Settlement Services in Western Canada: Results from 29 Rural and Small Centres

Bill Ashton, MCIP, PhD
Director, Rural Development Institute
Brandon University, Brandon, MB Canada
204 571-8513  ashtonw@branondonu.ca
Immigration Publications

VISIT https://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/publications/rural-immigrationrural-migration/

Settlement services in Western Canada: results from 29 rural and small centres
Settlement services in Western Canada: results from 29 rural and small centres

- History of immigration
- Francophone
- Northern
- Hiring considerations
- Regional approaches
- Population changes
- Intercultural
- Housing
- Settlement
- Local capacity
- Labour issues
- Hiring TFW
- Employer direct stream
- Rapid growth
- Welcoming communities
- Integration
- Retention
- Policy impacts
- Case studies

Research Informing Decisions
Two Parts

1. Settlement services in Western Canada: results from 29 rural and small centres

2. Rural/Urban challenges & public policy response
## Manitoba & Nova Scotia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Manitoba</th>
<th>Nova Scotia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Pop</strong></td>
<td>1,148,000</td>
<td>940,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
<td>70,000 km²</td>
<td>55,284 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>649,000 km²</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permanent Residences</strong></td>
<td>15,419 (5.2%)</td>
<td>2,772 (0.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Immigrants RST</strong></td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Immigrants RST</strong></td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin
Catalogue no. 21-006-X. Vol. 8, No. 2 (June 2009)
Why a Study?

Canadian Immigration Policy Changes
By Type and Year, 1900-2013

Unprecedented policy changes

Source: Seeing the Forest Through the Trees
Why a Study?

**APRIL 2012**

*Manitoba angry about federal immigration changes*

CBC News  Posted: Apr 12, 2012 7:35 AM CT

*Federal cuts put pressure on multicultural group*

Executive director wonders how services will be provided after local Citizenship and Immigration office closes

CBC News  Posted: Apr 13, 2012 11:47 AM ET

NEW DEAL!

Immigration funding re-structured
More immigrants are choosing to migrate to rural areas in Canada yet we know very little about the extent to which settlement services are available to them.

**Percentage of Permanent Residents in BC, AB, SK, MB living outside the big cities, 2004-2013**

- **Manitoba (less Winnipeg)**
- **Saskatchewan (less Regina & Saskatoon)**
- **Alberta (less Calgary & Edmonton)**
- **British Columbia (less Vancouver & Victoria)**

Source: CIC Facts and Figures 2013
Why is Study?

• Federal cutbacks
  – Reorganizations, Retirements, Re-staffing

• 2012-2014 Citizen and Immigration Canada
  – Knowledge gaps, outside of metros?
Overview

• Research objectives and design
• Manitoba focus
• Settlement services gaps & barriers
• Importance of partnerships
• Conclusions & strategic directions
• Implications for Nova Scotia
Research Objectives

• Inventory settlement services across Western Canada and to identify gaps, barriers and needs.

• Determine existing partnerships and applicability of the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP).

Newcomers 1) Permanent Residents, 2) Refugees, 3) Refugee Claimants, 4) Temporary Foreign Workers, 6) Naturalized Citizens, 7) International Students in Canada from 1 day to 5 years.

Newcomers ineligible for services - no access to CIC funded settlement services
Settlement services in Western Canada: results from 29 rural and small centres

Governance structure

Project Advisory Panel
Chair: Dr. Lori Wilkinson, University of Manitoba, IRW
PI (RDI)
4 Co-PIs
Service Provider Umbrella Organizations representatives
CIC members
Provincial Gov. members

British Columbia Project Advisory Panel
Representatives from:
CIC
AMSSA
Prov.Gov.
Municipal / regional IRW

Alberta Project Advisory Panel
Representatives from:
CIC
AAISA
Prov.Gov.
Municipal / regional IRW

Saskatchewan Project Advisory Panel
Representatives from:
CIC
SAISIA
Prov.Gov.
Municipal / regional IRW

Manitoba Project Advisory Panel
Representatives from:
CIC
MIRSSA
Prov.Gov.
Municipal / regional IRW

Dr. Miu Chung Yan
University of British Columbia

Dr. Anna Kirova
University of Alberta

Dr. Joe Garcea
University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Bill Ashton
RDI, Brandon University
Research Design & Methods

29 communities
Total Pop. 1,191,228
Total PRs: 37,330 (2009-2013)

Criteria for selection:
• Receive newcomers
• No LIP
• 1+ CIC funded SPO
• No metro centre
• Full spectrum of rural, remote, small cities
• New & established SPOs

“Local Community” or “Regional Community”
Broader regional community approach in SK.

BC = 10  AB = 9  SK = 5  MB = 6 Selected communities
Max diversity of communities

- **Pop.** 1,761 in Arborg – Ashern, MB to 104,109 in Langley, BC.
- **Permanent Residents** (2009-2013) 88 Virden, MB to 4,320 in Brandon, MB.
Research Design & Methods

147 SPO senior managers interviewed

- Available settlement and integration services
- Gaps in services
- Barriers to access services
- Newcomer needs for services
- Ease of newcomer settlement and finding employment
- Organizational partnerships
- Organizational capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Number of surveys completed</th>
<th>Number of people providing feedback</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MB</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Design & Methods

Limitations

• **Not all communities** selected. Communities purposely selected to maximize diversity using criteria;

• **No newcomers included**. Focus on SPOs

• **Reduced complexity of survey**. Challenges with long survey in BC, shifted to shorter version. More data on BC but same topics. Longer BC case studies.
Focus on the Manitoba Case

IMMIGRATION SETTLEMENT
Manitoba: Newcomer Stats

Permanent Residents by immigration class

Source: CIC Facts and figures 2013
## Manitoba: Temporary Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temporary residents</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Workers</td>
<td>4,191</td>
<td>3,636</td>
<td>3,246</td>
<td>3,228</td>
<td>3,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Students</td>
<td>1,723</td>
<td>2,046</td>
<td>2,088</td>
<td>1,772</td>
<td>2,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian population</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee claimants</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,201</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,981</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,630</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,294</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,787</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CIC Facts and figures 2012 – Immigration overview
Manitoba: % of Immigrants living Outside Winnipeg

Percentage of PRs and TRs in Manitoba living outside Winnipeg

Source: CIC Facts and Figures -2012 and 2013
MB: Newcomer in Communities Sampled

Settlement services in Western Canada: results from 29 rural and small centres
Ease of newcomer settlement (mixed perceptions)

- **Newcomer settlement difficult** (10/19 participants)
  
  WHY?
  - Newcomer language difficulties
  - Lack of housing (i.e., access, shortage and affordability), childcare spots, & information about services available
  - Residents wary of newcomers
  - Harsh climate and lack of public transportation

- **Newcomer settlement easy** (9/19 participants)
  
  WHY?
  - Small communities = increased awareness of services
  - Easier with ethno-cultural community support
  - Community support
  - Settlement incentive packages (Interlake)

- **Newcomer settlement somewhat difficult** (5/19 participants)
  
  SK-MB(easy) vs AB-BC (difficult)
MB: Newcomer Employment

Ease of newcomer employment (mixed perceptions)

• **Finding employment easy** (13/19 participants)
  WHY?
  • Availability of jobs / Mainly low skilled, low pay, and entry-level jobs
  • Presence of manufacturing companies in the communities
  • Easier for newcomers accessing settlement services

• **Finding employment difficult** (5/19 participants)
  WHY?
  • Foreign credential recognition
  • Newcomer language proficiency
  • Availability of mostly low skilled, low pay, and entry-level jobs
  • Transportation/childcare
  • Possible employers fears of newcomers
  • Need for upgrading skills

SK-MB(easy) vs AB-BC (difficult)
MB: Settlement Services & Gaps in Rural Manitoba

MB - Top services offered

- Language training: 11
- Help with daily life: 9
- Information and orientation: 7
- Needs assessment and referral: 7
- Help finding housing: 7
- Help finding a job: 7
- Cultural Events: 7
- Social inclusion/ integration support: 7
- Legal support/referral: 6
- Interpretation services: 5
- Transportation support: 5
- Childcare: 5

Red bars identify most needed services together with mentorship/social support/networking/ orientation to Canadian culture.
MB: Barriers to Accessing Services

**Barriers in Manitoba** *(consistent across western Canada)*

- Ineligibility
- Language difficulties of newcomers
- Lack of childcare during service delivery
- Lack of (public) transportation
- Confusion about where to get help
- Hours of the day services are offered
- Lack of services offered
Research Objectives

- Inventory settlement services across Western Canada and to identify gaps, barriers and needs.

- Determine existing partnerships and applicability of the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP).

**Newcomers** 1) Permanent Residents, 2) Refugees, 3) Refugee Claimants, 4) Temporary Foreign Workers, 6) Naturalized Citizens, 7) International Students in Canada from 1 day to 5 years.

**Newcomers ineligible for services** - no access to CIC funded settlement services
MB: Partnerships

Formal/informal in nature
• 16/19 SPOs reported active partnerships
• Many differences in partnership development

Most frequently reported partnerships
• Schools and school boards
• Other SPOs
• Language training providers
• Businesses and Chambers of Commerce

Least reported partnerships
• Police force
• Housing services
• Ethno-cultural organizations
• Francophone organizations
Integrating Research Findings

29 community reports

Settlement services in Western Canada: results from 29 rural and small centres
Summary - challenges

• More newcomers
• More diverse backgrounds
• Ltd ethno-cultural groups
• Lack of infrastructure / local capacity
• Lack public transport, long distances
• Smaller SPOs more flexible, fewer services, ltd specialization, may appear ad hoc
• Restricted job market
• Northern and Remote: exacerbate service provision challenges for newcomers
Conclusion - 15 Key Findings

Settlement and Employment (5)
- Settlement: a challenge across much of Western Canada
- Small rural communities: Benefits versus lack key services
- Employment: Harder in the regions that are farther west
- Challenges to employment: Language, Foreign credential, transportation, childcare
Services and Gaps (7)

- Newcomer needs: similar across western region and for either eligible or ineligible
- Expanding services: increase offering; eligibility; locations
- Range of language services can be quite limited
- Integration services are needed
- Secure funding critical for SPOs in rural areas
- Remote communities face additional challenges
- Language a barrier to accessing services

Partnerships (3)

- Partnerships are key to service newcomers in rural areas
- LIPs are supported, but need to build upon existing partnerships – Provincial differences
- Private sector partnerships and involvement desired
Conclusion: Strategic Directions

1. Expand services - available and accessible

Existing services

More locations within geographic regions

Integrate services

CIC’s eligibility criteria
Conclusion: Strategic Directions

2. Enhancing SPO capacity and funding

- More flexible policies which consider rural issues
- Sharing beneficial practices
- Improving communication with CIC
- Core funding is needed for SPOs
Conclusion: Strategic Directions

3. Increase SPO capacity with partnerships

Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs)

- LIPs build upon existing partnerships
- LIPs vary with local SPO capacity
- LIPs different based on provincial practices
- LIPs engage employers in region
Thank You

Acknowledgement:

**Project Panel members:** Lori Wilkinson (chair), Robert Vineberg, Bill Ashton, Joe Garcea, Anna Kirova, Miu Chung Yan, Laurie Sawatsky, Getachew Woldeyesus, Fariborz Birjandian, Lynn Moran, Xiaoyi Xan, John Biles, Nita Jolly, Sophia Lee, Lucy Swib, Liz Robinson, Tim Helfrich, Alice Wong, Keith Godin, Vicki Chiu, Dominic Fung, Chris Garcia.

**Provincial Panel members:**
**BC:** Miu Chung Yan (chair), Lucy Swib, Tiana Solares, Dominic Fung, Vicky Chiu, Lynn Moran, Alex Kang, Lori Wilkinson.
**AB:** Anna Kirova (chair), John Biles, Alice Wong, Jennifer Fowler, Shahriyar Khan, Christina Nsaliwa, Mohhamed Y. Idriss, Sarah Amies, Abdie Kazemipur, Lori Wilkinson.
**SK:** Joe Garcea (chair), Beulah Ghana, Sean McKenzie, Tim Helfrich, Carol Oliver, Lori Wilkinson.
**MB:** Lori Wilkinson, Liz Robinson, Laurie Sawatzky, Benjamin Amoyaw, Bequie Lake, Wally Melnyk, Nita Jolly, Natasha Mohammed.

**Research Participants**
Questions

All reports are available at:
https://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/publications/immigration-services-and-gaps/
And http://umanitoba.ca/reports_RIW.html