Welcoming Communities & Community Collaboration Efforts in Brandon

Presented by Jill Bucklaschuk
November 16, 2009
Outline

- History of Immigration Research at RDI
- Dialogue Groups
- What is a Welcoming Community?
- Researching Brandon as a Welcoming Community
Immigration Research at RDI

• 2005
  – Manitoba Case Studies: Parklands, Portage, Steinbach, and Morden/Winkler

• 2007
  – Temporary Foreign Workers

• 2008 to present
  – Ethnocultural Organizations
  – Welcoming Communities
Goals of Recent Projects

- Build multi-sectoral collaboration with community leaders, community-based organizations, government, and industry.
- Partnership and capacity building
- Knowledge building and dissemination
Temporary Foreign Worker Dialogue Group

- First meeting in September 2007
- Purpose
  - Encourage open and dynamic exchange of information
  - Build a network of expertise
- Topics
  - Roles and responsibilities
  - Settlement
  - Family reunification
  - Health and Education
Welcoming Communities Dialogue Group

• Transitioned late 2008
• Purpose is to determine characteristics of a welcoming community
• Increase awareness and knowledge regarding the factors and contributors to a welcoming community

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
Becoming Welcoming

- Organize in preparation for immigration
- Establish multi-stakeholder regional or community groups
- Foster capacity, community, and partnership building
- Develop local immigration plans
- Celebrate diversity
- Holistic approach to service provision
- 360 degree feedback
Welcoming Communities Survey

• Inventory of resources and tools on welcoming communities
• Interview 400 community residents
• Identify characteristics of a welcoming community
• Themes include
  – Multicultural Ideology
  – Tolerance/Prejudice
  – Appropriate public services
  – Attitudes Towards Immigration
Mutual Intercultural Relations in Plural Societies

• International collaborative project to build an understanding of intercultural relations
• Designed to understand intercultural relations by considering both recent immigrants’ and community members’ experiences and ideas

• Citizenship
• Mobility
• Ethnic Origin
• Neighbourhoods
• Languages
• Social Contacts
• Cultural Identity

• Security
• Acculturation Attitudes and Expectations
• Perceived Discrimination
• Multicultural Ideology
• Tolerance/Prejudice
• Attitudes Towards Immigration
413 interviews conducted

7 interviews discarded due to substantial missing data

1 interview did not feel comfortable with confidentiality

TOTAL = 405 interviews
Data Limitations

- Data represents only the views of the 405 respondents
- Data suppression and confidentiality
- Translation of tool and responses
- Possible interviewer bias
Sub-Samples

• Long-Term Canadian Resident
  – Resided in Brandon for at least five years
  – Born in Canada

• New Resident
  – Resided in Brandon for less than five years
  – Latin American (Mexico, Central/South America)
  – Chinese (born in China)
### Sub-Samples

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Length of Residence in Brandon</th>
<th>Country or Region of Birth</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>Mexico, Central and South America</th>
<th>China</th>
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<td>Long Term Resident (more than 5 years in Brandon)</td>
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<td>138</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>New residents (less than five years in Brandon)</td>
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<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>Citizenship Status</td>
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<td>Latin American New Residents (96)</td>
<td>Chinese New Residents (96)</td>
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Resources

• Temporary Foreign Worker Project:
  http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/tfw.asp

• Welcoming Communities Project:
  http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/welcomingcommunity.asp

• Ethnocultural Organizations Project:
  http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/ethnocultural.asp