Temporary Migration and Regional Economic Development: The Case of Brandon, Manitoba

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Should I Stay or Should I Go?
Policy-Research Seminar on Temporary Migration
Ottawa, ON
March 12, 2008
Session Outline

- Immigration in Manitoba
- Case example – Brandon, Manitoba
- Maple Leaf Foods (MLF) labour needs
- Labour shortage strategies
- Regional economic development
- Current & projected regional implications
- Current research endeavours
- Policy implication
Manitoba Immigration Policy and Directions

- New Targets – 20,000 annually
- New Settlement Strategy
- Improve Recognition of International Qualifications
- Protect Workers and Improve Partnerships
Provincial Strategies, Policies, and Programs

- Canada-MB Working Group on temporary foreign workers (TFWs)
- Support protection of TFWs through labour legislation
- Expanded recruitment initiatives with employers
- Enhance service planning and coordination
- Welcoming communities and planning
Manitoba Immigration Levels

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Prepared by Manitoba Labour and Immigration
Brandon, MB
Maple Leaf Foods: Labour Needs

- Demonstrated need for labour
- Brandon plant expansion
- Domestic and international recruitment
- Federal low skill TFWs program
- Developed International Recruitment Office and process
Labour Shortage Strategies

- Temporary Foreign Worker Pilot Program
  - MLF initiated utilization in 2002
- Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)
  - MLF TFWs began PNP process 2002
- City of Brandon support for addressing labour market needs
TFW Estimates, 2007-2009

TFW Estimates, 2007-2009 with Est. Family Arrivals

Population Projection Scenarios for Brandon, 2011-2031

The graph shows the population projection scenarios for Brandon from 1986 to 2031. There are three projection scenarios: Projection 1, Projection 2, and Projection 3. Each scenario is represented by a different line on the graph.

- **Projection 1** is represented by a blue line with diamonds, starting at around 35,000 in 1986 and increasing to approximately 50,000 by 2031.
- **Projection 2** is represented by a green line with triangles, starting at around 38,000 in 1986 and increasing to approximately 55,000 by 2031.
- **Projection 3** is represented by a red line with crosses, starting at around 40,000 in 1986 and increasing to approximately 60,000 by 2031.

The projections indicate a steady increase in population over the years.
Impacts for Brandon and area

Regional Economic Development
- Local business development
- Local infrastructure development
- Address demographic challenges and labour shortages
Impacts for Brandon and area

Service Provision Examples

■ Education
  ▪ Suggested class size is 25 students
  ▪ 759 new students are anticipated through family reunification

■ Family Physicians
  ▪ Suggested patient load is 1,500 patients per physician
  ▪ Brandon would require at least 2 additional physicians to serve TFWs and their family members
Will they stay or will they go?

Research Focus

- Community Experience
  - Welcoming communities
  - Community services, support, & ethnocultural organizations
  - Impact of an influx of diverse cultures

- Retention Rates
  - Use of the Provincial Nominee Program

- Perspectives & Experiences of the Worker

- Demographic Shifts & Population Change
Moving forward

- Impact of TFWs on regional economic development
  - Exploring the local & community role in ‘regional success’
- Bridge knowledge gaps & increase clarity
  - TFWs in non-metropolitan settings
  - Population projections
- Multi-level engagement, cooperation & collaboration
  - RDI TFW Dialogue Group
Policy Implications of TFWs

- Federal
  - Transitional nature of a program intended to be temporary impacts federally mandated immigration.

- Provincial (Manitoba)
  - TFWs as a source of permanent immigrants to meet aggressive immigration targets.

- Local (Brandon and area)
  - Addresses labour shortages and community development.
  - Impacts the operations of community service providers.
Rapid demographic change greatly impacts and challenges rural municipal governments and service providers.
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http://www.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/tfw.asp