

research snapshot

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Does the Tendency of Immigrants to Settle in Big Canadian Cities and in Enclaves Within These Cities Help Their Integration Into Canadian Society?

What is this research about?

Immigration continues to fuel Canada's success. Most recent immigrants choose one of Canada's three largest cities, Toronto, Montreal, or Vancouver, as their new home. Many immigrants choose to settle in their own ethnic enclaves. While this has brought great diversity and prosperity to these cities, it has also created great challenges for both provincial and federal governments who would prefer a more balanced distribution of newcomers.

What did the researcher do?

The York researcher looked at the settlement patterns of immigrants in three of Canada's largest Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs): Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. He also reviewed literature which tries to answer why immigrants like to settle in and around Canada's biggest cities and often in enclaves within these cities.

What did the researcher find?

The researcher found that many new immigrants

What you need to know:

The number of immigrants arriving in Canada is bound to either stay the same or increase in the future. Expanding access to services for newcomers remains a big challenge for federal and provincial governments. This challenge has only increased in recent years as newcomers opt to live in concentrated ethnic enclaves. Many immigrants prefer ethnic enclaves because they enjoy greater links to family and community, get to speak their native language, and are able to access ethnically oriented businesses. A large amount of federal funding is needed to create settlement services outside of major Canadian cities in order to attract immigrants beyond their preferred ethnic enclaves. Greater co-ordination between all levels of government, employers, and Non Governmental Organizations is also needed to effectively attract and accommodate immigrants in smaller communities.

to Canada, especially in Toronto and Vancouver, prefer to settle in the suburbs. They do so because their ethnic groups already have established communities there. For example, in Toronto the existing Chinese community in suburban Markham has drawn many Chinese

immigrants. He also found that immigrants are willing to sacrifice the job opportunities and economic benefits of smaller Canadian cities for a sense of belonging and cultural identity that is found in the ethnic enclaves of bigger city suburbs.

How can you use this research?

Policymakers, planners, and community groups can use this research to better understand the challenges of integrating suburban ethnic enclaves into the broader Canadian society. Some of these challenges include providing public services, training, education, and employment, as well as encouraging civic participation. It is also important for government officials to further study and invest in the efforts of smaller Canadian communities to attract immigrants. This would result in a more proportional distribution of newcomers.

About the Researcher

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