Temporary may not always be temporary: The case of transitional foreign workers in Brandon, Manitoba

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Presented at the 11th National Metropolis Conference, Calgary, Alberta  
March 19-22, 2009
Outline of Presentation

• The case of Brandon, Manitoba
• Provincial Strategies and Policies for Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs)
• Rural Development Institute Initiatives
• Temporary to Transitional – Economic Purpose, Social Impacts
Brandon, Manitoba

Population = 41,511

- 2007: Highest rate of immigration growth in the province
- 1999: Maple Leaf Foods (MLF) pork processing plant opened
- 2001: MLF began foreign recruitment campaign in Mexico
- Today there are about 1,500 international recruits employed at MLF
  - 70% of employees are international recruits
  - From Mexico, El Salvador, Ukraine, China, Colombia, and Mauritius.
Provincial Strategies and Policies for Temporary Foreign Workers

- Worker Recruitment and Protection Act
- Resources and Settlement Services
- Manitoba: Temporary Foreign Workers to Provincial Nominees

Evolving strategies and policies as the nature of immigration to Manitoba changes.
Temporary Foreign Workers and Family Arrival Estimates

- Total TFW Arrivals (Stock)
- Actual & Anticipated TFW & Family Arrivals (Stock)
RDI Temporary Foreign Worker Dialogue Group

- 2007: First meeting
- Forum for community organizations, industry, government, and researchers
- Bridge information and communication gaps
- Information sharing

Membership
- Economic Development Brandon
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
- Manitoba Labour and Immigration
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Rural Secretariat
- Service Canada
- Brandon School Division
- Brandon Regional Health Authority
- Westman Immigrant Services
- Maple Leaf Foods
Mutual Intercultural Relations in Plural Societies

• International collaborative project
• Designed to understand intercultural relations from the perspectives of recent immigrants and long-time residents

Survey Themes

- Multicultural Ideology
- Ethnic identity
- Prejudice/discrimination
- Attitudes towards immigration
- Welcoming communities
- Tolerance
- Language
- Safety/security
• Economic purpose, social and community impacts
• ‘Temporary’ implies temporary needs for service provision
  – Challenges integrating into the community when temporary
  – Who is responsible and when?

Need for *local* strategies that recognize the transitional nature of temporary foreign workers
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• Copy of the presentation is posted on the website