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A Snapshot of Labour Market Outcomes among Immigrants in Alberta

By: Lori Wilkinson, Jill Bucklaschuk, Jack (Yi) Shen, Iqbal Ahmed Chowdhury and Tamara Edkins

Alberta Immigration Summit Sponsored by Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (AAISA) *Edmonton, October 30 2014*



Objectives of Triangulation Project

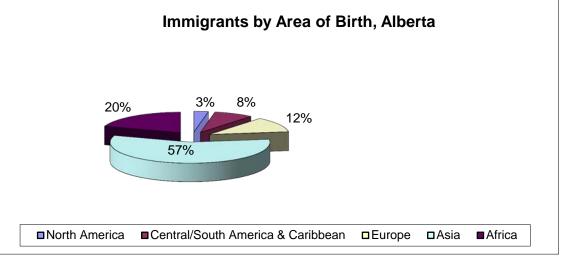
- **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**: to better understand the settlement experiences of immigrants in western Canada and how they may compare to immigrants in other western provinces
 - Labour market, service use, social integration, language

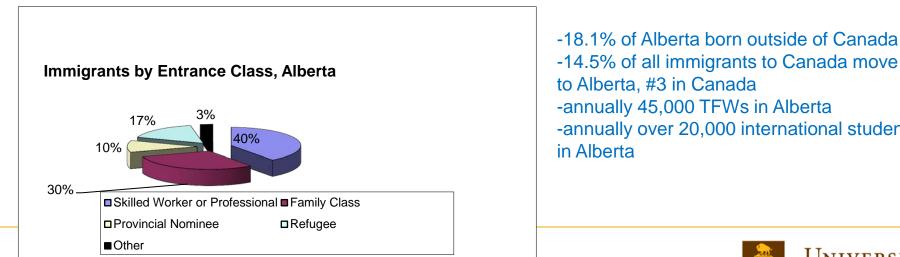
• TODAY'S OBJECTIVES

 Examine and compare various labour market outcomes among immigrants in Alberta and the rest of Canada with special attention to: unemployment indicators, accessing information about finding work and job status decline



Selected demographics of Immigrants in Alberta





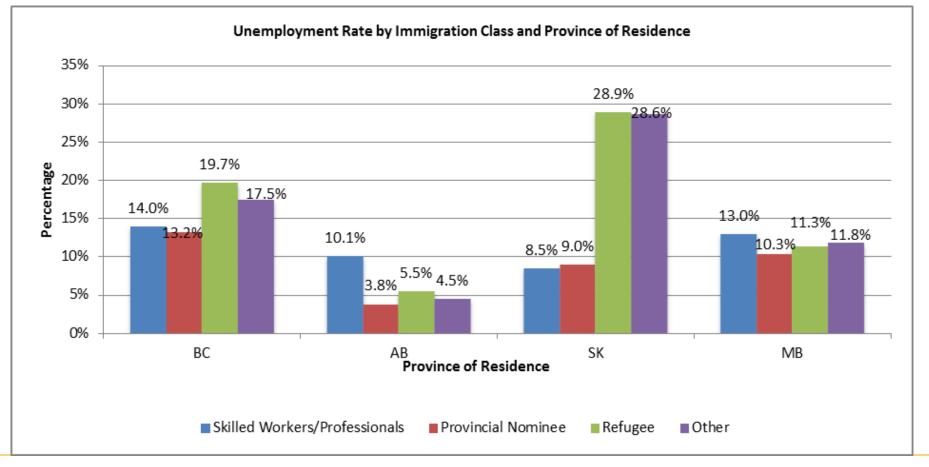
-16.3% live in rural areas

-13.2% live in small cities

-annually over 20,000 international students

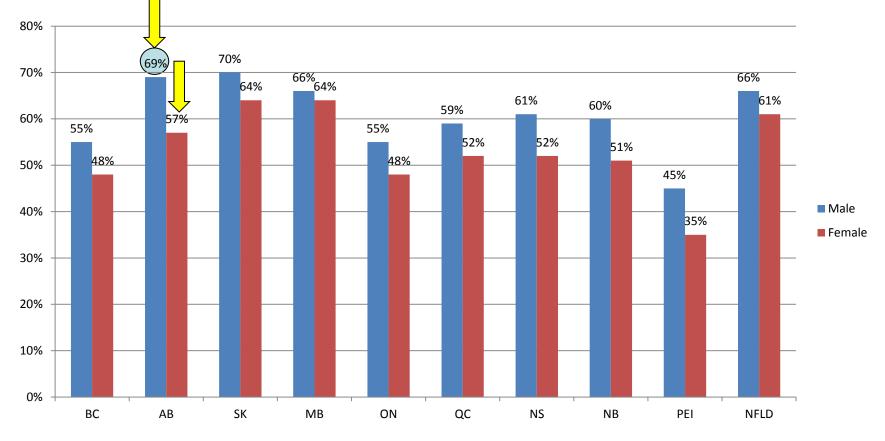


Unemployment rate is lowest in Alberta





Males in Alberta find job information most easily but females have more difficulty



Source: Pan-Cdn X² (Male) = 158.677 df= 18 P \leq 0.000; X² (Female) = 172.974 df= 18 P \leq 0.000



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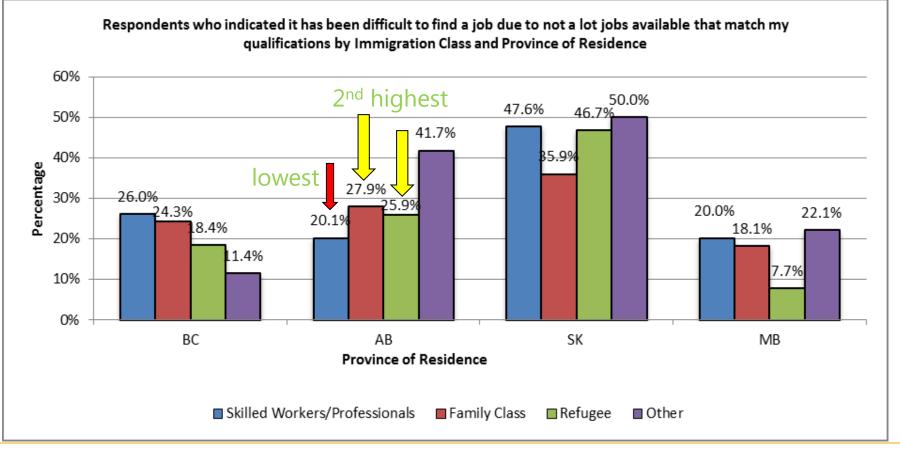
Rural residents in AB & SK feel lack of Canadian experience makes it difficult for them to find work

Difficulty finding a job due to lack of Canadian experience by Urban Residence and Province of Residence

	Province of Residence				Total
	BC	AB	SK	MB	
Urban	63.3%	41.4%	45.7%	66.6%	881 (56.0%)
Rural	36.7%	58.6%	54.3%	33.4%	692 (44.0%)
Total	431 (100%)	365 (100%)	289 (100%)	488 (100%)	1573 (100%)

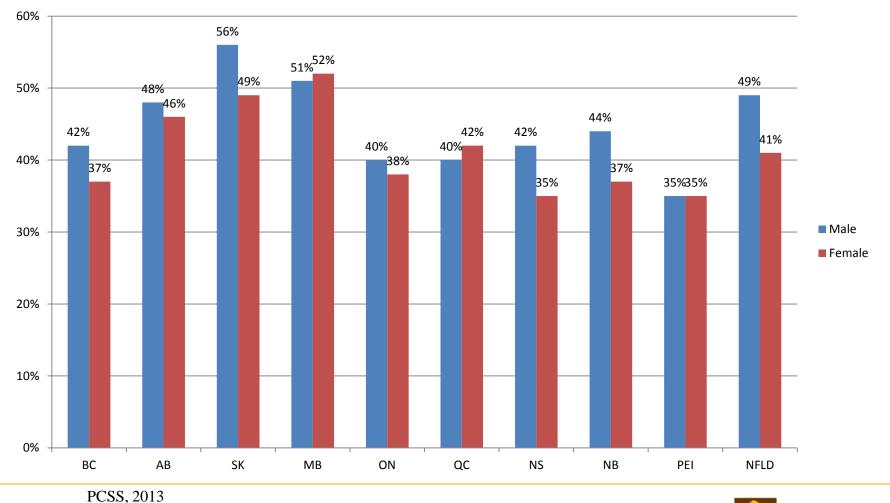


Trouble finding work that matches my qualifications by province and class





Alberta immigrants satisfied with pre-arrival FQR



 X^2 (Male) = 122.358 df= 18 P \leq 0.000; X^2 (Female) =108.970 df= 18 P \leq 0.000



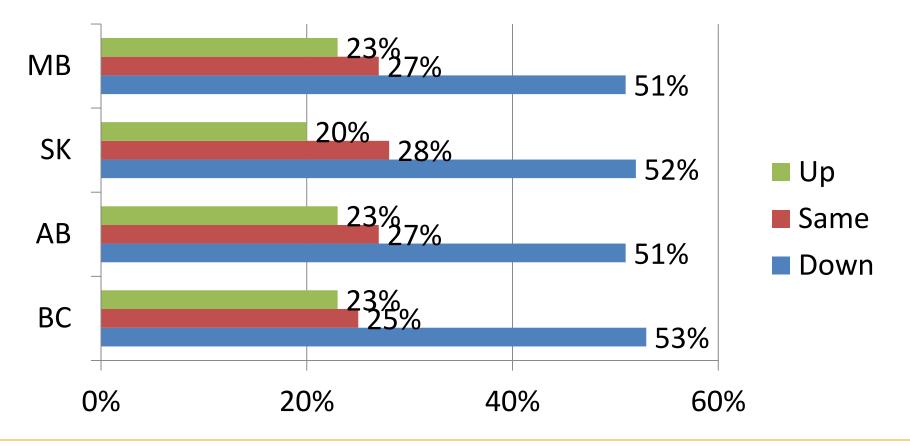
Post-arrival job status, immigrants compared to Canadian-born

	Imm	<u>Born in</u> <u>Canada</u>	
	Pre-arrival	Post-arrival	
NOC A	47%	28%	37%
NOC B	30%	27%	26%
NOC C	21%	31%	28%
NOC D	2%	14%	9%

Among university-educated immigrants, 43% of females and 35% of males worked in occupations requiring a high school education or less. In comparison, only 15% of university-educated Canadian-born worked in occupations requiring high school education or less.

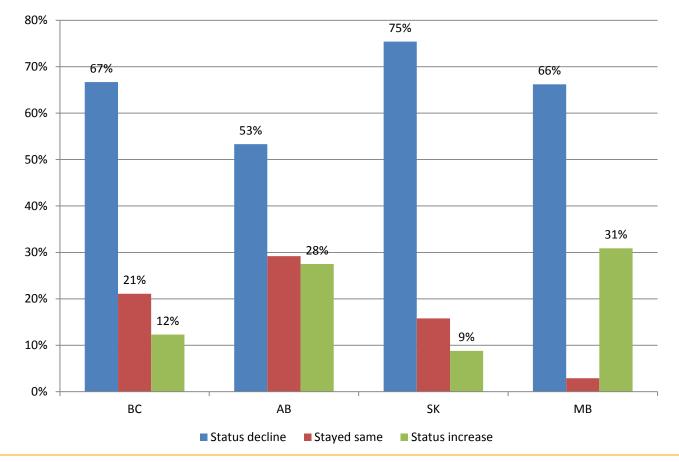


Change in post-arrival skill level by province





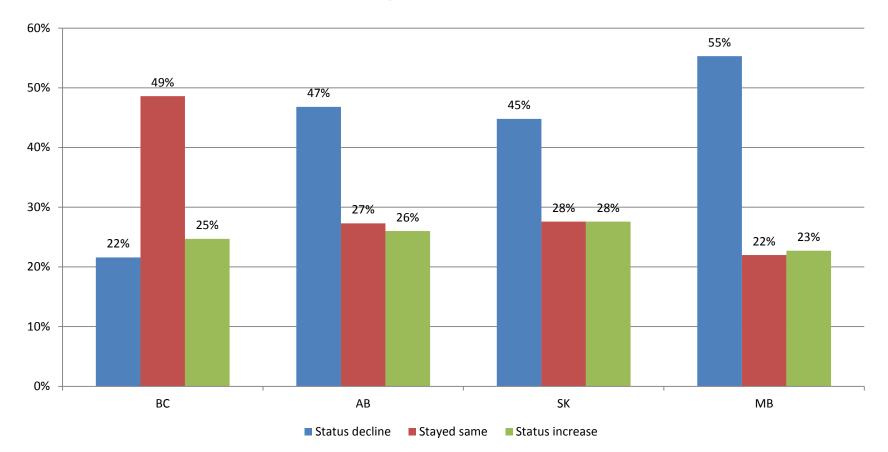
Job Status Decline by province REFUGEES



Source:WCSS X²=35.927 P<0.01



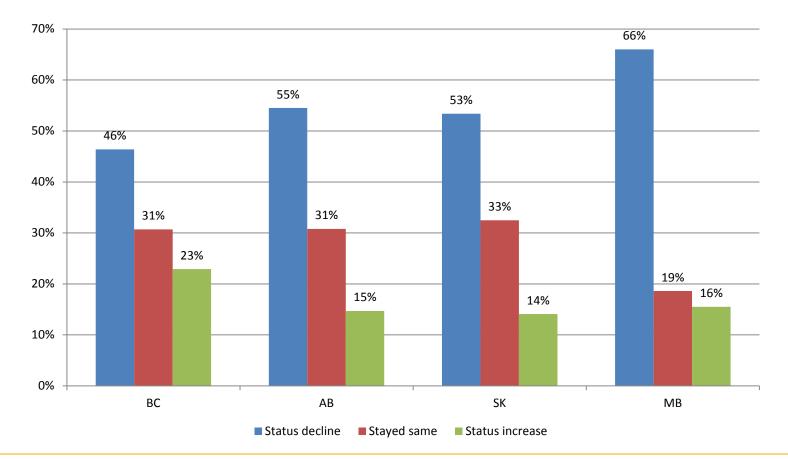
Job Status Decline by province: PN



Source:WCSS X²=19.454 P<0.01



Job status decline by province: Skilled/Prof Worker



Source:WCSS X²=15.227 P<0.01



What do we know about labour market indicators for immigrants in Alberta?

- Labour market indicators for many immigrants in Alberta are mostly strong
 - It's the easiest place to locate information about finding a job
 - More likely to identify a strong mismatch between skills and job, especially among those living in rural areas
 - Lack of Canadian experience makes it difficult to find work
- Job status decline is a real problem and is linked to belonging and happiness
 - Refugees in AB have the least job status decline
 - AB second worst performer for PN and Skilled/professional workers



Additional Findings, Reports and Information

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http://umanitoba.ca/about_RIW.html





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Selected Data Sources

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- Statistics Canada Annual Labour Force Survey, Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2014
- Statistics Canada National Household Survey, Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2014



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- Western Settlement Survey researchers: Victoria Esses (Western University), Leah Hamilton (Mount Royal University) and Li Zong (University of Saskatchewan)
- Research assistants: Janine Bramadat, Palak Dhiman, Kaitlyn Fraser, University of Manitoba





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