequate human and material resources at local, provincial and national levels
- Linking rural communities to national and provincial decision-making on immigration policy
- Effective collaboration between actors in the realms of research, policy and practice



The Rural Immigration Experience:

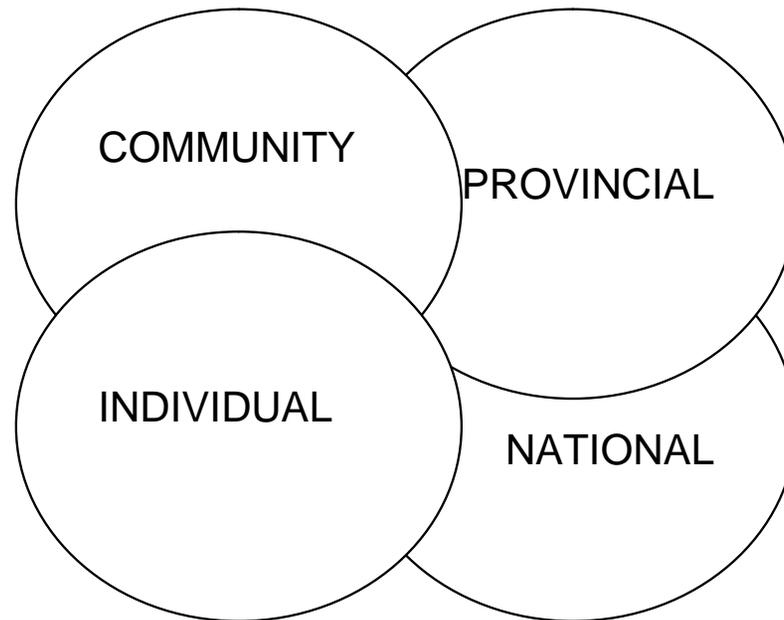
- Consists of individual or numerous acts of immigrants moving to rural areas and the related impact on the multiple levels and associated actors engaged in the process



A successful rural immigration experience requires:

- *Appropriate consideration of the multilevel needs and motivations of each party
- *Recognition of reciprocal relations and mutual reliance among all parties
- *High level of satisfaction for all parties involved
- *Contributions and decisions made at each level

Spheres of the Rural Immigration Experience





Impediments and Challenges Associated with Rural Immigration Initiatives:

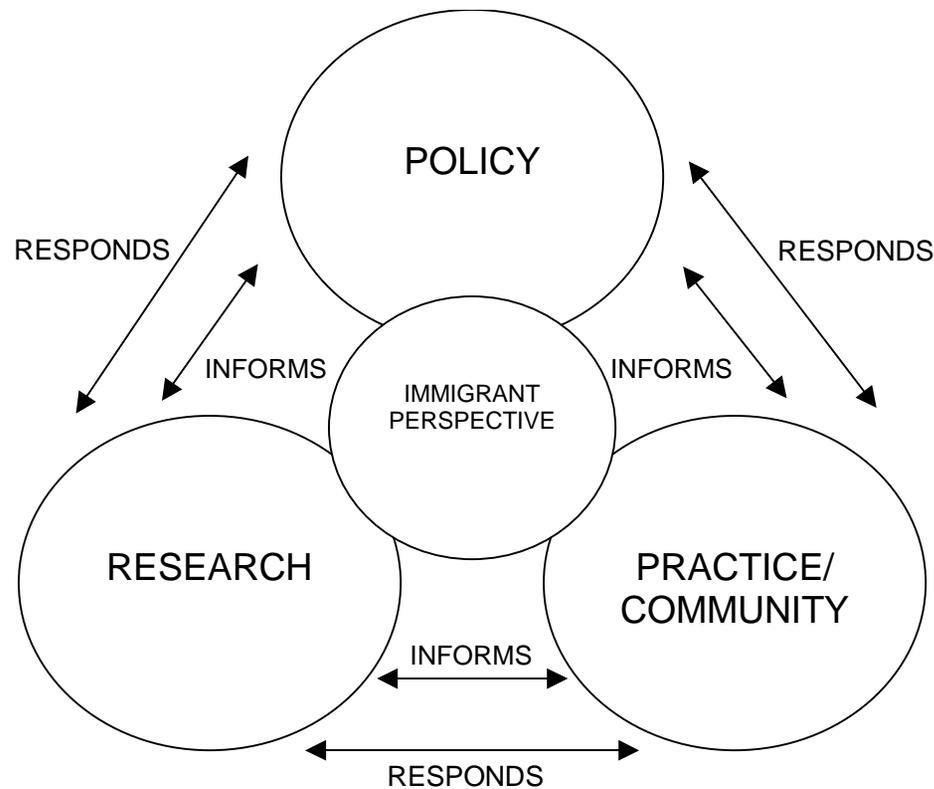
- Willingness
- Visibility
- Capacity
- Social Cohesion



Impediments and Challenges Associated With Rural Immigration Initiatives:

- Information/Expectations
- Dynamics of Attraction
- Employment/ Entrepreneurship
- Isolation

Addressing Issues/ Challenges: The Role of Research, Policy and Practice





Identified Research and Knowledge Needs:

- Attraction and Retention
- Policy
- Community Services/Supports/Tools
- Employment and Business Development
- Social/Cultural Cohesion



Moving Forward on the Rural Immigration Agenda: Recommendations and Opportunities for Action

1) Government/Policy

- Meeting Needs of Rural Areas – “Rural Lens”
- Supporting Communities
- Employment Issues
- Governmental Stakeholders- Inter-Agency Cooperation



2) Research

- Connecting research with topic
- Organization and presentation of research



3) Practice/Community

- Planning
- Increasing community capacity and knowledge
- Exposing potential immigrants to rural communities, opportunities



4) Collaborative Efforts- The Policy/Research/Practice Interface

- Strengthening Collaboration
- Community Capacity
- Ethical/Humanitarian Challenges
- Entrepreneurship and Employment



4) Collaborative Efforts- The Policy/Research/Practice Interface, continued:

- Rural Re-Imaging; Increasing Profile of Rural Canada
- Promotion of Immigration
- Knowledge Promotion



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