A SURVEY OF NEW CANADIANS AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA TO IDENTIFY CURRENT IMMIGRATION TRENDS, MANAGEABILITY AND BENEFITS OF IMMIGRATION

by

Rita C. Kolody

A professional paper submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

of

Master of Science

in

Business Education

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bozeman, Montana

July 1992

P378
K834

APPROVAL

of a professional paper submitted by

Rita C. Kolody

This professional paper has been read by each member of the graduate committee and has been found to be satisfactory regarding content, English usage, format, citations, bibliographic style, and consistency, and is ready for submission to the College of Graduate Studies.

7-24-92
Date

Norman L. Wyllie
Chairperson, Graduate Committee

Approved for the Major Department

7-24-92
Date

Norman L. Wyllie
Head, Major Department

Approved for the College of Graduate Studies

7/31/92
Date

R L Brown
Graduate Dean

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Date July 24, 1992

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer wishes to express appreciation to Dr. Norman Millikin, chairman of her graduate committee, whose time, assistance and guidance proved invaluable from the inception of the project through its completion.

The study could not have been conducted without the cooperation, support and encouragement of Carol Olson, former Director, and the Board of Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency of Medicine Hat, who granted her access to files for the purpose of this study, as well as financial assistance and interest in the final results. A special thank you to the volunteers who translated the cover letters that were sent to the participants of the study.

The author would also like to thank Bob Wanner, Superintendent of Social Planning with the city of Medicine Hat, for his direction with the secondary portion of the study which included the business sector of the city.

The writer would also like to thank the teachers and students of the English as a Second Language classes at the Medicine Hat College, as well as the immigrant population of the city, who facilitated the prompt return of information.

The writer also expresses sincere appreciation to her husband, Gary, and children Christopher, Sara and Jameson for their assistance, encouragement and patience during the course of her graduate work; and to Nasir Teja, lifelong friend and confidant, for always being there.

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ABSTRACT

The major purpose of this study was to identify the immigrations trends of the New Canadians served by Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency of Medicine Hat, Alberta between the years of 1986-1991. The secondary purpose of the study was to determine if the city of Medicine Hat can both manage and benefit from increased immigration levels.

To collect the data for the study, questionnaires were sent to the immigrant population of Medicine Hat that had been served by Saamis during the specified time. To determine the public opinion of the Business Community, 40 surveys were then gathered through randomly selected businesses and agencies within the city.

The largest number of immigrants in Medicine Hat come from Central America (62.5%); the next largest component of 26.9% is from East Asia and the remaining 10.6% originate from Eastern Europe. In total, the immigration status of the respondents upon arrival in Canada was 59% refugees, 38% family class, 2% independent class.

Regarding employment, 35% of the respondents are employed, either on a full or part-time basis, 64% are currently students and 11.5% are unemployed.

Compared to average annual income of taxable persons in Medicine Hat in 1991 of $28,382, 85% of the respondents have a total family income of less than $15,000 and 96.2% of immigrants live well below the national poverty line.

The best educated immigrants come from Eastern Europe, where 73% of the respondents have post-secondary education and none had less than a grade twelve equivalent education.

The average length of time spent in education in their homeland for all the respondents was 10 years and 85% of respondents have attended ESL classes in Medicine Hat.

Of the business survey respondents, 30% had immigrated to Canada themselves. Although 100% of the participants stated that they would be willing to employ an immigrant in their organization, only 40% of the respondents actually had an immigrant currently employed.

Immigrants are perceived by the business community to be hard workers and help stimulate the economy. Although they seem to be generally well accepted in the community at the present level, half of the respondents expressed concern that Medicine Hat may not be able to economically manage an increase in immigration levels, so caution with future levels was suggested. This opinion concurs with the results of a national survey taken by Angus Reid in 1989, in which the organization concluded that "Canadians believe newcomers can make a positive contribution to both the culture and economy of Canada provided that the immigration program is effectively managed".

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

> "WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm worth in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom . . . have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations."
>
> Preamble of the Charter of the U.N.
> June 26, 1945
> San Francisco, California, USA

The Charter of the United Nations gave rise to an advent of humanitarian international policies throughout the industrialized nations of the world. As part of this propagation, Canada began to relax its stringent immigration guidelines and to increase acceptance of refugees and other non-traditional immigrants from underdeveloped and war-torn countries.

The increased diversity of immigrants created a unique cultural mosaic within our nation, but also produced a myriad of conflicts due to emerging cultural and linguistic barriers. To abate prejudice caused by cultural misunderstandings, the Canadian government then developed programs to educate Canadians about the social and economic

benefits of a multicultural society, and also developed settlement agencies to assist immigrants in adapting to their new culture.

Statement of the Problem

The major purpose of this study was to identify the immigration trends of the new Canadians served by Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency of Medicine Hat, Alberta between the years of 1985-1991. The secondary purpose of the study was to determine if the city of Medicine Hat can both manage and benefit from increased immigration levels.

Questions to be Answered

In the normal course of this project, the researcher sought answers to the following questions:

1. What percentage of immigrants served by Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency of Medicine Hat, Alberta have remained in Medicine Hat and district?
2. What are the demographic factors of these immigrants? (age, gender, country of origin, length of time in Canada, rent or own, etc.)
3. What is the immigration status of the new Canadians - refugee, family class, independent?
4. Are these new Canadians employed? If so, what is their occupation and current family income level?
5. What was the education level of the immigrant before coming to Canada? Have they furthered their education since arriving in Canada? If so, in which education programs have they enrolled - ESL, college preparation, college/university transfer, etc?

6. What are the advantages/disadvantages for immigrants to settle in Medicine Hat, Alberta?

7. What are the new Canadians' recommendations or suggestions for changes in the services offered through Saamis Immigration Services?

8. For those immigrants who did not remain in Medicine Hat,
   - what percentage can be traced?
   - how long did they stay in Medicine Hat?
   - why did they move?
   - where did they move?
   - are they employed? in what occupation?

9. How long does it take, on the average, for an immigrant to find employment after arriving in Canada?

The Need for the Study

Immigration is not only of interest to the Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency of Medicine Hat but is also of local economic concern because the immigration program brings cooperative federal and provincial funding to our community which results in local population growth, job creation and stimulated economic activity.

Although annual immigration levels have increased in Canada, the percentage of the new Canadians received by Medicine Hat, Alberta has not kept up with this increase, and in fact has even decreased over the past two years. As Canadian immigration levels are forecasted to rise over the next five years, the Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency would like to reverse the local declining trend and request that the Immigration and Settlement Branch of Alberta Career and Development and Employment increase immigration levels

in Medicine Hat to at least the level previous to the decline in numbers.

However, to ensure that this would be in the best interest of the immigrants, the following considerations should be explored to justify this position:

- are the current immigrant services offered in Medicine Hat meeting the needs of the new Canadians living in the district?
- does the city have the potential to provide economic opportunities for future increases in immigrant population?
- what are the advantages of the more personalized orientation offered by this small community?

Limitations of the Study

This study is limited to new Canadians currently residing in Medicine Hat, Alberta that were received by the Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency between the years of 1985 - 1991, as well as any who have relocated that the writer was able to contact.

Definition of Terms

The following are definitions found in the Alberta Government Publication Immigrant Settlement in Alberta; 1989/90.

Immigrant: A foreigner who enters a country to settle on a permanent basis. In this study, an immigrant can be defined as any Canadian resident not born in Canada (excluding short-term visitors and Canadian citizens born outside Canada. However, it is a common perception that the term immigrant suggests independent status, which is often differentiated from the term refugee.

Immigrant Status: The Canada Immigration Act has established three basic classes of admissible immigrants. These classes are the Family Class, Convention Refugee Class and the Independent Class.

1. Family Class: Canadian citizens and permanent residents can sponsor certain relatives who want to immigrate to Canada. Relatives eligible for sponsorship include the following: spouse, fiance(e), unmarried children and parents. The sponsoring relative in Canada must agree to provide for the lodging, care and maintenance of the applicant and accompanying dependents for up to ten years.

2. Refugee Class: The definition of the refugee class is based on the United Nations Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. A Convention refugee is "any person who by reason of a well-rounded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion, or is outside the country of his/her nationality or not having a

country of nationality is unable or, by reason of such fear, is unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country.

Canada also recognizes a Designated Class. These individuals are in refugee-like situations, but may not meet the strict definition of a Convention Refugee.

Refugees may be government or group sponsored.

3. Independent Class: The third class of immigrants includes assisted relatives, business immigrants, retirees, and other independent immigrants who apply on their own to come to Canada. Independent immigrants are expected to be self-supporting immediately, requiring minimal settlement assistance.

ESL Instruction: English as a Second Language Instruction. The proportion of Alberta's immigrants without knowledge of English has remained between 50% and 60% in the last five years.

Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency: Medicine Hat's community-based immigrant aid organization funded by Alberta Career Development and Employment. Their purpose is to assist newcomers directly, in non-monetary ways, to become settled in Medicine Hat and the surrounding area. The organization provides orientation to life in Medicine Hat, interpretation and translation services, general counselling and assistance in finding accommodation and employment.

Integrated Service Program (ISP):
a federal/provincial program which provides grants to voluntary organizations for the delivery of community-based programs for immigrants in Alberta. These programs include:

Reception: meeting newcomers on arrival and taking care of their immediate needs such as housing/medical care and finances during their first few days in Canada.

Interpretation/Translation:
assisting the newcomer in accessing services and opportunities available in the community.

Orientation: assisting the newcomer to understand life in the new environment and in coping with the problems of everyday living.

Employment: preparing the newcomer to enter the labor market by assistance in seeking employment and training opportunities. Includes information on employer expectations, assistance with job search techniques, interpretation and referral.

Referral: providing links between newcomers and available resources in the community. May require escort or the use of advocacy.

Counselling: non-therapeutic counselling to newcomers experiencing normal adjustment difficulties.

Leadership and Volunteer Development:
leadership and volunteer activities that promote the participation and long-term involvement of immigrants in Canadian society.

Citizen Participation:
activities that assist immigrants in becoming fully participating members of Canadian society through the promotion of social adjustment, self confidence and harmony between present and future citizens.

Immigrant Women and Community Participation:
services offered by immigrant women's programs which facilitate interaction between immigrant women and the community.

Status of Women:
activities that deal with economic equality, social justice and access and participation for immigrant women.

STATSCAN: the government organization responsible for gathering and disseminating statistical information in Canada.

Organization of the Study

Chapter I --- Introduction

- includes the problem statement, questions to be answered, the limitations of the study, the need for the study and definition of terms.

Chapter II --- Review of Literature

- includes the history of Canadian immigration, milestones in Canadian Immigration Policies, racial oppression in Canada, demographic characteristics of immigrant and ethnic populations, immigrant women, regional

disparities in immigrant distribution, distribution and immigration policies, immigration to Alberta, public opinion on Immigration in Canada and the coordination of settlement agencies.

Chapter III --- Research Procedures

- includes a summary pertaining to the procedures used in the study which include sources of data, construction of the instrument, administration of the instrument, and a description of how the analysis of the data gathered was presented.

Chapter IV --- Findings of the Study

- includes the analysis and interpretation of data received from the immigrant population that have been served by the Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency from 1986-1991, and from a specified sample of owners and managers of the Medicine Hat Business Community.

Chapter V --- Conclusions and Recommendations

- includes a summary of conclusions, recommendations and implications that have arisen as a result of the study.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

The secondary literary review encompasses books, journals and periodicals available at the Roland R. Renne Library at Montana State University and the Medicine Hat College Learning Resource Center as well as other resources and publications from the Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

History of Canadian Immigration

With the exception of Native people, today's entire Canadian population consists of immigrants and their direct descendants (Anderson & Frideres, 1981). To a large extent, Canada's population consists primarily of the descendants of immigrants from France and the British Isles. Canada's immigration policy has fluctuated from very restrictive measures to curtail immigration to one of very active involvement in recruiting immigrants. Immigration has always been an important social fact in Canada.

During Confederation times, the Canadian government encouraged immigration for political, economic and cultural reasons. (Buchignani & Engel, 1985).

Immigration for Political Reasons. Until recently, a nation that had a small population was often a weak nation, especially if it had a large area of territory to defend.

The War of 1812, when the United States invaded Canada, showed that the U.S. was a very real threat to Canada's existence as it had a much larger population than Canada. This stimulated Canada to increase its population so the government began vigorous efforts to attract settlers. During the next half-century, more than a million immigrants came to Canada, most from the British Isles, and the Canadian population continued to increase until World War I.

Immigration for Economic Reasons. For a nation to prosper, it needs people to produce goods and services and to develop its resources. As Canada's largest resource to be developed was land, the greatest portion of immigrants were farmers, although the immigration program also attracted skilled laborers and manufacturers.

Immigration for Cultural Reasons. When Britain first gained possession of Canada, the French culture was dominant. For this reason, the government encouraged Anglophone immigrants to increase the number of English-speaking settlers until the British became a majority group. Around the turn of the century, an immigration drive was then launched throughout Europe, with immigration restricted to white cultures, as they were thought to "fit in" easier to the Canadian way of life. Although the government's main political and economic reasons for immigration had originally been to populate and develop the prairies, the

results were political, economic and cultural. No longer did immigrants come from a small selection of countries. Almost every ethnic group in Europe was helping to build the multicultural Canada that exists today.

Milestones in Canadian Immigration Policies
(Anderson, Frideres, 1981)

1760 - British Forces conquer New France (now Canada)

1812 - America invades Canada, in hopes to join the French to conquer the British. The invasion was unsuccessful, however, and spurred the British to recruit more Anglophones and other white Europeans to Canada.

1880 - Immigration policy is changed to allow Chinese to come to Canada to work on the Canadian Pacific Railway, which opens the prairies for settlement.

1890 - Large-scale development of the prairies begins. The government advertises for farmers, first in the United States, then in western and central Europe.

1915 - World War I severely reduces immigration.

1920 - Immigration resumes, with same restrictions.

1931 - The Great Depression causes millions of Canadians to be unemployed, which results is the immigrations program to be suspended.

1939 - World War II continues to curtail immigration.

1945 - World War II ends. Europe is in ruins and many Europeans are homeless. Canada accepts some of the displaced Europeans, with the exception of Germans.

1947 - Owing to labor shortages, Canada accepts European farmers, miners and loggers. Immigration policy changes to allow Chinese and South Asian immigrants, however limits continue.

1950 - Canada lifts postwar limitations on Germans.

1951 - The government establishes a small immigration quota for immigrants from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

1955 - The first blacks are allowed to immigrate to Canada as some Caribbean are accepted to do domestic housework.

1962 - New regulations remove most of the restrictions against Asian and Black immigrants.

1967 - New regulations remove all restrictions regarding nationality and ethnic origin. In the selection of immigrants, the government places strong emphasis on education and job skills.

1968 - Canada accepts 12,000 Czechoslovakian refugees.

1970 - Canada accepts a small number of Tibetan refugees.

1972 - Canada accepts 7,000 South Asian refugees.

1973 - Canada accepts several thousand Chilean refugees.

1976 - Canada accepts 60,000 Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees.

1983 - Unemployment in Canada keeps immigration rates low, usually restricted to family sponsored immigrants.

1991 - Canada creates a five-year policy to increase annual immigration levels from 200,000 to 250,000. The extra 50,000 are to be independent, highly-skilled immigrants.

Racial Oppression in Canada

"When we examine racial relations in Canada, we start from the obvious - race problems begin as labor problems. Racial contacts are not cultural encounters, but confrontations between the dominant group and the

subordinate group in an unequal power relationship. Accordingly, racism is not an outcome of cultural misunderstanding. Rather, it is a deliberate ideology designed to justify the unjust treatment of the subordinate group for the purpose of exploiting its labor power" (Bolaria and Si, 1985).

Demographic Characteristics of Immigrant Populations

Education. The relevance of education will reflect the **social position** attainable by the ethnic members. Having high educational attainments means that ethnics may have high interest group power and thus influence the dominant segment of our society in their decision making processes. Education will be related to **occupation** as well as **income**.

Age. The age distribution of each ethnic category is an important **sociological** fact from several respects. First of all, to a certain extent, it reflects the **reproductive rate** of each group. This, of course, will be suggestive in terms of their impact on the total population growth rate.

The age distribution may also affect the **viability** of an ethnic group. If most of the ethnic members are old, as they begin to phase themselves out of the social dynamics of the community (and eventually die) the viability of the group may also lessen.

Immigrant Women

(Minister of Supply and Services Canada, 1984)

Immigrant women are one of the most isolated and forgotten groups in Canadian society. The accepted role that many of these women are expected to play in their own cultural milieu is a conservative and, by Canadian standards, sometimes oppressive one. They have, therefore little opportunity or means to truly interact with Canadian society as full and equal members. They usually do not have access to language training and so many are isolated and lack the basic tools to function in their new environment.

Multiculturalism Canada organized and financed a national conference of immigrant women in 1981. Since then, a number of experimental projects to help immigrant women learn an official language has been held across the country.

The Saamis Immigration Settlement of Medicine Hat, Alberta has helped to develop an organization called "Worlds of Women Together" in 1987, funded by the Secretary of State, to bring together women of all nationalities within the community. The purpose of the group is to meet the special needs of immigrant women and to provide them with opportunities for faster integration into Canadian society. A second-language program with a babysitting service was also initiated to assist second-language development.

Assistance is also given to women pressing for changes in laws and administrative practices that mitigate against

equal opportunity as well as support for victims of family violence.

Regional Disparities in Immigrant Distribution

Central Canada (Ontario and Quebec) and British Columbia (Vancouver) have long been the primary destinations or regions of settlement for immigrants coming to Canada. The reasons for recent immigrants settling in these regions rather than others is complex. Among the more obvious reasons, first one could note that nominated immigrants (about half of the recent immigrants to Canada) are most likely to have been nominated by relatives in places where most recent immigrants have concentrated, and these nominated immigrants are likely to settle near their relatives. Moreover, a significant consideration is the gravitation of immigrants to principal centers of concentration of their ethnic group, thus softening any possible culture shock experienced in the move and adjustment to Canada; perhaps initially new immigrants find it easier to make friends among co-ethnics. Second, apart from such considerations of kinship and ethnicity, economic factors provide considerable incentive for settling in larger cities with rapidly expanding populations, industrialization, and more diversity in job opportunities. Other factors which could affect immigrant distribution are numerous: for example, a depressed regional economy

(e.g., Atlantic provinces); travelling distance (e.g., European or Caribbean immigrants to Western Canada); a forbidding winter climate (particularly unattractive to immigrants from warmer climates, especially in the northern territories); agricultural land already occupied (in the case of would-be rural settlers who might otherwise have continued to settle in the Prairies or Atlantic region in larger numbers). On the other hand, housing tends to be cheaper in the less urbanized regions; there is less competition on the job market for certain types of work in these less developed regions; and above all a new immigration policy would encourage immigrants to locate away from the three largest urban centers (providing that job opportunities are available).

Distribution and Immigration Policies

In September of 1976 the Minister of Manpower and Immigration announced a policy "which will stress the desirability that immigrants settle in other places than Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver." The government would be empowered to direct prospective immigrants toward areas experiencing shortages of people to fill certain occupations. The designation of prospective labor-short communities would involve careful consultation between various levels of government - federal, provincial and municipal. In regulating the distribution of immigrants,

the federal government, co-operating with provincial and municipal governments, would designate the communities which could both handle and benefit from immigration. Such communities would be relatively small, have good economic growth potential, and room for adequate housing and services. In short, prime immigrant reception areas would not be designated unless they clearly have the capability of handling immigrants.

Immigration to Alberta

In the past five years over 60,000 new immigrants have arrived in Alberta. In 1988 and 1989, of the immigrants that arrived in Alberta;

- 25% entered as Convention or Designated class Refugees
- 42% came to join family members
- 33% were received as independents such as entrepreneurs, self-employed or retired individuals.

Coordination of Settlement Activities

Saamis Immigration recognizes the importance of coordinating the efforts of the various levels of government and community groups in the delivery of services to newcomers. The Integrated Service Program (ISP) serves as a major vehicle for coordinating services to immigrants through the involvement of Alberta Career Development and

Employment (headquarters and regional offices) and two federal departments - Canada Employment and Immigration, and the Secretary of State.

The Saamis Immigration staff also liaise, consult and participate in the regular interagency meetings that provide services such as Health Care, Community and Family Services, Labor, Prevention of Family Violence, Taxation, English Language Learning and Status Issues of Immigrant Women.

"While detailed data exist on the intended destinations of landed immigrants, little or no data exist on whether or not these immigrants go to these destinations. Also very few data are available on the relationship between the possible physical mobility of immigrants and the redistribution. What exactly are the internal migration patterns of immigrants once they arrive in Canada? How long do they remain in principal immigrant reception areas, ethnic neighborhoods, or with cities? When and why do they choose to move? It goes without saying that such data would have a profound effect on the interpretation of the rationality and affectivity of the new regulations concerning communities designated to receive immigrants" (Anderson and Frideres, 1981).

Immigration to Canada: Aspects of Public Opinion
(Published by Employment and Immigration Canada after an Angus Reid Poll on Public Opinion regarding Immigration to Canada, 1989)

Public opinion research on the types of immigrants Canadians would like to see come to Canada has shown that Canadians are more likely to accept immigrants who can make a positive contribution to Canada's economic growth and prosperity and less inclined to accept those who would pose an economic burden or threaten employment opportunities for Canadians. The opinion research indicates that Canadians are more likely to accept immigrants who have a skilled trade or are prepared to start a new business in Canada. Canadians are also highly receptive to immigrants who come to Canada to be reunited with close family members.

While there is considerable agreement among Canadians on selection criteria, public opinion is divided on the issue of immigration levels. It is recognized that public opinion on immigration levels is affected by various economic and cultural concerns among some segments of the population. Immigration is viewed, by some Canadians, as a threat to employment opportunities, health care and other social benefits and opportunities which might otherwise accrue to Canadian citizens.

Angus Reid Poll results show a growing awareness among Canadians that levels of immigration are increasing. The public opinion results also indicate a growing opposition to

increased future immigration levels among segments of the population.

The various polls and research studies consistently show that all of those groups which are most economically vulnerable (the less educated, lower income earners, unskilled workers and the unemployed) are consistently more likely to feel that current levels are too high and to state that Canada should admit fewer immigrants and refugees in the future. Respondents in higher income groups, those in professional occupations and the more highly educated are much more likely to favor increases in immigration levels.

In the area of refugee acceptance, Canadians feel that the needs of Canada must be considered. While there remains a strong commitment to Canada's humanitarian tradition along with a sense that Canada should be taking its share of international refugees, there is some concern that Canada is taking more than its share and that many of the people who claim to be refugees are not legitimate refugees. Thus, Canadians would like to see a greater emphasis on controlling the number of refugees coming into Canada.

This review of Canadian public opinion research on immigration levels is intended to assist Employment and Immigration Canada in its consultative process on immigration issues. An examination of trends in Canadian public opinion over the past few years provides an important

source of information on the receptivity of the Canadian public to increased immigration levels.

Public opinion on immigration is dynamic. It responds to significant events such as a sudden influx of refugee claimants, media coverage or major policy changes advanced by the federal government. Public attitudes towards immigration levels are also affected by shifts in public concerns over Canadian cultural identity, the environment and the economic future of the country.

In order to place public opinion in immigration levels within the context of the overall Canadian mood, it is important to review public opinion results on broader issues facing the nation. Recent Angus Reid polls have indicated a great deal of anxiety on the part of Canadians concerning the economy, the environment and the cultural future of Canada.

The Economy. On the economic front, there is a marked and dramatic downward change in the level of confidence in the economy. The overall economic mood of the Canadian public has important implications for the development of public opinion on immigration. The opinion research on immigration shows growing opposition to increased immigration levels. While there continues to be considerable division of opinion among Canadians with respect to immigration levels, the growing opposition is

consistent with the increased level of economic pessimism in Canada.

The economic issue is very important for two reasons. Firstly, Canadians feel that the most important considerations that should be used in gauging future levels are economic indicators like the unemployment rate. Secondly, there are significant differences in attitudes between Canadians who are unemployed or employed in the marginal workforce and those who are employed in white collar occupations and who have higher incomes. Education has also consistently emerged as an important determinant of attitudes towards immigration levels. University educated Canadians hold significantly more positive attitudes towards immigrants and immigration levels than those who have little or no education beyond high school.

Growing Opposition to Future Increased Immigration Levels. On the issue of increased immigration levels for the future, poll results show a growing opposition to increased immigration levels. In February 1989, 46 percent of Canadians stated that they "strongly (20%) or "moderately" (26%) oppose an increase in the number of immigrants being allowed to enter Canada. This figure rose to 52 percent in August of 1989 (26% "strongly" and (26% "moderately" oppose), consistent with Decima's July, 1989 results which indicated that 54 percent of Canadians would like to see less immigration in Canada in the future.

Unemployment. Canadians continue to consider unemployment as the most important factor the government should consider in determining future immigration levels.

Two-thirds of Canadians view the rate of unemployment as a "very important" factor the government should consider in setting future immigration levels.

The view that immigrants take jobs away from Canadians was expressed by 22 percent of those interviewed in February of 1989 and 29 percent of those interviewed in August.

In a syndicated study conducted by Environics in March of 1989, respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the statement that "immigrants take jobs away from Canadians." Agreement with this general statement was considerable higher (49%) than on the Angus Reid item which was phrased to reflect opinion on whether immigrants "normally" take jobs away from other Canadians as opposed to creating new jobs or taking jobs that Canadians do not want. The studies both found that the perception that immigrants take jobs away from Canadians was highest among unskilled workers (65%) and the unemployed (59%). The same Environics study showed that 59 percent of Canadians feel that new immigrants are more hardworking than other Canadians. While the perception that immigrants and refugees are more hardworking than other Canadians may be viewed positively by those who recognize the economic contribution of immigration, it may also exacerbate the concerns of those

who feel that immigrants take jobs away from other Canadians.

Perceived Contribution of Recent Immigrants. While certain segments of the population express concerns over the impact of immigration on jobs for other Canadian culture, the majority of Canadians feel that recent immigrants will make a positive contribution to the economy and culture of Canada. In the February, 1989 Angus Reid study, 70 percent of Canadians stated that recent immigrants will contribute "greatly" (28%) or "somewhat" (38%) to Canadian culture.

Quebecers were much more likely than other Canadians to state that recent immigrants will make a "great contribution" to the economy of Canada (33% compared to 20% nationally).

Education. Research results show far more consensus on who should be admitted than on "how many" should be admitted to Canada.

The majority of Canadians want a rational immigration program based on specific entrance criteria. While there is some disagreement over which criteria should have pre-eminence, Canadians generally place the greatest weight on those factors which will contribute to Canada's economic growth and prosperity or will result in the reunification of close family members.

In the February, 1989 Angus Reid Group survey, respondents were asked whether they would be more or less likely to choose an immigrant application based on each of 12 selection criteria. The top five characteristics, with over 70 percent of Canadians stating that they would be "more likely to accept" that person as an applicant, all fit into the economic or family reunification categories. They included:

- people who have job skills which are in demand in Canada (89%);
- having a spouse or child in Canada (87%);
- a person who plans to start up a business in Canada (77%);
- someone who has a brother or sister living in Canada (76%)
- a person who is willing to settle in a rural or remote area of Canada (72%).

Canadians are least likely to accept immigrants who were arriving with no money, have very little education or are over 50 years of age.

<u>Refugees</u>. The majority of Canadians (71%) make a clear distinction between immigrants and refugees based on the notion that immigrants choose to come to Canada as opposed to refugees who are forced by dire circumstances to flee their home country.

While there is no indication that Canadians want their nation to forfeit its compassionate image, they do sense a need to control the number of refugee claimants coming into Canada and feel that Canada should not take on a disproportionate share of the international refugee burden.

Summary

There is every evidence to conclude that Canadians believe that newcomers can make a positive contribution to both the culture and economy of Canada provided that the immigration program is effectively managed from the standpoint of Canada's needs. Canadians need to be assured that a properly managed program of increased immigrations levels will help to achieve the goal of Canada's economic growth and prosperity and will provide a richer cultural heritage which all Canadians enjoy.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH PROCEDURES

Procedures

The major purpose of this study was to identify the immigration trends of the new Canadians served by Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency of Medicine Hat, Alberta between the years of 1986-1991. The secondary purpose of the study was to determine if the city of Medicine Hat can both manage and benefit from increased immigration levels.

This chapter outlines the procedures followed to obtain the needed data from new Canadians in Medicine Hat, Alberta, as well as from owners and managers of the local business community and includes:

1. Sources of Data
2. Construction of Data Instrument
3. Administration of the Survey Instrument
4. Data Analysis Methods

Sources of Data

The data for this study was obtained from respondents through the use of two questionnaires (see Appendices A and B). One was sent to new Canadians that have been served by the Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency in Medicine Hat, Alberta. The second was distributed to a stratified sample of owners and managers of the Medicine Hat Business

Community. With the assistance of Dr. Norm Millikin and the Business Education Research Class at Montana State University in July, 1991, the writer identified the eight stratifications of business as:

- retail sales
- service industry (food service, hairdresser, housekeeping, daycare, etc.)
- manufacturing
- construction
- financial institution, insurance, real estate
- transportation
- government
- professional (accountant, dentist, etc.)

The study began in May, 1991 when the writer was granted access to client files in the Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency. Related information was gathered from Census Canada, the Saamis Immigration Library and through searches on Infotrac and Eric databases at the Roland R. Renne Library, Montana State University at Bozeman, Montana. For the duration of the study, the researcher continued reviewing current journals and other sources of information.

Construction of the Survey Instrument

After a review of the literature which identified elements considered important to the study, the two questionnaires were constructed. Drafts of the questionnaires were reviewed by the Business Education Research Class at Montana State University in July, 1991 for suggestions in wording, additions and deletions.

Final drafts of the questionnaires, cover letters and follow up letters were presented to Dr. Norm Millikin for approval. Upon approval, the instruments were then distributed to the specified populations.

Administration of the Survey

There have been approximately 201 adult immigrants served by the Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency from 1985 - 1991. Using the information in the Saamis Client Files, a questionnaire was sent in early February, 1992 to all immigrants whose current address was known. A stamped, self-addressed envelope was enclosed for convenience of the respondent, in hopes to achieve a high percentage of return. Provisions were also made through Saamis Immigration for an interpreter to translate the cover letters and provide personal assistance should a respondent feel the need for this service to complete the survey. A two week deadline was set for the return of the instrument, during which time the required responses were received.

The second survey was then distributed in March, 1992 to a stratified sample of 40 owners and managers from the Medicine Hat Business community. Twenty-six surveys were gathered from the Spring Home Garden and Trade Show. The remainder were then distributed to randomly selected businesses in each stratification (every second business listed within that stratification in the Yellow Pages of the

Medicine Hat phone book until five usable surveys have been returned from each stratification.

Data Analysis Methods

Data obtained from the surveys was tabulated, compiled and summarized. Using Wordperfect, Lotus 123 and Drawperfect, tables, charts and graphs were constructed from compiled information to present the findings and identifiable trends in a readable and understandable form. The findings and their significance are presented in Chapter IV.

From the study and analysis of the findings presented in Chapter IV, conclusions were drawn regarding the dynamics of immigration trends in Medicine Hat, Alberta. These conclusions are presented in Chapter V along with recommendations and implications of the data gathered from the survey.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

To collect the data for the study, questionnaires were sent to the immigrant population of Medicine Hat that had been served by Saamis during the specified time. As many of these immigrants were attending ESL classes at the Medicine Hat College, surveys were completed there during class time. Of the total 201 questionnaires distributed, 124 were returned for a 62% response. However, 20 of these 124 were returned undelivered by the postal service as these participants had moved and we had no forwarding address for them. This information was valuable, however, as it emphasizes the high rate of transiency the New Canadians experience until they become settled. Therefore, 104 of the 124 returned questionnaires were deemed usable for this study.

Immigrant Survey Results

Country of Origin

The country of origin of adult immigrants coming to Medicine Hat was used as the starting point of the survey. This information was the basis of determining any trends that could be identified as factors that may preclude enhanced social or economic success according to Canadian standards.

TABLE 1
ADULT IMMIGRANTS SERVED BY SAAMIS 1985-1992

COUNTRY	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	TOTAL
El Salvador	7	11	1	8	10	8	18	63
Vietnam	2	0	4	7	14	0	7	34
Guatemala	0	3	5	5	5	4	3	25
Kampuchea	2	4	2	2	10	0	0	20
Poland	0	4	0	8	2	6	0	20
Nicaragua	3	0	9	6	0	0	0	18
Romania	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	6
Czechoslovakia	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Yugoslavia	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Chili	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Hungary	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Spain	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Philippines	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Laos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	15	24	24	41	41	28	28	201

Although the respondents supplied their individual country of origin (Table 1), the researcher deemed it advantageous to group the countries into three regions of the world, as all of the responding immigrants fit into these three areas.

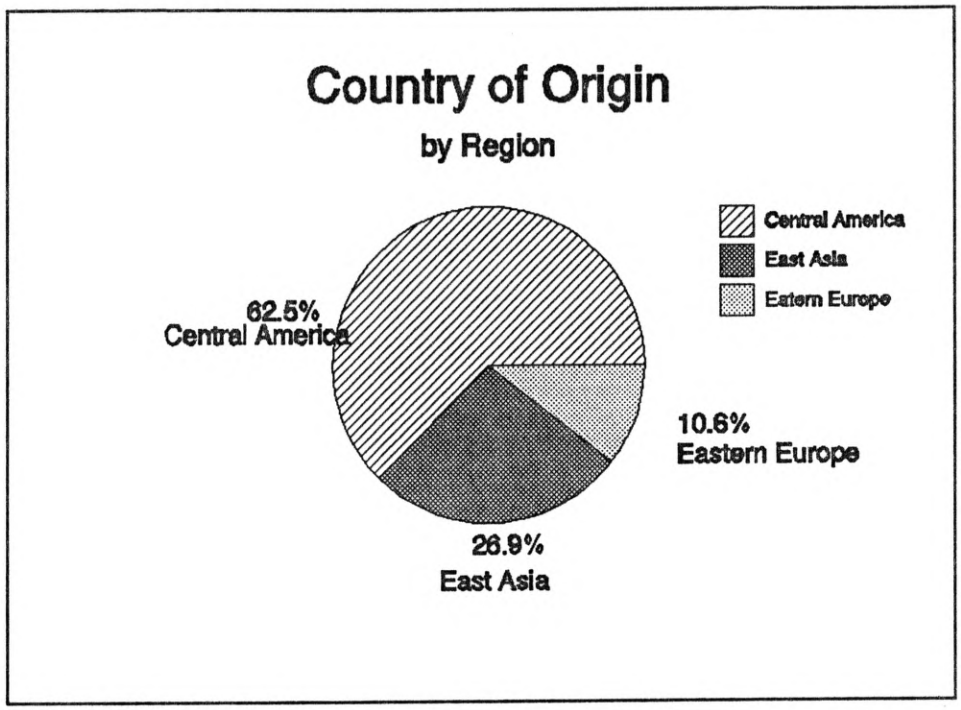


Figure 1

Central America. The largest contingent is from Central America, where 62.5% of the present immigrants in Medicine Hat originate. This area includes the countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, Chile, Nicaragua and also Cuba because of its Spanish language base.

East Asia, the next largest component of 26.9% with the immigrant population in Medicine Hat, includes Vietnam, Cambodia, Taiwan, Laos and the Philippines.

The **Eastern Europe** Bloc, which comprises 10.6% of Medicine Hat's immigrant population, includes the Ukraine, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia.

Adult Immigrants Served by Saamis (1985-1991)

The total number of adult immigrants served by Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency steadily increased from fifteen immigrants in 1985 to forty immigrants in 1989. The largest increases occurred in 1989 and 1990 and were due to an unusually large intake of East Asian refugees (coined "Boat People") as they began an exodus from their countries.

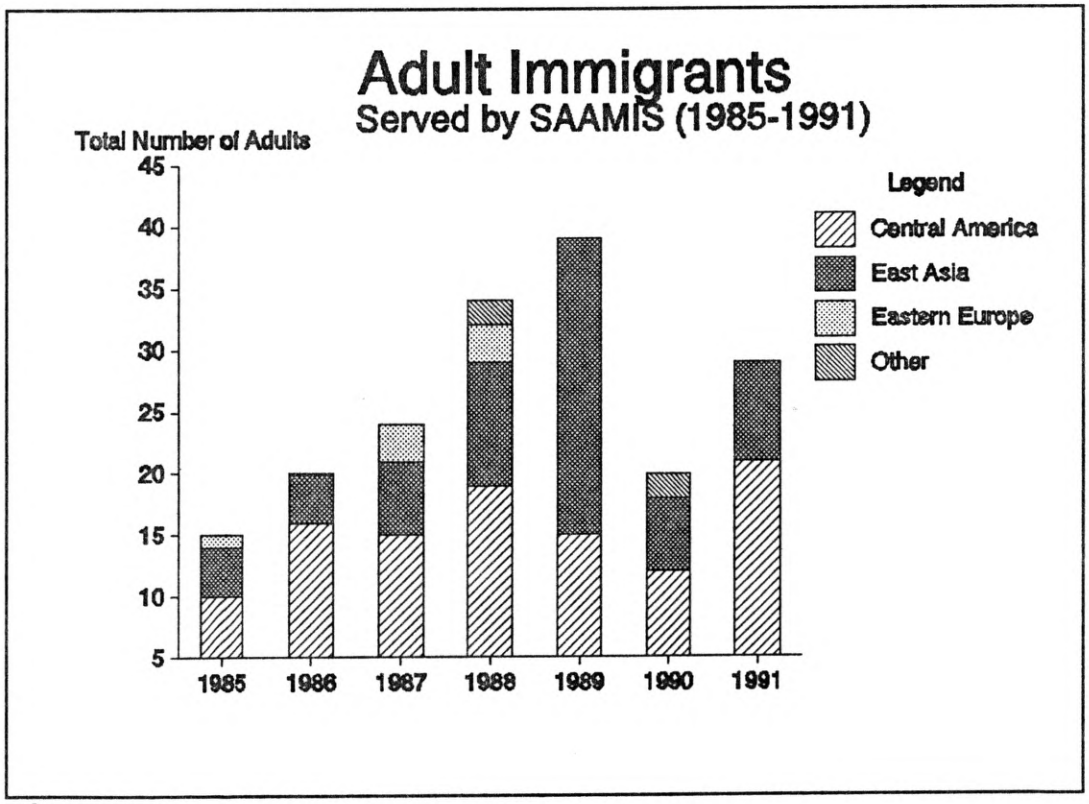


Figure 2

However, as the number of these refugees returned to their usual level, the total number of immigrants also decreased in 1990 to half the intake of the previous year. Intake levels then began to increase again during 1991, although still not to the level of 1989.

The trend that is most obvious, however, is the large ratio of immigrants from Central America. Except for the "Boat People" years, immigrants from Central America comprised 60 - 75% of the total intake.

In 1989, it is interesting to note that intake came only from the two regions of East Asia and Central America. Then, in 1990, there were no East Asian immigrants and an unusually large representation from Eastern Europe. The next largest majority comes from East Asia, with very few immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Age Groups (M/F)

The age of the immigrants has an economic impact on our city both presently and in the future.

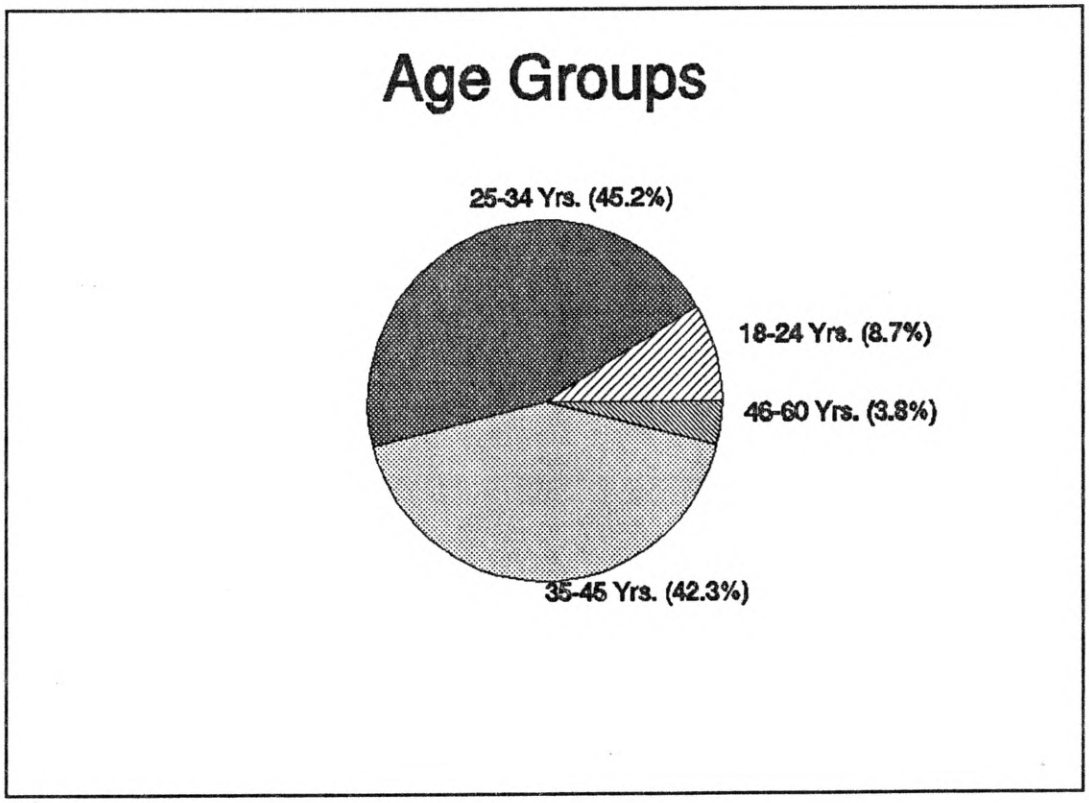


Figure 3

One hundred percent of the participating adult immigrants were between the ages of 18 - 60, which means that each had the potential for employment, making him/herself a productive member of society.

Of the responding participants, 74.2% also have families. An increase in our city's population results in an increase in economic activity, investment and job creation. Expressed very simply, 60 newcomers to the city results in an increased need for housing, food, clothing, transportation and entertainment for 60 more people. An annual increase such as this, added to the current rate of growth, results in a steady progressive economic growth.

Although there was an equal number of male and female respondents, 63% of all female respondents were between the ages of 18-34, which are considered child-bearing years.

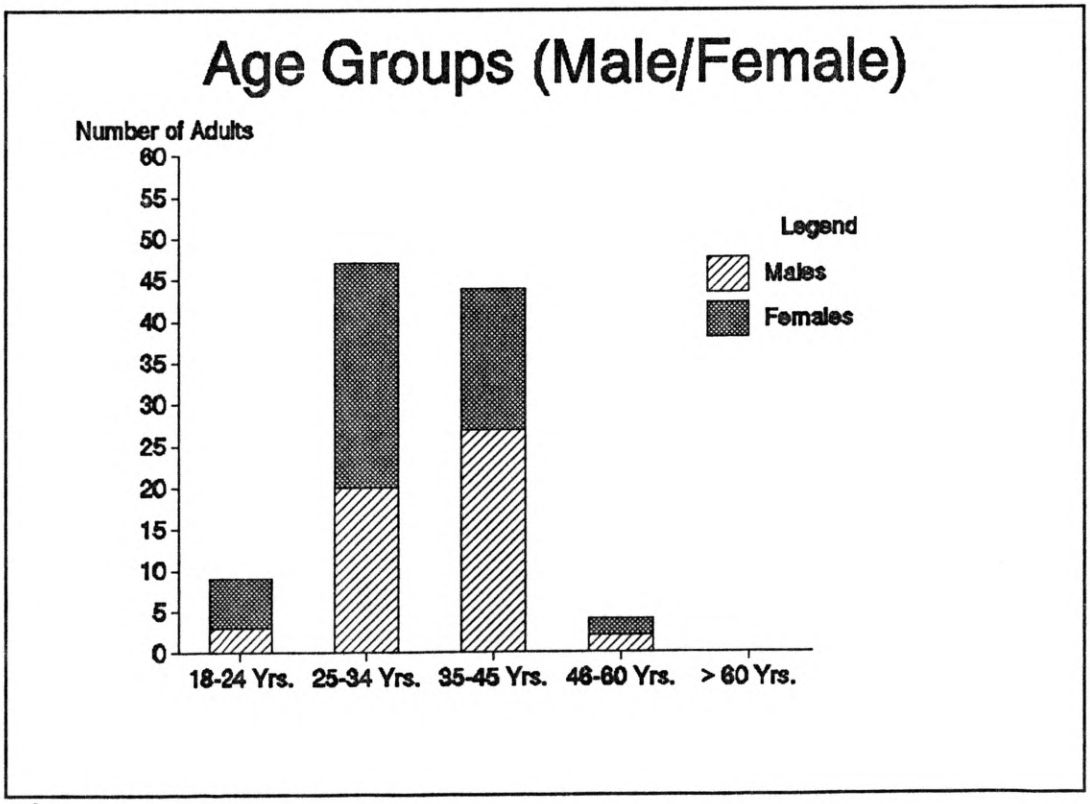


Figure 4

The implication of this is that there is yet more likelihood that they may increase their family size while living in Canada.

Socio-economic Status

The socio-economic status of immigrants was measured in this research project by employment, education, annual income and owning a home. The level of independence is also directly related to socio-economic status and was measured by owning a vehicle and/or possessing a driver's license.

The researcher categorized the survey participants according to the respondent's length of time in Canada to determine a relationship between socio-economic improvement and time in Canada.

TABLE 2
Socio-Economic Status

LENGTH OF TIME IN CANADA	#	OWN HOME		OWN CAR		DRIVER'S LICENSE		P/T JOB		F/T JOB	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<1 yr	33	3	9	2	6	4	12	3	9	0	0
1-2 yr	34	5	15	26	76	23	68	5	15	4	12
3-4 yr	22	4	18	18	82	19	86	6	27	5	23
5-6 yr	15	1	7	11	73	11	73	3	20	11	73
TOTAL	104	13	12	57	55	66	63	17	16	20	19

♦ **EMPLOYMENT**

Findings:
- 19% of 104 respondents were employed full time
- 16% of 104 respondents were employed part time
- 64% were currently students
- 11.5 were unemployed (neither students nor employed, compared with Medicine Hat's overall unemployment rate of 7.2%)

♦ **EDUCATION**

Findings:
- the average years of education of the respondents was 10
- 65% of the respondents are currently students
- 85% of respondents have attended ESL classes in Medicine Hat
- 12% have attended College Preparation Classes

• **Central America**
  - 62% of respondents were from **Central America**
    - 34% < grade 12 equivalent
    - 15% = grade 12
    - 51% post-secondary education
    - 28% have a university degree

• **East Asia**
  - 27% of respondents were from East Asia
    - 61% < grade 12 equivalent
    - 21% = grade 12
    - 18% post-secondary education
    - 8% have a university degree

• **Eastern Europe**
  - 11% of respondents were from Eastern Europe
    - 0% < grade 12
    - 27% = grade 12
    - 73% post-secondary education
    - 37% have a university degree

TABLE 3
Annual Income Level

	<1 yr		1-2 yr		3-4 yr		5-6 yr		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
< $10,000	17	52	16	47	7	32	7	47	47	45
$10, - 14,999	14	42	12	35	10	45	5	33	41	40
$15, - 19,999	1	3	4	12	2	9	1	7	8	8
$20, - 24,999	0	0	1	3	2	9	1	7	4	4
$25, - 29,999	0	0	1	3	1	5	1	7	3	3

The average annual income of taxable persons in Medicine Hat in 1991 was $28,382. The average annual income of a New Canadian was less than $15,000, even after having lived in Canada for more than five years.

< 1 year
- 94% < $15,000
  - 52% < $10,000
  - 42% $10-15,000

1-2 years
- 82% < $15,000
  - 47% <$10,000
  - 35% $10-15,000
  - 12% $15-20,000

3-4 years
- 77% < $15,000
  - 32% < $10,000
  - 45% $10-15,000
  - 9% $15-20,000

5-6 years
- 80% < $15,000
  - 47% < $10,000
  - 33% $10-15,000
  - 7% $15-20,000

Using the STATSCAN figures of $25,449 for a family of four to qualify as a low income family, 96.2% of immigrants live well below this poverty line as 85% of the respondents have a total family income of less than $15,000.

- **OWNING A HOME**

  - 13% of all respondents own their home. For those living in Canada:

    < 1 year - 9%
    1 - 2 years - 15%
    3 - 4 years - 18%
    > 5 years - 7%

- **OWNING A VALID ALBERTA CLASS 5 DRIVER'S LICENSE**

  - 55% of respondents have a driver's license. For those living in Canada:

    < 1 year - 12%
    1 - 2 years - 68%
    3 - 4 years - 86%
    > 5 years - 73%

- **OWNING A VEHICLE**

  - 55% of respondents own a vehicle. For those living in Canada:

    < 1 year - 6%
    1 - 2 years - 76%
    3 - 4 years - 82%
    > 5 years - 73%

  - although only 6% own a vehicle in the first year, this drastically increases during their second to third year, most likely due to completing their first year of ESL training and gaining employment.

Immigration Status Upon Arrival in Canada

The immigration status of the respondents upon arrival in Canada was 59% refugees, 38% family class, and 2% independent class.

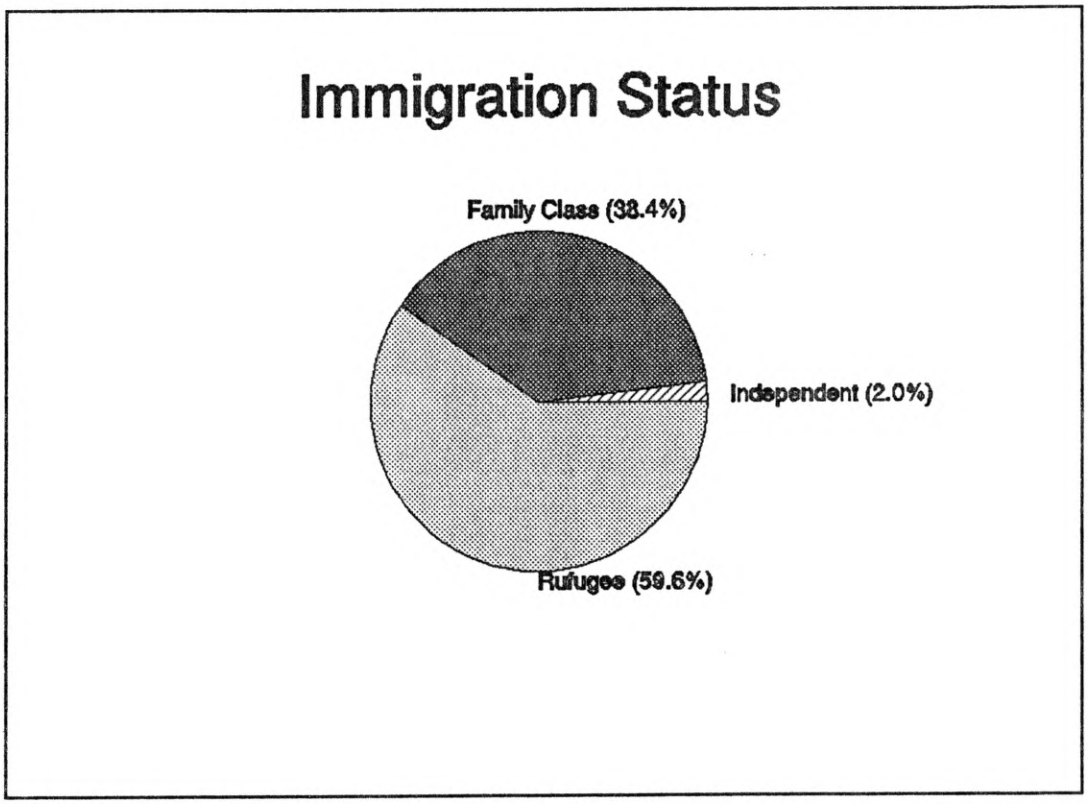


Figure 5

However, when compared to the provincial stats of 1988 and 1989 of 25% refugee, 42% family class and 33% independent, it appears that Medicine Hat is receiving more than twice the rate of refugees as the provincial average.

Remaining in Medicine Hat

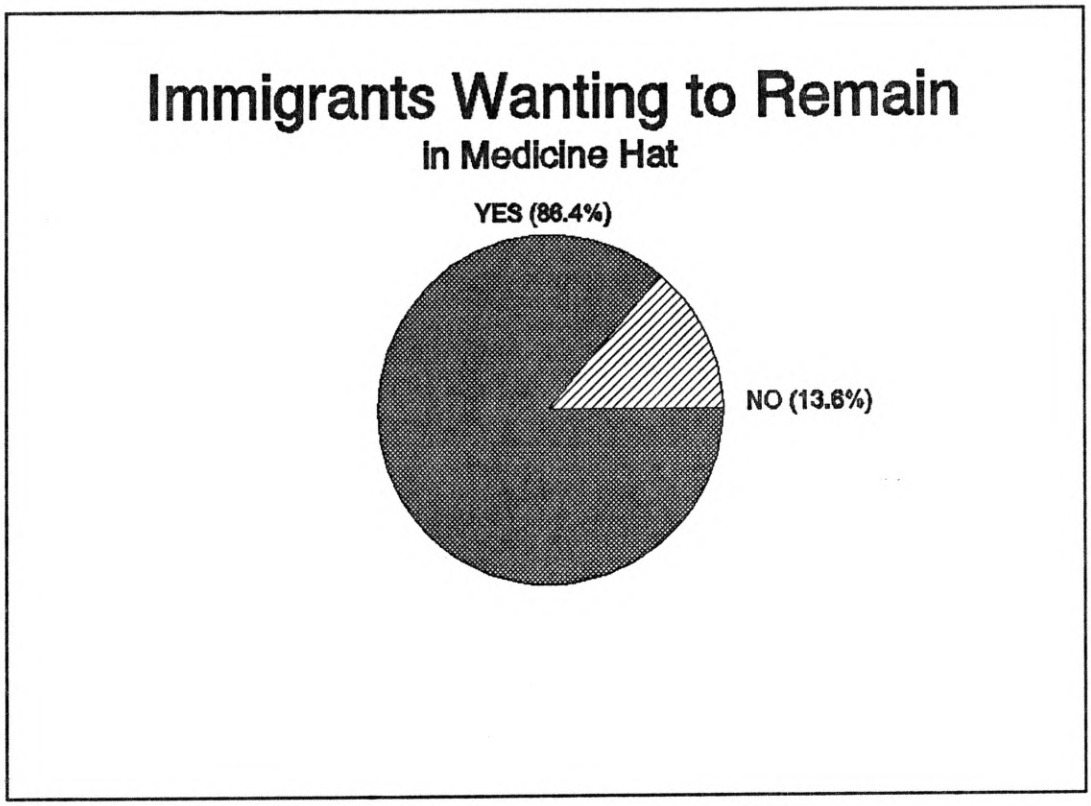


Figure 6

- 86.4% want to remain, 13.6% would like to relocate because of other family members having settled in other cities or because of the prospect of better employment opportunities.
- The venues to which they would like to relocate include Toronto, the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Calgary, Red Deer, Windsor, Hamilton and Vancouver.

Recommend Medicine Hat to New Immigrants

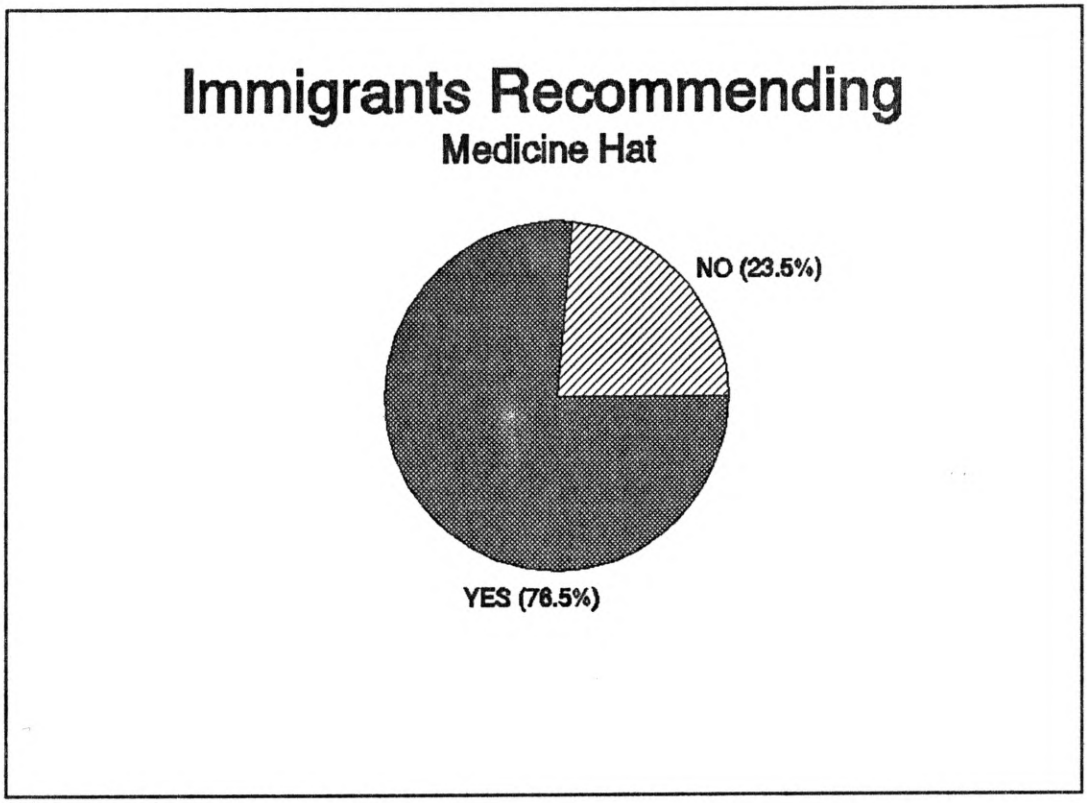


Figure 7

- 23.5% of the respondents do not recommend Medicine Hat as a settlement city because of poor employment and lack of higher educational opportunities.
- However, 76.5% would recommend Medicine Hat as a settlement city for New Canadians for the following reasons:

  "small city, good for raising children"

  "small, stable community"

"quiet city"

"peaceful city"

"safe city with good people"

"life is not too expensive"

"good services in the community"

"it is a city where a newcomer can adjust easily to a new lifestyle"

"people behave kindly to one another"

"friendly, helpful town"

"good ESL program"

"Medicine Hat people welcome our family"

"very convenient place to start, low rent, inexpensive living"

"good city for starting a new life"

"the city needs more population, which means movement in the economy".

Rating Saamis Immigration Settlement Services

- 94% of New Canadians were overall very pleased with the settlement services and felt their settlement needs were being met by Saamis Immigration Settlement Services.

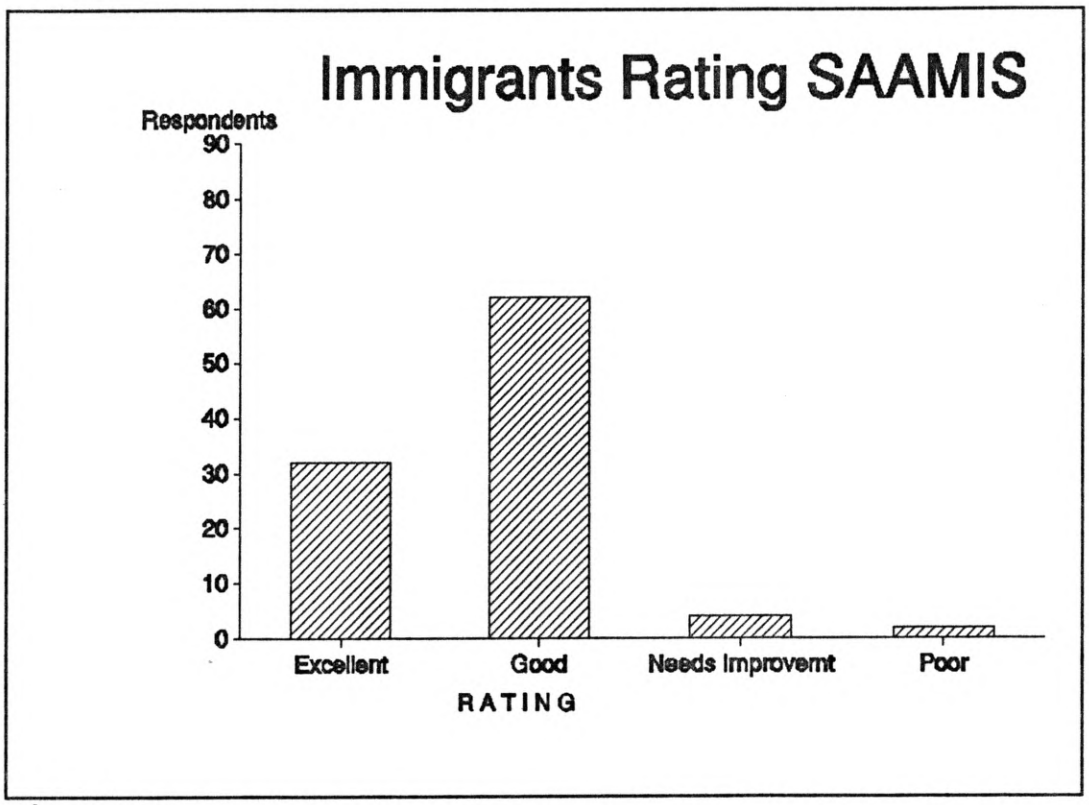


Figure 8

- 32% rated the services excellent
- 62% " " " good
- 4% " " " needs improvement
- 2% " " " poor

Comments received from participants included:

"I like the programs that Saamis has for all the immigrants"

"Saamis gives good service when people need help"

"I like the different ethnic celebrations"

"Their service is very kind and good"

"Everything is okay for me. Thank you."

"Very friendly people. We can always count on them if we need some help."

"Saamis should do more activities for adult immigrants."

"Saamis has very interesting programs to help immigrant people."

"I think your agency is excellent for us and other people who need help."

"I encourage to continue this program."

"Help more with language and financial development - especially budgeting."

"I think the agency must have people from different countries, not only Canadians or at least people with more than one language."

"Saamis helped me very much with translation and when I didn't have a job, Saamis introduced me to the Community Employment Services."

"We are thankful to you for your help to us. God bless you!"

Business Survey Results

Profile of Respondents

The first eight questions of the business survey were used to create a profile of the respondents.

All 40 respondents either owned or managed the business or agency and all were, at least partially responsible for hiring.

Thirty percent of the respondents were immigrants themselves, and 40% indicated that they currently employ at least one immigrant in their business.

The education of respondents was as follows:

- 20% were university graduates
- 50% were college graduates
- 30% completed grade twelve

The second portion of the business survey contained questions to determine public opinion and perceptions of the business community of Medicine Hat towards immigrants and immigration. The results were then compared to the results of the national public opinion survey conducted by Angus Reid in 1989. Questions were also often re-worded and asked again throughout the survey to see if the results remained the same. The results of these similar questions were then grouped together for comparison and contrast.

Perceived Immigrant Visibility

The first question asked was to determine respondents' perception about the visibility of immigrants (Table 4). It is interesting to note that although 57.1% felt that most immigrants are visible minorities, Figure 1 shows that 73.5% of the immigrants that came to Medicine Hat from 1985-1991 were actually from Central America and Eastern Europe, which are not always easily visible.

Table 4
Perceived Immigrant Visibility

Most immigrants are visible minorities.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	57.1
Disagree	28.6
Strongly Disagree	14.3

Perceived Immigrant Work Ethic

The next two tables show the results of the perceived work ethic of immigrants and correspond to questions 10 and 22 of the survey.

Table 5
Perceived Work Ethic

Immigrants are generally hard workers.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	25
Agree	75
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0

Table 6
Rely on Social Services

Most immigrants rely on Social Services (welfare) rather than work.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	0
Disagree	100
Strongly Disagree	0

The results were 100% unanimous that immigrants are perceived as hard workers and that they do not rely on Social Services unnecessarily.

Immigration Stimulates/Burdens Economy

Participants were then asked their opinion whether they felt that immigrants helped to stimulate the economy or if they felt they were an economic burden, and were also asked if they felt increased immigration levels would result in increased economic activity within Medicine Hat.

Table 7
Immigration Stimulates Economy

Immigrants help the economy of Medicine Hat.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	12.5
Agree	75
Disagree	12.5
Strongly Disagree	0

It is interesting to note that 87.5% of the respondents felt that immigration stimulates the economy (Table 7) and 100% felt that immigrants were NOT an economic burden (Table 8). Yet only half of the respondents agreed that increased immigration levels would further stimulate the economy (Table 8). It would, therefore, appear that respondents are pleased with the current immigration levels and are uncertain that an increase would be warranted.

Table 8
Immigrants Burden Economy

Immigrants are a burden to the economy of Medicine Hat.	**PERCENT**
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	0
Disagree	42.9
Strongly Disagree	57.1

Table 9
Increased Immigration Stimulates Economy

Medicine Hat would experience a stimulation of the economy if immigration were increased.	**PERCENT**
Strongly Agree	25
Agree	25
Disagree	50
Strongly Disagree	0

Perceived Immigration Levels

The next five tables also deal with perceived immigration levels and respond to Survey questions 17, 18, 20, 21 & 22 respectively.

Table 10
Currently Too Many Immigrants

There are presently too many immigrants in Medicine Hat.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	0
Disagree	85.7
Strongly Disagree	14.3

Although none of the respondents felt that there are too many immigrants currently in Medicine Hat (Table 10), 50% agreed that future immigration levels should be decreased (Table 11).

Table 11
Decrease Future Immigration

The government should decrease immigration to Canada.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	50
Disagree	37.5
Strongly Disagree	33.4

Table 12
Want More Immigrants

I would like to see more immigrants come to Medicine Hat.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	14.4
Agree	42.8
Disagree	42.8
Strongly Disagree	0

As Table 12 indicates that 57.2% of the respondents would like to see more immigrants come to our city, and 71.4% feel that the current immigration level is acceptable (Table 13), it would appear that the general consensus is that the business community has no problems with the current immigration levels. However, 50% suggest exercising caution about increasing future immigration levels due to concern for the city's ability to economically manage an increase.

Table 13
Acceptable Current Immigration Level

Medicine Hat can economically manage the present level of immigration (enough housing, jobs, etc.)	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	71.4
Disagree	14.3
Strongly Disagree	14.3

Table 14
Increase Future Immigration Levels

Medicine Hat can economically manage an increase in immigration (enough housing, jobs, etc.)	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	25
Agree	25
Disagree	50
Strongly Disagree	0

Perceived Prejudice

Results varied in survey questions 12, 16 and 17, although each dealt with perceived prejudice.

Table 15
Immigrants are Well Accepted

Immigrants are well accepted in our community.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	75
Disagree	12.5
Strongly Disagree	12.5

Although 75% of the respondents felt that immigrants are well accepted in our community (Table 15), 42.9% also stated that they felt there was a general sense of prejudice against visible minorities in Medicine Hat (Table 16). This also corresponds to the 44% who felt that immigrants do not try hard to "fit in" to our community (Table 17). However, there does not seem to be any fear or concern that we are

losing our cultural identity through inter-racial marriages (Table 18).

Table 16
General Prejudice Against Visible Minorities

There is a general sense of prejudice against visible minorities in Medicine Hat.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	42.9
Disagree	57.1
Strongly Disagree	0

Table 17
Immigrants Try to Adapt

Immigrants try hard to "fit in" to our community.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	28.5
Agree	28.5
Disagree	28.5
Strongly Disagree	15.5

Table 18
Losing our Culture Through Inter-racial Marriages

We are losing our Canadian culture because of inter-racial marriages between Canadians and immigrants.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	16.6
Disagree	50
Strongly Disagree	33.4

Perceived Loss of Business

Table 19 indicates that 100% of the respondents felt that companies did not lose business by employing immigrants. However, 14.2% in Table 20 recognized the potential for problems due to customers feeling uncomfortable with immigrants and 22.2% in Table 21 recognize the potential for problems in business because of a language barrier.

Table 19
Immigrants Cause a Loss in Business

Local companies lose business when they employ immigrants.	**PERCENT**
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	0
Disagree	71.4
Strongly Disagree	28.6

Table 20
Customers are Uncomfortable with Immigrants

Local companies lose business when they employ immigrants because customers are uncomfortable "dealing" with them.	**PERCENT**
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	14.2
Disagree	71.4
Strongly Disagree	14.4

Table 21

Language Barriers Cause Loss of Business

Local companies lose business when they employ immigrants because of a language barrier.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	22.2
Disagree	44.4
Strongly Disagree	33.4

Perceived Immigrant Employment

Table 22
Immigrants Take Jobs From Canadians

Immigrants take jobs from Canadian people.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	11.1
Disagree	66.6
Strongly Disagree	22.3

Although Table 22 indicates that 11.1 of the respondents agreed that immigrants take jobs away from Canadians, no one felt that they were a major cause of unemployment in Medicine Hat (Table 23).

Table 23
Immigrants Major Cause of Unemployment

Immigrants are a major cause of Medicine Hat's unemployment problem.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	0
Disagree	62.5
Strongly Disagree	37.5

It is interesting to note that although 100% of the respondents said that they would hire an immigrant in their company (Table 24), only 40% of the respondents stated that they currently employ any immigrants.

Table 24
I Would Hire an Immigrant

I would hire an immigrant in my company.	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	28.6
Agree	71.4
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0

Summary

After reviewing the results of both the immigrant and the business surveys, it would appear that immigration in Medicine Hat has proved to be a successful endeavor. The New Canadians feel their needs are being met and consider Medicine Hat to be a favorable city in which to settle. The business community of Medicine Hat also recognizes the economic stimulation that results from immigration and encourages the current level of immigration to Medicine Hat to continue.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions of the Immigrant Survey

Origin. The majority of immigrants that arrived in Medicine Hat through the Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency from 1985-1991 were from Central America, except in the years of 1988 and 1989, in which there was an influx from East Asia.

It would appear that Medicine Hat receives a much larger ratio of refugees compared to the rest of Alberta as the ratio of refugees in this survey was 59.6%, compared to the provincial rate of 25%.

Demographics.

- 87.5% of all the adult immigrants that arrived in Medicine Hat between the specified years of this study, were between the ages 25 and 45 years.
- There was an equal number of male and female respondents, with the majority of females (63%), between the ages of 18-34.

Employment. Of the responding survey participants, 35% were employed either full or part-time and 64% are currently full or part-time students, lending to a very low rate of unemployment among the respondents.

Compared to the STATSCAN figures, a family of four with an annual income of $25,449 is considered in the low income bracket. It was alarming to discover that 85% of the respondents with an average family of four earned an annual income of less than $15,000 and 96.2% live below the average national low income level.

Education. The respondents indicated that they had acquired and average of ten years of education in their home countries. For a period of six months to one year, English as a Second Language classes are available to the immigrants upon arrival in Medicine Hat, of which 85% of the respondents took part.

The best educated immigrants come from Eastern Europe, where 73% of the respondents have post-secondary education and none had less than a grade twelve equivalent education.

Of the respondents from Central America, 51% had post-secondary education.

The immigrants from East Asia had the least amount of education. Only 18% had post-secondary education, while 61% had less than a grade twelve equivalency.

Most of the respondents were very pleased with the services and lifestyle they have experienced in Medicine Hat. Although 86.4% said they would like to remain and 76.5% would recommend the city for future immigration settlement, concern was also expressed for lack of employment opportunities within Medicine Hat. Of the

responding participants, 94% also expressed that they felt their needs were well met by Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency. Those respondents who did wish to leave Medicine Hat or who would not recommend the city for future immigration cited the reasons as either having family members elsewhere that they would like to join or the possibility of increased employment opportunities.

Conclusions of the Business Survey

The purpose of the business survey was to determine the public opinion of the business community in Medicine Hat regarding immigrants and immigration in general.

Of the respondents, 30% had immigrated to Canada themselves. Although 100% of the participants stated that they would be willing to employ an immigrant in their organization, only 40% of the respondents actually had an immigrant currently employed.

Most respondents (57.1) felt that most immigrants are visible minorities, which is quite interesting because 73.5% of the immigrants in Medicine Hat come from Central American and Eastern Europe, which are not often readily visible minorities.

Immigrants are perceived by the business community to be hard workers and help stimulate the economy. Although immigrants seem to be generally well accepted in the community at the present level, half of the respondents expressed concern that Medicine Hat may not be able to

economically manage an increase in immigration levels, so caution with future levels was suggested. This opinion seemed to concur with the results of a national survey taken by Angus Reid in 1989, in which the organization concluded that "Canadians believe newcomers can make a positive contribution to both the culture and economy of Canada provided that the immigration program is effectively managed".

Recommendations

After reviewing the results of both parts of this study, the writer recognized a general consensus of both the immigrant population and the business community that Medicine Hat is a very suitable city for immigration settlement. The business community feels that Medicine Hat benefits economically from current levels of immigration and the New Canadians agree that their settlement needs are being met by Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency as well as the rest of the community.

Immigrants that have achieved training through post-secondary education in their own countries often experience difficulty finding employment in their area of expertise in Canada, not only because of a language barrier, but more often because of a lack of recognition of education received in other countries. Due to these restrictions, Canada is missing out on a valuable resource in its immigrant people.

Because Medicine Hat is a small city, New Canadians find it a non-threatening and supportive city in which to settle. However, because of the difficult economic times experienced recently, it has become more difficult for the immigrants to find employment and remain in Medicine Hat. In conclusion, the writer therefore recommends:

1) that the government continue with its current rate of New Canadians being sent to Medicine Hat for settlement purposes.

2) that the New Canadians continue to receive the maximum time allowed of one year in English as a Second Language training at the Medicine Hat College.

3) that the government look into adopting a policy whereby immigrants can complete a standardized exam to prove competency in their professional area in order to practice or receive recertification in Canada.

4) that Saamis Immigration Settlement Services initiate a "buddy system" whereby an immigrant family can develop a trusting relationship with a volunteer Canadian family. This will not only provide a trusting atmosphere to foster growth and

independence for immigrant families, but will also help to educate and bring together the different cultures within the city.

5) that Canada Employment and Immigration develop a cooperative arrangement with the business community of Medicine Hat whereby New Canadians can work in the capacity of interns or trainees and receive remuneration for the work experience.

6) that a follow-up study be done to track the mobility of immigrants as well as the redistribution to determine the migration patterns of immigrants once they arrive in Canada.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

INTRODUCTORY SURVEY LETTER

(English and Translated Versions)

Saamis Immigration Services Assoc.

422 - 6 Street, S.E. Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 1H5 (403) 529-0700
Fax (403) 526-3566

January 13, 1992

Enclosed, you will find a survey regarding immigration in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

The purpose of this study is to identify past immigration trends in Medicine Hat and to determine the suitability of Medicine Hat as a receiving community. The results of this research will then be used by Saamis Immigration Services Association to better meet the needs of New Canadians immigrating to Medicine Hat and will be documented as part of my personal research project to fulfil requirements for a Master of Business Education degree at Montana State University. The results, therefore, will remain strictly confidential between Saamis and myself.

I became interested in immigration in Medicine Hat while teaching English as a Second Language at the Medicine Hat College, and now, with the assistance of Saamis Immigration Settlement Services, I am conducting a survey of New Canadians who immigrated to Medicine Hat from 1985-1991. As I feel the most accurate data will be obtained from those who have actually experienced the immigration process, your insight as an immigrant is truly valued . I would, therefore, very much appreciate it if you would spend a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey and return it in the envelope provided by January 24, 1992.

Please be assured that the study will be used only to identify trends. The surveys are completely anonymous and the information you provide will be used for tabulation purposes only.

I appreciate your participation in this survey and thank you in advance for your assistance in helping us improve immigration services within Medicine Hat.

Sincerely,

Rita Kolody

Saamis Immigration Services Assoc.

422 - 6 Street, S.E. Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 1H5 (403) 529-0700
Fax (403) 526-3566

Styczen 13, 1992

W załączeniu znajdziesz obserwacje dotyczące imigracji do Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Celem tych studiów jest zbadanie kierunków imigracji do Medicine Hat i okreslenie przydatnosci Medicine Hat, jako środowiska przyjmujacego imigrantów. Rezultaty tych badań będą użyte przez Saamis Immigration Services Association w celu lepszego zrozumienia potrzeb nowych Kanadyjczyków, którzy imigrowali do Medicine Hat. Wyniki badań będą rownież stano- wiły cześć dokumentacji mojego własnego projektu badawczego, ktory spełni jednocześnie wymagania stawiane mi przez uniwersytet w stanie Montana, gdzie zamierzam uzyskać stopień magisterski w szkoleniu zawodowyn.

Rezultaty badań będą znane jedynie mnie i Saamis oraz pozostana całkowicie anonimowe.

Moje zainteresowanie imigracją do Medicine Hat, związane jest z nauczaniem przeze mnie języka angielskiegow Medicine Hat College, jako drugiego języka. Teraz, przy pomocy Saamis Immigration Settlement Services prowadzę obserwacje na temat nowych Kanadyjczyków, którzy imigrowali do Medicine Hat w latach 1985 - 1992. Wydaje mi się ze najbardziej wiarygodne dane uzyskam od osób,ktore aktualnie doświadczyły procesu imigracji.

Twoje uwagi i spostrzeż enio jako imigranta są prawdziwie wartościowe. Dlatego będę wdzięczna, jeż eli będzie Pani/Pan mogła/mógl/ znalezć kilka minut aby wypełnic załącznik i zwrócić go w kopercie w terminie do 24 stycznia 1992.

Zapewniam, że badania będą użyte jedynie do scharakteryzowania trendów imigracji. Formularze są anonimowe, informacje użyte będą dla celow statystycznych.
Jestem wdzięczna za udział w badaniach, dziękuje za pomoc w naszych staraniach usprawnienia usług imigracyjnych w Medicine Hat.

Z poważaniem

Rita Kolody

Rita Kolody

Saamis Immigration Services Assoc.

422 - 6 Street, S.E. Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 1H5 (403) 529-0700
Fax (403) 526-3566

Ngay 13 thang gieng nam 1992

Kèm theo đây là một tài liệu nghiên cứu về di dân tại Medicine Hat, tỉnh Alberta.

Tài liệu này nhằm mục đích nhận định những luồng di dân tại Medicine Hat trong những năm qua và cũng một thể xác định Medicine Hat có khả năng là một thành phố đón nhận những người di dân. Kết quả sự nghiên cứu này sẽ được Hội Di Dân Saamis Immigration Services Assoc. xử dụng hầu hoàn chỉnh nhiệm vụ cung ứng những dịch vụ giúp đỡ những người di dân mới đến lập cư tại Medicine Hat và sẽ được gồm thành một phần của dự án nghiên cứu cuả riêng cá nhân tôi để đạt được cấp bằng Tiến Sĩ về Giáo Dục Kinh Tế tại Đại Học đường Montana. Kết quả, di nhiên, sẽ được giữ trong vòng bí mật giữa tôi và Saamis.

Tôi đã để tâm chú ý về di dân tại Medicine Hat trong thời gian tôi dạy Anh văn tại Trường Medicine Hat College, và hiện tại, với sự cộng tác của Hội Di Dân Saamis Immigration Services Assoc., tôi đang thành lập một dự án nghiên cứu về những người di dân mới đến lập cư tại Medicine Hat trong những năm 1985-1991. Theo sự nhận định của tôi, dữ kiện chính xác nhất có thể gồm được từ những người đã có kinh nghiệm về thể thức di dân, sự đóng góp của bạn sẽ được thành thực hoan nghênh. Tôi rất có lòng biết ơn nếu bạn có thể dành một chút thời gian để hoàn tất bản tài liệu đính kèm và gởi lại về tới trong phong bì có sẵng trước ngày 24 tháng giêng năm 1992.

Bạn hãy yên tâm rằng bộ tài liệu nghiên cứu này sẽ chỉ được xử dụng để dẫn chứng cho những luồng di dân. Bản dự án này hoàn toàn được giữ kín và những dữ kiện bạn cung ứng chỉ để dùng làm chứng minh.

Tôi rất cảm ơn sự đóng góp của bạn để thực hiện dự án này và tôi xin đa tạ sự giúp đỡ của bạn trong công tác tăng cường những dịch vụ giúp đỡ những người di dân trong cộng đồng thành phố Medicine Hat.

Nay kính,

Rita Kolody

Saamis Immigration
Services Assoc.

422 - 6 Street, S.E. Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 1H5 (403) 529-0700
Fax (403) 526-3566

13 de Enero, 1992

Adjunto encontraran una encuesta relacionada con la inmigracion hacia Medicine Hat, Alberta. El proposito de este estudio, es identificar las tendencias pasadas de inmigracion en Medicine Hat y determinar tan apropiada es la ciudad como comunidad receptora de inmigrantes. Los resultados de esta investigacion seran usados por la Asociacion de Servicios de Inmigracion Saamis, para poder llenar de una manera aceptable las necesidades de las nuevas canadiences que han emigrado a Medicine Hat. Ademas, esta informacion sera documentada como parte de mi proyecto personal de investigacion con el objeto de llenar los requisitos de una maestria en Educacion Comercial en la Universidad estatal de Montana. Los reultados de esta encuesta seran confidenciales entre Saamis y mi persona.

Mi interes en la comunidad inmigrante en esta ciudad surgio cuando me encontraba trabajando como profesora de Ingles como segunda lengua en el "Medicine Hat College". Ahora con la ayuda de la Asociacion de Servicios de Inmigracion Saamis me encuentro conduciendo esta encuesta dirigida a los nuevos canadienses que han emigrado a esta ciudad entre 1985-1991. Considerando que la informacion maas exacta seria la obtenida de parte de aquellos que han experimentado el proceso do inmigracion su apreciacion como inmigrante es esencial. Por lo tanto, les agradeceria de antemano el tomarse unos minutos para responder la encuesta adjunta y retornarla en el sobre incluido para el 24 de Enero de 1992.

Por favor tengan siempre presente que este estudio sera usado solamente para identificar tendencias. Las encuestas son completamente anonimas y la informacion que ustedes provean sera utilizada para propositos de tabulacion.

Agradezco de antemano su participacion en esta encuesta, con la cual se ayudara a mejorar los servicios para el inmigrante en esta ciudad.

Atentamente,

Rita Kolody

APPENDIX B

IMMIGRANT SURVEY INSTRUMENT

SURVEY INSTRUMENT #1

The immigration trends that I would like to identify in conducting this survey are limited to the Medicine Hat area between the years of 1986-1991, and are as follows:

- M/F ratios
- Married/single ratios
- Age stratifications
- Countries of Origin
    - is there an obvious shift of trends?
- Immigration Status
- Length of Time in Medicine Hat
- Occupation
    - have they been able to find employment?
    - are they in a similar occupation to that which they had in their home country?
    - employment stability
    - did they have to retrain for a new occupation?
    - have they attended school since arriving in Canada? (what program?)
    - ESL Training?
- Income Stratification
    - occupied vs sponsored
    - rent or own home
    - do they own a vehicle
- Satisfaction with Medicine Hat?
    - are they glad they came to Medicine Hat?
    - would they like to remain here?
        - If not, where would they like to go?
    - Would they recommend Medicine Hat to other new Canadians?
- Comments regarding Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency

IMMIGRATION SURVEY

The major purpose of this study is to identify the immigration trends of the new Canadians served by Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency of Medicine Hat, Alberta between the years of 1985 - 1991. The secondary purpose of the study is to determine if the city of Medicine Hat can both manage and benefit from increased immigration levels.

SURVEY INSTRUMENT #1

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR IMMIGRANTS OF MEDICINE HAT

This questionnaire is to study the immigration trends in the city of Medicine Hat, Alberta from the years 1985-1991. Your input, as an immigrant to Medicine Hat, is greatly valued. If you would take a few minutes to answer the following questions, I would very much appreciate it. All responses will be kept confidential. Thank you for your time.

1. What is your country of origin? _____

2. What was your occupation in your country of origin?

_____

Please check ( ) the appropriate response.

3. Are you : _____ Male _____ Female

4. What is your age?

_____ 18-24
_____ 25-34
_____ 35-45
_____ 46-60
_____ over 60

5. How long have you lived in Medicine Hat?

_____ less than 6 months
_____ 1 - 2 years
_____ 3 - 4 years
_____ 5 - 6 years

6. Do you rent or own your home?

_____ Rent _____ Own

7. Do you have a valid Alberta Class 5 Driver's License?

_____ Yes _____ No

8. Do you own a vehicle?

_____ Yes _____ No

9. What was your immigration status upon arrival in Canada?

___ refugee ___ family class ___ independent

10. Are you a Canadian citizen?

_____ Yes _____ No

11. Are you presently employed?

_____ Yes _____ Full Time _____ Part Time
_____ No

If yes, what is your occupation in Canada?

_____

How long have you been employed at this job?

_____ less than one month _____ 2 - 3 years
_____ 1 - 5 months _____ 4 - 5 years
_____ 6 months - 1 year _____ more than 5 years

12. What is your current annual income?

_____ less than $10,000 _____ $25,000 - $29,999
_____ $10,000 - $14,999 _____ $30,000 - $34,999
_____ $15,000 - $19,999 _____ $35,000 - $40,000
_____ $20,000 - $24,999 _____ over $40,000

13. What is your marital status?

_____ single _____ married

14. How many children do you have?

_____ 0 _____1 _____2 _____3 _____4

_____ more than 4, please specify number _____

15. How many years did you attend school in your country of origin?

_____ years

16. What was your level of education in your country of origin?

_____ less than Canadian grade twelve equivalent
_____ Canadian grade twelve equivalent
_____ vocational training,
please specify major _____
_____ college, please specify major _____
_____ university, please specify major _____

17. Have you attended school since coming to Canada?

_____ Yes _____ No

18. Are you currently a student?

_____ Yes _____ No

19. If you are now a student, or were a student in the past, in which program did you enrol?

_____ ESL
_____ College Preparation
_____ College/University Transfer

20. Would you like to remain in Medicine Hat?

_____ Yes _____ No

21. If not, where would you like to relocate?

_____

Why? _____

22. Would you recommend new immigrants to settle in Medicine Hat?

_____ Yes

Why?_____

_____

_____ No

Why not?_____

_____

23. How would you rate the settlement services provided by Saamis Immigration Services Association?

1	2	3	4
Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Poor

24. Please write any comments or suggestion regarding immigration or the services of Saamis Immigration Settlement Agency in Medicine Hat.

_____

_____

Thank you again for your time.

APPENDIX C

BUSINESS SURVEY INSTRUMENT

SURVEY INSTRUMENT # 2

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BUSINESS OWNERS/MANAGERS OF MEDICINE HAT

This questionnaire is to study immigration trends in the city of Medicine Hat, Alberta from the years 1986 - 1991. Your input, as a local business person in Medicine Hat, is greatly valued. If you would take a few minutes to answer the following questions, I would very much appreciate it. All responses will be kept confidential. Thank you for your time.

Please check ( ) the appropriate response.

1. Do you own a business in Medicine Hat?

_____ Yes _____ No

2. Do you manage a business in Medicine Hat?

_____ Yes _____ No

3. Are you responsible for hiring staff?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Partially

4. What kind of business do you own and/or manage?

_____ retail sales
_____ service industry (food service, hairdresser, housekeeping, daycare, etc.)
_____ manufacturing
_____ construction
_____ financial institution
_____ education
_____ transportation
_____ housing
_____ professional (accountant, dentist, etc.)
_____ other; please specify _____

5. Highest level of education completed:

_____ less than grade twelve
_____ grade twelve
Please specify major
_____ college diploma/certificate _____
_____ business or trade school _____
_____ university degree _____

6. Are you an immigrant to Canada?

_____ Yes _____ No

7. Does your company presently employ any immigrants?

_____ Yes _____ No

8. If you do not presently employ an immigrant, have you in the past?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Uncertain

Please circle the response that most accurately represents your feelings about immigrants living in Medicine Hat and district.

SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

9. Most immigrants are visible minorities.

SA A D SD

10. Immigrants are generally hard workers.

SA A D SD

11. Immigrants help the economy of Medicine Hat.

SA A D SD

12. Immigrants are well accepted in the community of Medicine Hat.

SA A D SD

13. Local companies lose business when they employ immigrants because of a language barrier.

SA A D SD

14. Local companies lose business when they employ immigrants because customers are uncomfortable "dealing" with them.

SA A D SD

15. Immigrants are a burden to the economy of Medicine Hat.

SA A D SD

16. Immigrants try hard to "fit in" to the community of Medicine Hat.

SA A D SD

17. There is a general sense of prejudice against visible minorities in Medicine Hat.

SA A D SD

18. Local companies lose business when they employ immigrants.

SA A D SD

19. I would hire an immigrant in my company.

SA A D SD

20. Immigrants take jobs from Canadian people.

SA A D SD

21. Immigrants are a major cause of Medicine Hat's unemployment problem.

SA A D SD

22. Most immigrants rely on Social Services (welfare) rather than work.

SA A D SD

23. There are presently too many immigrants in Medicine Hat.

SA A D SD

24. The government should decrease immigration to Canada.

SA A D SD

25. We are losing our Canadian culture because of inter-racial marriages between Canadians and immigrants.

SA A D SD

26. I would like to see more immigrants come to Medicine Hat.

SA A D SD

27. Medicine Hat can economically manage the **present** level of immigration (enough jobs, housing, etc.).

SA A D SD

28. Medicine Hat can economically manage an **increase** in immigration (enough jobs, housing, etc.).

SA A D SD

29. Medicine Hat would experience a stimulation of the economy if immigration were increased.

SA A D SD

30. Please write any comments about the advantages/disadvantages of immigration in Canada and specifically in Medicine Hat.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for your participation.