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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