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Title: An economic and cultural awakening:
 Korean immigrants in non-traditional gateways

Format: Presentation Workshop
 Theme: Welcoming Communities

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Presenter 1: Hyewon Park
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 Organization: YON-WOO Counselling and Therapy
 Title: Korean immigrants in new gateways: Education migration to Abbotsford

Presenter 2: Guilsung Kwak and Daniel Lai
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 Organization: University of Calgary
 Title: Social support in elderly Korean Canadians

Presenter 3: Nanok Cha
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 Organization: Korean Association of Nova Scotia/Immigrant Settlement and Integration Services, Nova Scotia
 Title: Building community in Halifax

Presenter 4: Lizzie Cheng and Ashraf Ghanem
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 Organization: Settlement and Multiculturalism Branch, New Brunswick Population Growth Secretariat
 Title: A provincial government's perspective on Korean immigrant settlement and integration in New Brunswick

Presenter 4: Ann H. Kim and Chedly Belkhodja
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 Organization: York University and Université de Moncton
 Title: Korean economic migrants in New Brunswick

Abstract:

This workshop explores the impact of Korean immigration on smaller urban communities, focusing on the experiences of settlement for relatively new communities and the economic and cultural challenges faced by immigrants and their hosts, with the purpose of highlighting the issues that may apply to other immigrants in smaller places.

Summary

This workshop explores the impact of Korean immigration on smaller urban communities, and in particular, the experiences of settlement for relatively new Korean communities and the economic and cultural challenges faced by immigrants and their hosts, with the purpose of highlighting some of the issues that may be generalized to other recent immigrant groups in smaller places. Key themes, set within an economic and cultural context, include community building, local economic and employment issues, social support for the aging, the development of a provincial settlement strategy and "education migration". New immigrant destinations are emerging across Canada, and these smaller cities are attracting increasing numbers of immigrants who are able to contribute to the social and economic vitality of their host communities. South Korea is among the top source countries of recent immigrants to urban areas across Canada. While their presence has been noticeable in traditional gateways, particularly in Toronto and more recently, in Vancouver, Korean communities in the smaller gateways are beginning to attract the attention of local organizations, government agencies and the wider public. In places like Abbotsford (BC), Calgary (AB), Halifax (NS) and Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton (NB), immigration is perceived to be part of the panacea to address population and economic decline, yet these cities are little prepared to address the wider challenges and issues that arise from a growing immigrant and racialized community. Questions about the long-term settlement of such groups raise the need to understand newcomer settlement experiences within an institutional context.

Presentation abstracts:**1. Korean immigrants in new gateways: Education migration to Abbotsford**

Hyewon Park, Registered Clinical Counsellor, YON-WOO Counselling and Therapy

Abstract. Immigrants who settle in small cities have different goals and expectations in terms of education, business, and life, compared to those who settle in major ones. Taking into consideration that most of the recent Korean migrants, who move to smaller places for the purpose of education, are likely to be affluent and thus able to afford a particular way of life, the small city is unlikely to offer them the kind of lifestyle to which they may be accustomed. Yet, they continue to be attracted to such smaller places such as Abbotsford, British Columbia. This presentation highlights some of the key motivations and reasons that Korean migrants head to such destinations and their experiences living there.

2. Social support in elderly Korean Canadians

Guilsung Kwak, Doctoral Candidate, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary
Daniel Lai, Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary

Abstract. Social support is important for immigrants during the process of settling into a new society. The nature and roles of social support are so complex and dynamic that they should be identified in an individual ethno-cultural context. Research on Korean elderly immigrants has been scant, particularly on those in smaller communities in which ethno-specific services are not well developed. The study examines the context and process of social support within the socio-cultural milieu of 12 Korean elderly immigrants living in Calgary, Alberta. In-depth ethnographic interviews were conducted, and the qualitative data were analyzed to understand the immigrants' experiences of securing social support from their social networks. Social support is practiced within the personal boundaries of family, friends, and ethnic communities. Social support was constructed in the context of the social circumstance and the cultural uniqueness of the Korean elderly immigrants. Social support also creates active social involvement, and relieves financial insecurity and burden.

3. Building community in Halifax

Nanok Cha, Coordinator, Community Capacity Building, Immigrant Settlement and Integration Services (ISIS), Halifax, and Event Coordinator, Korean Association of Nova Scotia

Abstract. While there are advantages for new immigrants who migrate to smaller centres, such as a better natural environment and a lower cost of living, the challenges faced by immigrants in these areas often lead to relocation to bigger cities in Canada. This presentation will explore these challenges, and the efforts of the Korean community in Halifax to resolve difficulties and to support new and established immigrants in the process of settlement and integration. This presentation is based on the presenter's work with the local Korean Association in Halifax and contextualized through her work as a Community Capacity Building Coordinator for an immigrant settlement organization.

4. A provincial government's perspective on Korean immigrant settlement and integration in New Brunswick

Lizzie Cheng, Program Consultant, Settlement and Multiculturalism Branch, Population Growth Secretariat, Government of New Brunswick
Ashraf Ghanem, Settlement and Multiculturalism Branch, Population Growth Secretariat, Government of New Brunswick

Abstract. There has been a large influx of Korean immigrants to New Brunswick since 2005. After arrival, most immigrants start a business, look for other employment opportunities, and focus on their children's education. The response to this migration has been positive from the various stakeholders in the community, including provincial and municipal governments, immigrant-serving agencies, employers, service providers, and local Korean Associations, and this presentation shares some of the settlement practices and experiences of the New Brunswick Population Growth Secretariat within this broader institutional context.

5. Korean economic migrants in New Brunswick

Ann H. Kim, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, York University
Chedly Belkhdja, Professeur agrégé, Département de science politique, Université de Moncton

Abstract. South Korea is among the top three source countries of recent immigrants to Saint John, Moncton, Fredericton, Halifax and Charlottetown, and many Korean immigrants arrive in these Atlantic gateways through the Provincial Nominee Program, which is expected to expand. Using focus groups with Korean immigrants across three sites in New Brunswick, including Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton, this presentation discusses the experiences of (mostly) business class migrants and their interaction with local communities.