



## **Prairie Centre Regional Workshop**

Workshop Presentation Abstract

### **Earnings of Immigrants**

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The literature on earnings of immigrants often make an implicit assumption: immigrants' earnings reflect the market worth of what immigrants have to contribute to the Canadian economy, and the lower immigrants' earnings relative to that of the native born population and the longer it takes immigrants to reach earning parity, the lower is the human capital content of the immigrant stock. Using **microdata** from the 1991 Census of Canada, this study analyzed earning disparities between immigrants and non-immigrants, taking into account gender and racial origin, as well as human capital variations. The findings suggest that there are many factors which contribute to earning disparities, and such disparities remain despite controlling for intergroup differences in human capital and other work-related characteristics. One of such factors has to do with the size of the city immigrants work. Income gaps between immigrants and non-immigrants tend to be larger in bigger cities, and narrower in smaller ones. The study suggests that finer comparisons of earnings and immigrants and non-immigrants are needed.