Diversity and Aging Among Immigrant Seniors: Changing Faces and Greying Temples

Douglas Durst, Ph.D.
Faculty of Social Work,
University of Regina
Sept. 24.10
doug.durst@uregina.ca
Chronological Age

over 65: the young-old (65 to 75/80),
the old-old (75/80 to 90) and
the very-old or frail old (over 85/90).
Complexity in Research of Immigrant Elderly

Recent Immigrant Elderly
Immigrants who aged in Canada
Class of Immigrant (Family Class)
Minority Status – Visible and Invisible
Mother Language
Frameworks in Gerontological Research

- Multiple Jeopardy
- Levelling: Converging of Indicators
- Life Course Perspective
Current Canadian Situation

14% of population over 65 yrs.
Over 1.1 million are 80+ yrs.
Provincial variations
Elderly population increasing
More women than men

- Census 2006
Immigrant Seniors

20% of all Foreign-born are seniors
Higher than the national average (14%)
31% of European Immigrants are 65+
13% of Immigrants from Eastern Asia are over 65

Immigrants are an aging population
- Census 2006
Canadian Seniors Population

30% of all seniors are Foreign-born (up from 17% in 1981)
19% of all seniors are from Europe
7% of all seniors are from Asia
Over 9% of seniors are visible minorities (up from 6% in 1996)

- Census 2006
Senior Immigrants by Continent

- 64% from Europe
- 23% from Asia (10% Chinese, 7% India)
- 4% from U.S.A.
- 4% from Caribbean
- 3% from Africa
- 2% from Central and South America
Issues and Developing Needs

- Changing cultural values:
  - Filial Responsibilities and Independent Living
- Empowerment and Decision Making
- Potential Community Resource
- Information Sharing
- Culturally sensitive policy and services
- Emerging Research Needs