‘Transitional’ foreign workers in the community: Facilitating settlement needs in Brandon, Manitoba

Sandy Trudel
Economic Development Officer, City of Brandon

Jill Bucklaschuk
Rural Development Institute, Brandon University

10th National Metropolis Conference
April 5, 2008
Session Outline

- Municipal government’s role
- Temporary foreign workers (TFWs) & the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)
- Settlement needs of TFWs in Brandon
- Settlement challenges
- Impacts for Brandon & area
- Looking forward
Municipal Government’s Role

- Communication
- Statistics / projections
- Trends – identify & educate
- Facilitating body
  - Bridge between business & service providers
- Neutral & broad picture perspective
  - Labour market opinions
  - Identify linkage opportunities
Municipal Government’s Role cont’d

- Fill the gaps when possible
  - Socio-economic impact studies
  - Housing supply & demand studies
  - Stakeholder newsletter quarterly
  - Chair of the Immigrant Services Network Coordinating committee
  - Early stages – translated settlement package & prepared cultural awareness info
  - Website section dedicated to Maple Leaf Foods (MLF)
TFW Estimates, 2007-2009

Temporary is not always temporary

TFWs to Provincial Nominees (PN)
- Can apply to PNP after 6 months of working in Brandon
- In 2007, 536 of TFWs working at MLF applied to PNP & 533 have been approved – ‘temporary’ is not always ‘temporary’.
- Allows family reunification
TFW Estimates, 2007-2011 with Est. Family Arrivals

Source: Economic Development Brandon (2008)
Population Projection Scenarios for Brandon, 2011-2031

The graph shows three projection scenarios for the population of Brandon from 1986 to 2031. The projections are labeled as Projection 1, Projection 2, and Projection 3. Each projection assumes different growth rates, with Projection 3 showing the highest population growth and Projection 1 showing the lowest. The actual population of Brandon is also plotted on the graph for comparison.
Settlement Needs

Initially
- EAL classes
- Housing
- Health care
- Transportation

After receiving PN status
- Family reunification
- Employment
- Education
Settlement Challenges

- Rapid demographic change impacts & challenges rural municipal governments & service providers.
- Temporary to permanent
- Language barriers
- TFWs have not been eligible for settlement services
- Access to information & data
- Families & housing
**Impacts for Brandon & area**

**Service Provision Examples**

- **Education**
  - Suggested class size is 25 students
  - Approximately 1300 new students are anticipated through family reunification

- **Family Physicians**
  - Suggested patient load is 1,500 patients per physician
  - At least 2 more physicians will be required to serve TFWs & family members
Looking forward
Ensuring successful settlement in the community

- Create & deliver a community orientation & settlement strategy
- Communication & information sharing amongst stakeholders regarding numbers of arrivals (TFWs & families).
- Plan proactively & community ‘readiness’
- Ensure a welcoming community
‘Temporary’ to ‘Transitional’

- Importance of seeing recruits as ‘transitional’
- ‘Temporary’ implies temporary needs for service provision
- Must develop local settlement strategies that acknowledge the transitional nature of temporary foreign workers.
For additional information:

Sandy Trudel, Economic Development Officer,  
City of Brandon  
204-729-2131  
s.trudel@brandon.ca

Robert Annis, PhD, Director  
Rural Development Institute, Brandon University  
annis@brandonu.ca  
204-571-8513

Jill Bucklaschuk, Research Affiliate,  
Rural Development Institute, Brandon University  
bucklaschukj@brandonu.ca  
819-770-7133