

# Rural Immigration & Welcoming Communities



## BRIEF SUMMARY

This book chapter examines the history of immigration to rural communities, the concept of welcoming communities, and two case studies of welcoming communities from Manitoba and Scotland. Key findings from the book chapter include:

- ❑ Rural communities and governments are actively explored immigration strategies as options to address local challenges and opportunities, such as labour shortages and population growth.
  - ❑ The attraction, settlement, integration and retention of immigrants represents substantial planning requirements for rural communities, health and social service providers, government services, and community-based organizations.
  - ❑ A welcoming community is one that embraces diversity, encourages civic participation among all residents, provides a range of appropriate service provisions, and offers meaningful employment.
  - ❑ Welcoming community strategies is a multi-sectoral partnerships are created to facilitate the immigration process.
  - ❑ Welcoming community strategies should identify and remove barriers for newcomers, promote a sense of belonging to the host community, meet the diverse needs of individual newcomers, and offer services to promote successful integration into the host community.
- ❑ 17 characteristics of a welcoming community
    1. employment opportunities
    2. social capital
    3. affordable and social housing
    4. positive attitudes towards immigrants and newcomers
    5. presence of newcomer-serving agencies
    6. links between main actors working towards welcoming communities
    7. municipal features and services sensitive to the presence and needs of newcomers
    8. educational opportunities
    9. accessible and suitable health care
    10. available and accessible public transit
    11. presence of diverse religious organizations
    12. social engagement opportunities
    13. political participation opportunities
    14. positive relationships with policy and justice system
    15. safety
    16. opportunities for use of public space and recreation facilities
    17. favourable media coverage

## Further Information

The book chapter was written by Ryan Gibson and Robert C Annis and is part of the [Routledge Handbook of Comparative Rural Policy: Theories, Methods, and Case Studies](#).

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