

Increasing Capacity for Immigration and Diversity at the Local Level



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Overview

- The Rural Immigration Experience and Multi-Actor Framework
- Managing Rural Immigration and Diversity
- Building Capacity and Moving Forward on Rural Immigration Agenda – The Role of Research, Policy and Practice

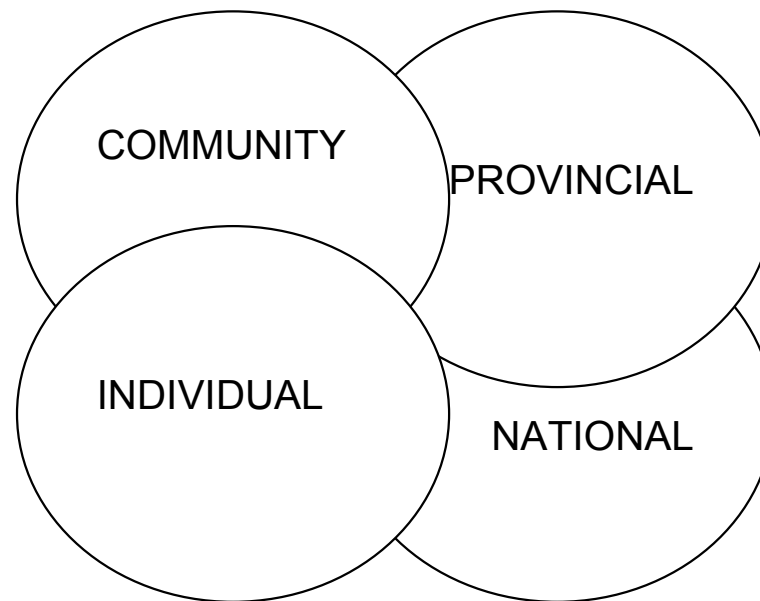


The Rural Immigration Experience

- Consists of individual or numerous acts of immigrants moving to rural areas and the related impact on the multiple levels and associated actors engaged in the process

A Multi-Level Actor Framework for Rural Immigration


Spheres of the Rural Immigration Experience





Successfully Managing Diversity

- Appropriate consideration of the multilevel needs and motivations of each party
- Recognition of reciprocal relations and mutual reliance among all parties
- High level of satisfaction for all parties involved
- Contributions and decisions made at each level



Managing Diversity in Rural Immigration Initiatives

- Willingness
- Visibility
- Capacity
- Social Cohesion



Impediments and Challenges of Rural Immigration Initiatives

- Information/Expectations
- Dynamics of Attraction
- Employment/ Entrepreneurship
- Isolation

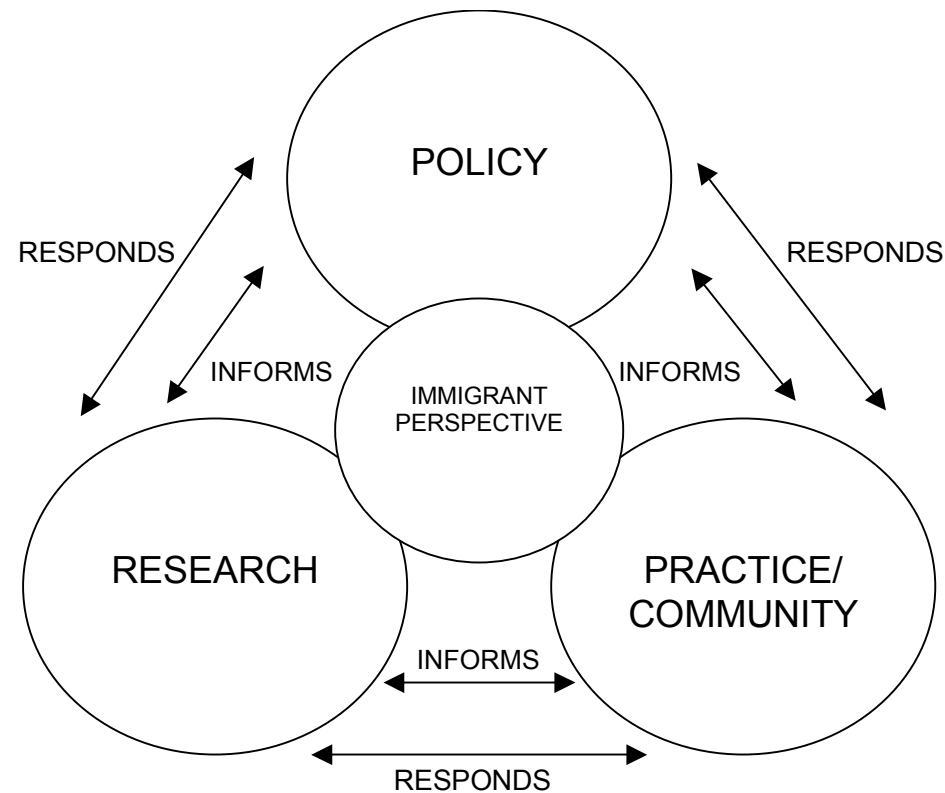


Rural Immigration as Attractive Immigration Model

- High mobility of immigrants + desire to retain and settle = need to ensure immigrants needs met
- Lifestyle elements to rural immigration: rural way of life, social/cultural/religious fits to be considered alongside economic factors
- Need to anticipate issues of integration, retention and settlement

Building Capacity for Successful Rural Immigration Initiatives

The Role of Research, Policy, and Practice



Building Capacity...

- An appropriate knowledge base
- Adequate human and material resources at local, provincial and national levels
- Linking rural communities to national and provincial decision-making on immigration policy
- Effective collaboration between actors in the realms of research, policy and practice



Identified Research and Knowledge Needs

- Attraction and Retention
- Policy
- Community Services/Supports/Tools
- Employment and Business Development
- Social/Cultural Cohesion



Moving Forward on the Rural Immigration Agenda

Recommendations and Opportunities for Action

- Government/Policy
- Research
- Practice/Community
- Collaborative Efforts

1) Government/Policy

- Meeting Needs of Rural Areas – “Rural Lens”
- Supporting Communities
- Employment Issues
- Governmental Stakeholders- Inter-Agency Cooperation

2) Research

- Connecting research with topic
- Organization and presentation of research



3) Practice/Community

- Planning
- Increasing community capacity and knowledge
- Exposing potential immigrants to rural communities and opportunities

4) Collaborative Efforts – The Policy, Research, Practice Interface

- Strengthening collaboration
- Community capacity
- Ethical/humanitarian challenges
- Entrepreneurship and employment
- Rural re-imaging; increasing profile of rural Canada
- Promotion of immigration
- Knowledge promotion

Reference Material

- Case Studies
 - Winkler
 - Parkland
 - Steinbach
 - Portage la Prairie
- CRRF-RDI National Think Tank
- Issues in Rural Immigration: Lessons, Challenges, and Response

All materials available at www.brandonu.ca/rdi

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