

Perspectives on Integration from Western Canada |

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The presentation begins with an overview of the distinctive patterns of immigration and temporary migration to western Canada, and the landscape of settlement services that attempts to support newcomers. Next, the question of integration is explored, considering conceptual and practical elements of this process. The conceptualization of integration, in western Canada as elsewhere, depends upon perspective, and integration and is likely to be defined differently by government, service-providing organizations, and immigrants themselves. This also matters practically, since different conceptions of integration call for different ways of measuring integration. With the issues framed, the presentation turns to the issues of settlement and integration through data, primarily on Vancouver, but with some examples from Calgary and Edmonton. With an exploration of the experience of immigrants in labour and housing markets, the presentation will highlight the substantial differences in integration indicators across admission groups (i.e., refugees vs economic immigrants) and across origin groups. The extent to which these patterns are place-specific (i.e., to Vancouver vs. Calgary vs. Edmonton), will also be addressed.