Better targeting of potential immigrants with economic opportunities suited to their skills and interests

> David Campbell Chief Economist New Brunswick Jobs Board Secretariat

> > November 2016

Presentation outline

- The lack of immigrants into places like New Brunswick has become a significant drag on GDP growth potential.
- Economic growth across the country is even more important circa 2016.
- Youth out-migration and relatively high unemployment remains a challenge in certain regions but....
- Is national immigration policy exacerbating regional economic disparities?
- We must focus on aligning immigrant attraction to local workforce needs across the skills spectrum.

The link between workforce growth/decline and GDP growth



2009-2015

1985-1989

1993-1998

Post-Recession Period

Average annual labour market growth

1991-2008

Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 379-0030 and 0003.

1976-1990

-650

2009-2015

Decline in the # of <35 year olds earning less than \$35,000 per year (2008 to 2014)



Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 111-0008.

Employment insurance in New Brunswick: A labour market reality

	El income claimants	@ CDN usage rate	Excess El usage in NB
New Brunswick	10000	1.00	+95%
New Drunswick	98,500	50,406	+95%
Moncton	12,480	9,976	+25%
Saint John	10,510	8,327	+26%
Fredericton	7,000	6,506	+8%
Bathurst	5,090	2,156	+136%
Miramichi	4,250	1,798	+136%
Campbellton	2,250	879	+156%
Edmundston	3,020	1,501	+101%
Non CMA-CA NB	53,910	19,265	+180%

*2014 figures. Source: Statistics Canada.

Average annual net domestic migration (2011-2015)



Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 051-0057.

Average annual immigration (2011-2015)

Toronto	78,527
Montréal	43,114
Vancouver	31,053
Winnipeg	12,676
Moncton	728
Halifax	1,956
St. John's	615

Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 051-0057.

Is national immigration policy exacerbating regional economic disparities?

- People migration from Atlantic Canada is an established trend.
- Now it looks like jobs are moving west as well.
- Examples:
 - NB trucking firm depoting truckers out of Toronto as a result of not being able to find workers in NB.
 - NB metal products manufacturer buys plant in GTA finds it much easier to recruit workers there – almost all immigrants.
 - Contact centre closes NB facility and moves work to Winnipeg.
 - Manufacturer moves all production jobs to US location immigrants account for almost the entire workforce.

Immigrant share of total workforce Manufacturing and utilities occupations



Source: Statistics Canada 2011 National Household Survey.

 Across the country, since 2008, the immigrant workforce expanded by 712,600 – 8 times faster than the workforce that was born in Canada.

Growth in number of persons in the labour market (2008 to 2015)

+44,600



'At risk' export-based industries

- Agriculture, natural resources, and export-based services.
- \$20.00/hour and under.
- 'Mobile' meaning jobs that are here now but that could be done elsewhere in Canada or around the world.
- Approx. 40,000 to 50,000 NBers currently working in jobs that fit this profile.
- Every 1,000 jobs lost (or not gained) directly in these sectors translates into a loss of over \$50M worth of income.

Immigrants drive demand for local services and high wage occupations

School teachers **Registered nurses** Accountants and investment professionals Auto mechanics Managers in financial and business services Engineers Electricians Doctors Lawyers Pharmacists, dietitians and nutritionists Architects 2 2 Dentists

56 46 26 25 16 16 1,000 immigrant 10 families spending 9 average household income creates enough 6 demand to support 5 1,500 jobs across the province*.

*assuming four persons per immigrant family. Assumes the current labour force distribution would be the same for the incremental 1,000 families. Source: Statistics Canada National Household Survey (2011).

There hasn't been much immigration into New Brunswick since the mid 19th Century

Percentage of the population that is at least third generation Canadian

Northeast NB Northwest NB Moncton Saint John Calgary Montreal Vancouver Toronto Burnaby, BC Markham, ON



Immigration and economic renewal

- Economic impact from:
- Attracting immigrants into industries that are facing shortages now.
- Achieving broad flexibility in who we can attract to the province (the Atlantic Immigration Pilot).
- Developing new, high growth, high value sectors using skilled talent from abroad.
- Significantly boosting the number of post-secondary students from abroad (university, college) with a pathway to working in NB.
- Attracting immigrant entrepreneurs into growth opportunities and to support business succession.

QUESTIONS?