Perspectives on integration from western Canada

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UBC

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Agenda

• What is distinctive about migration to western Canada?
• How does this translate to the integration process?
• From the regional to the urban scale
• Closing thoughts
Migration to western Canada

• In recent years, western Canada has received approximately 40% of all permanent and 40% of all temporary residents to Canada
  • Similar in scale to Ontario

• The composition of economic immigrants settling in the western provinces is distinct
  • What does this mean?
Immigrant population by admission class, western Canada vs. Ontario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permanent Residents by Region and Admission Type, 2008-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics Canada, table IRCC_FF_PR_2017_17_E
Western Canadian economic immigration is dominated by provincial nominee programs.

Figure 1.10. Labour immigrants by province and migration programme, 2017

Provincial nominees

Federal labour immigrants

Atlantic Provinces
Ontario
Manitoba
Alberta
British Columbia
Saskatchewan
Territories
Quebec

https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/4abab00d-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/4abab00d-en
Federal vs. provincial immigrant selection

- Provincial programs use a more stepwise logic
  - In 2015, 76% of PN immigrants had been in Canada as a temporary resident, vs. 17% for FSW immigrants

- Provinces place less priority on education
  - In western Canada in 2017, 52% of PN immigrants had completed a university degree, vs. 79% for FSW

- Most PN programs require a job offer
  - So a very high fraction report employment earnings immediately (over 90% across western provinces within the first year of landing)

- PN earnings are initially higher than FSW
  - But this changes over time
Figure 3: Average Employment Earnings by Years since Admission and Immigration Category, 2002 to 2014 Admissions

Source: IMDB 2014 – 2002-2014 admissions
And the credentialization issue isn’t as prominent for PN immigrants

Why?
- A higher fraction have Canadian education
- Most have Canadian work experience
- Their education level is lower

Table 11: Share of PN PAs Holding a Job Commensurate with Skill Level of Intended Occupation - At Time of the Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PT</th>
<th>Not commensurate</th>
<th>Commensurate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>77.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>84.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>88.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territories</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>89.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.7%</strong></td>
<td><strong>77.3%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Survey of PNs

Evaluation of the Provincial Nominee Program
All of this means...

• In Western Canada, we see an economic immigration program ‘on steroids’

• The issues associated with economic integration are therefore different in western Canada

• However, integration is a complex process that includes several dimensions
  • Economic issues only represent a portion of the process
  • And reception is a crucial issue

• From the perspective of service providers, the challenges seem the same
  • Since only those needing support typically seek it
Integration support

• Outside Quebec, IRCC settlement and integration funding is allocated on a per capita basis
  • This means IRCC is spending $315 million on settlement and integration support in western Canada in 2019-20 (compared with $343 million in Ontario)

• Spending rules and contractual processes are essentially the same, with similar actors (SPOs)
  • But service utilization patterns are different
## Immigrant Landings, by Category, vs. Settlement Service Utilization (3 year lag)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ontario</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Western provinces</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immigrants 2012-16</td>
<td>Settlement service clients 2015-19</td>
<td>Client Services / immigrant</td>
<td>Immigrants 2012-16</td>
<td>Settlement service clients 2015-19</td>
<td>Client Services / immigrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total immigrants</td>
<td>512,023</td>
<td>1,745,800</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>528,391</td>
<td>1,283,860</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>249,868</td>
<td>691,160</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>348,772</td>
<td>664,365</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>235,295</td>
<td>595,440</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>166,882</td>
<td>342,250</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial</td>
<td>14,620</td>
<td>95,720</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>181,890</td>
<td>322,115</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>171,697</td>
<td>456,085</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>131,277</td>
<td>286,690</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees</td>
<td>80,445</td>
<td>510,535</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>44,439</td>
<td>293,220</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10,013</td>
<td>88,015</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>3,903</td>
<td>30,075</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**
- Provincial Nominee national statistics: IRCC Annual Reports to Parliament
- Estimated PN/Federal values for Ontario and Western Canada: IRCC Evaluation of the Provincial Nominee Program, 2017
- Settlement Services: IRCC_M_SSC_0002_E
But should we really be thinking about western Canada as a region?

- Shifting our perspective to the urban scale is more appropriate.
- Essentially, cities receive immigrants, and immigrants make cities.
  - Especially in a time when the majority of Canada’s population growth is associated with net migration.
### Immigration and population growth, Canada, 2011-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th></th>
<th>Western Canada</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Top 10 CMAs</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Top 10 CMAs</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>54.3</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>67.7</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant population</td>
<td>81.9</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>85.5</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent Immigrants</td>
<td>81.2</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>85.2</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popn growth 2011-16</td>
<td>71.0</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>116.5</td>
<td>-16.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census Profiles
A tool to investigate the dynamics of integration in Canadian cities

- [www.superdiv-Canada.mmg.mpg.de](http://www.superdiv-Canada.mmg.mpg.de)
- Please visit!
- Next slide: a very brief glimpse of cities as ‘integration machines’
  - Note the distinctiveness of Calgary and Edmonton
After-tax low income population (%), Refugees, by arrival cohort, 2016

- 1980 - 1990
- 1991 - 2000
- 2001 - 2010
- 2011 - 2016
Closing thoughts

• Given the scale and diversity of Canada, the dynamics of migration differ across regions

• Western Canada is exemplifies Canada’s effort to harness immigration as a force of economic growth
  • This opens important questions about the relationship between immigration profiles, service landscapes, and outcomes

• Across all the regions of Canada, settlement and integration happens in cities
  • Again, this opens questions about the urban scale and integration processes

• This has produced a ‘two-speed’ Canada
  • And this also opens important analytical and political questions
SESSION 3

Rethinking Settlement and Integration in Canada

Discussant: Manolli Ekra | Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)

Audience Q&A