

Local Immigration: Assessing the Policy Capacity of Smaller Communities

Wednesday, October 20th
at 10:30am Central (CST)

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Research abstract: Who should decide whether a smaller community is ready to welcome foreign-born residents? Who should participate in the design and implementation of a local immigration strategy? There has been an increasing policy interest in encouraging immigration settlement in smaller communities, as evidenced by the introduction of Rural and Northern Immigration pilots and soon-to-be Municipal Nominee Programs. This policy trend raises the question of local policy capacity. Drawing on the presenter's own doctoral research, this webinar will examine local immigration strategies and outline the conditions for optimizing smaller communities' capacity to successfully attract immigration. Importantly, smaller communities must adopt a consistent vision and support it with leadership, apt coordination of welcoming services, and engagement of local employers in diversity hiring.

Get to know the speaker!



Marc Valade

Marc Valade is currently Brandon University's Stanley Knowles Visiting Professor in Public Policy. His doctoral research in policy studies focuses on the collaboration of community stakeholders in the pursuit of attracting immigrants. Part of his fieldwork took place in Brandon with the support of RDI. Holding a master's degree in public administration, Marc was the General Director of a regional development agency in Lanaudière, Quebec for ten years. During his tenure, he negotiated a regional immigration strategy with the provincial government, a first in this region. In addition to local immigration, Marc's current research explores the adaptation challenges of recent immigrants and how local supporters can help them acquire personal agency and resilience.