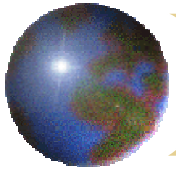


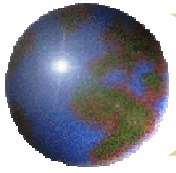
Policy Issues and Research Questions

Prairie Centre Annual Planning
Meeting, February 11-12, 2005



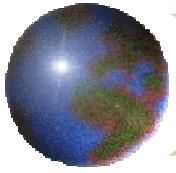
Today's Opportunities, Tomorrow's Promise

- ✚ Unleashing innovation
- ✚ Leading in learning
- ✚ Competing in a global marketplace
- ✚ Making Alberta the best place to live, work and visit



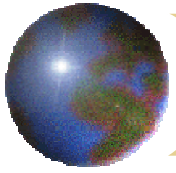
Leading in Learning

- ❖ Investing in our learning systems to assist Albertans in their desire to have their children succeed and to ensure that the province benefits from its human potential
- ❖ Helping Albertans get the work and life skills they need to achieve their aspirations



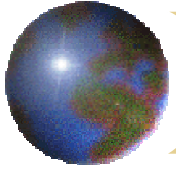
Making Alberta the best place to live, work and visit

- Superior quality of life
- Attracting people to live in Alberta because it provides an environment in which they can contribute their talents and create a quality of life that meets their dreams.
- Supporting strong, viable, safe and secure communities



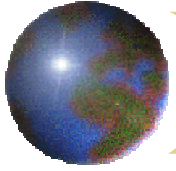
Making Alberta the best place to live, work and visit

- Welcoming communities and workplaces
- Alberta's smaller towns and cities
- Attracting and retaining immigrants



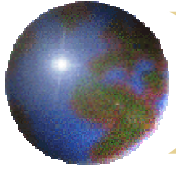
Welcoming communities and workplaces

- What factors contribute to welcoming communities and workplaces?
- How can we create social systems and networks for supports – in the community and in the workplace?
- What will help overcome the resistance of employers?



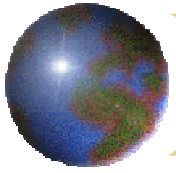
Alberta's Smaller Towns and Cities

- ⊕ What is the immigrant experience in Alberta's smaller towns and cities?
- ⊕ How does this experience compare with the experience in Alberta's cities?



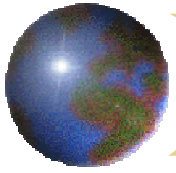
Attracting and Retaining Immigrants

- ❖ Why do independent immigrants choose Calgary over Edmonton?
- ❖ Why do Independent or Family Class immigrants choose a smaller town/city?
- ❖ Why do they stay or move?



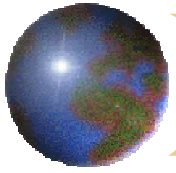
Leading in Learning

- ⊕ Immigrant children and youth
- ⊕ Increasing the effectiveness of settlement services and language training
- ⊕ Maximizing labour market potential



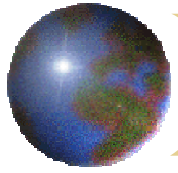
Immigrant children and youth

- Alberta's Commission on Learning recommendation 50 to provide ESL students and their teachers with access to appropriate assessment, programs, learning resources, professional and paraprofessional assistance required to meet their needs



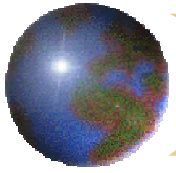
Immigrant children and youth

- Alberta's Commission on Learning recommendation 52 create provincial proficiency standards for assessing ESL students



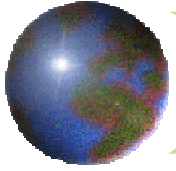
Review of K-12 ESL Program Implementation in Alberta

- Who are ESL students in Alberta
- Assessment practices
- Requirements for information tracking to facilitate long term assessment
- Leader processes
- Instructional processes
- Pre-Service and in-service requirements



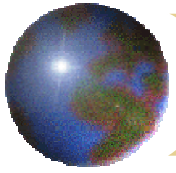
Immigrant Children and Youth

- ⊕ What are the experiences of youth in who have limited formal education?
- ⊕ What can we do to improve their success?
- ⊕ What teacher training and supports are needed to ensure that academic success for these learners is optimized?



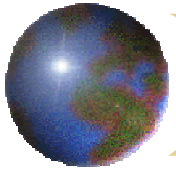
Immigrant Children and Youth

- ⊕ Years of additional support required for different groups of learners?
- ⊕ How can required program, supports, services be provided where there are few immigrant children and youth?
- ⊕ Is being an ESL student viewed as being negative?



Increasing service effectiveness

- ❖ What are the experiences of immigrants in accessing required services?
- ❖ What kind of services were most effective for those facing significant barriers to integration?
- ❖ How can required supports and services be provided in small towns?



Increasing the effectiveness of adult ESL programs

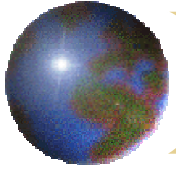
- ❖ What program models and learning approaches are most effective for adults with limited formal education, or with limited literacy in the first language?
- ❖ What approaches are most effective for skilled immigrants?
- ❖ What teacher training is required?

Integrating Skilled Immigrants into the Alberta Economy



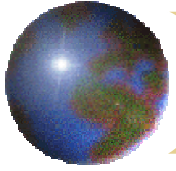
September 2004

Alberta



Maximizing labour market potential

- ❖ What are cost efficient ways of assessing competencies?
- ❖ Need to know more about employers expectations/needs
- ❖ Differences in required approaches for more newly arrived versus those who have been in Canada for some time



Challenges

- ✚ Research and language that conveys the heterogeneity of the immigrant population
- ✚ Research and language that conveys the complexity of the settlement and integration processes