

Perspectives on integration from western Canada

Daniel Hiebert
UBC

Ryerson Migration 2030 Conference
February, 2020

Agenda

- What is distinctive about migration to western Canada?
- How does this translate to the integration process?
- From the regional to the urban scale
- Closing thoughts

Migration to western Canada

- In recent years, western Canada has received approximately 40% of all permanent and 40% of all temporary residents to Canada
 - Similar in scale to Ontario
- The composition of economic immigrants settling in the western provinces is distinct
 - What does this mean?

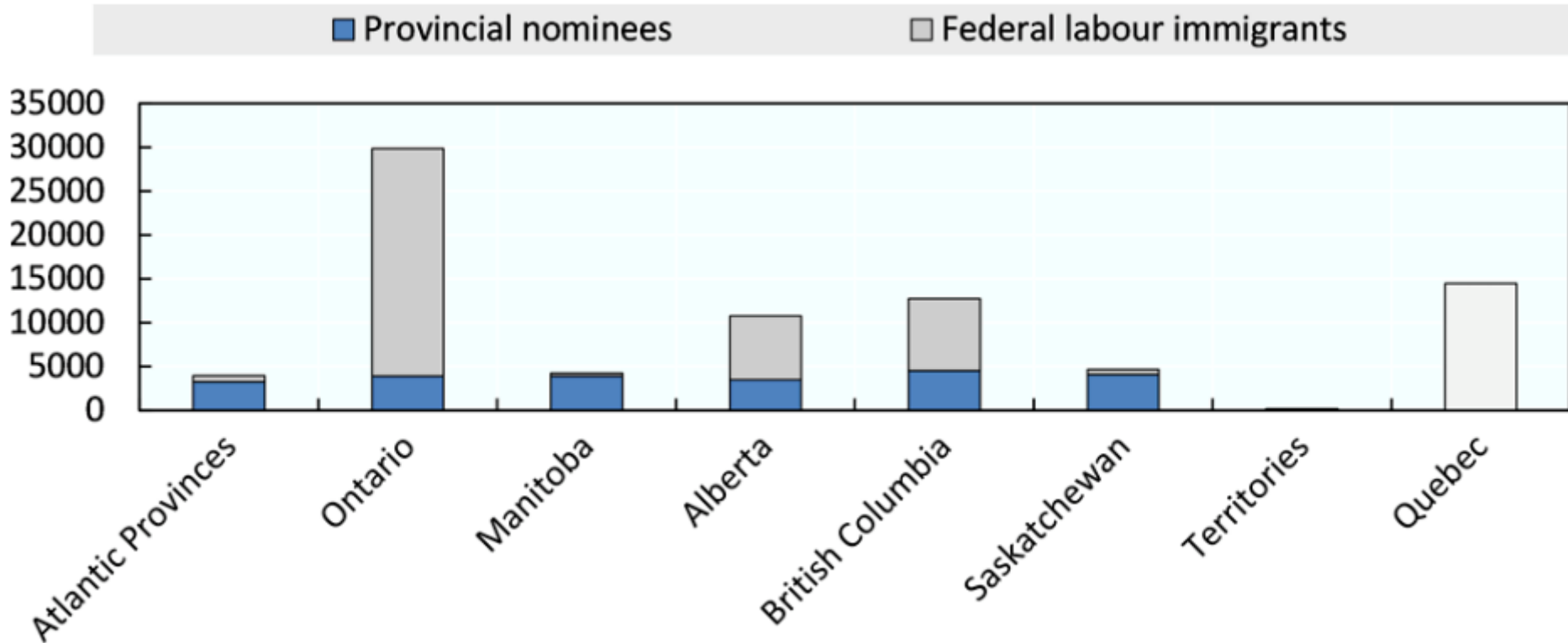
Immigrant population by admission class, western Canada vs. Ontario

Permanent Residents by Region and Admission Type, 2008-2017						
	Canada		Ontario		Western provinces	
	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct
Economic	1,605,529	60.3	538,019	50.8	665,891	66.4
Family	717,614	27.0	344,994	32.6	251,957	25.1
Refugee	301,095	11.3	154,978	14.6	77,534	7.7
Other	36,348	1.4	21,176	2.0	7,046	0.7
Total	2,660,586		1,059,167		1,002,428	

Source: Statistics Canada, table IRCC_FF_PR_2017_17_E

Western Canadian economic immigration is dominated by provincial nominee programs

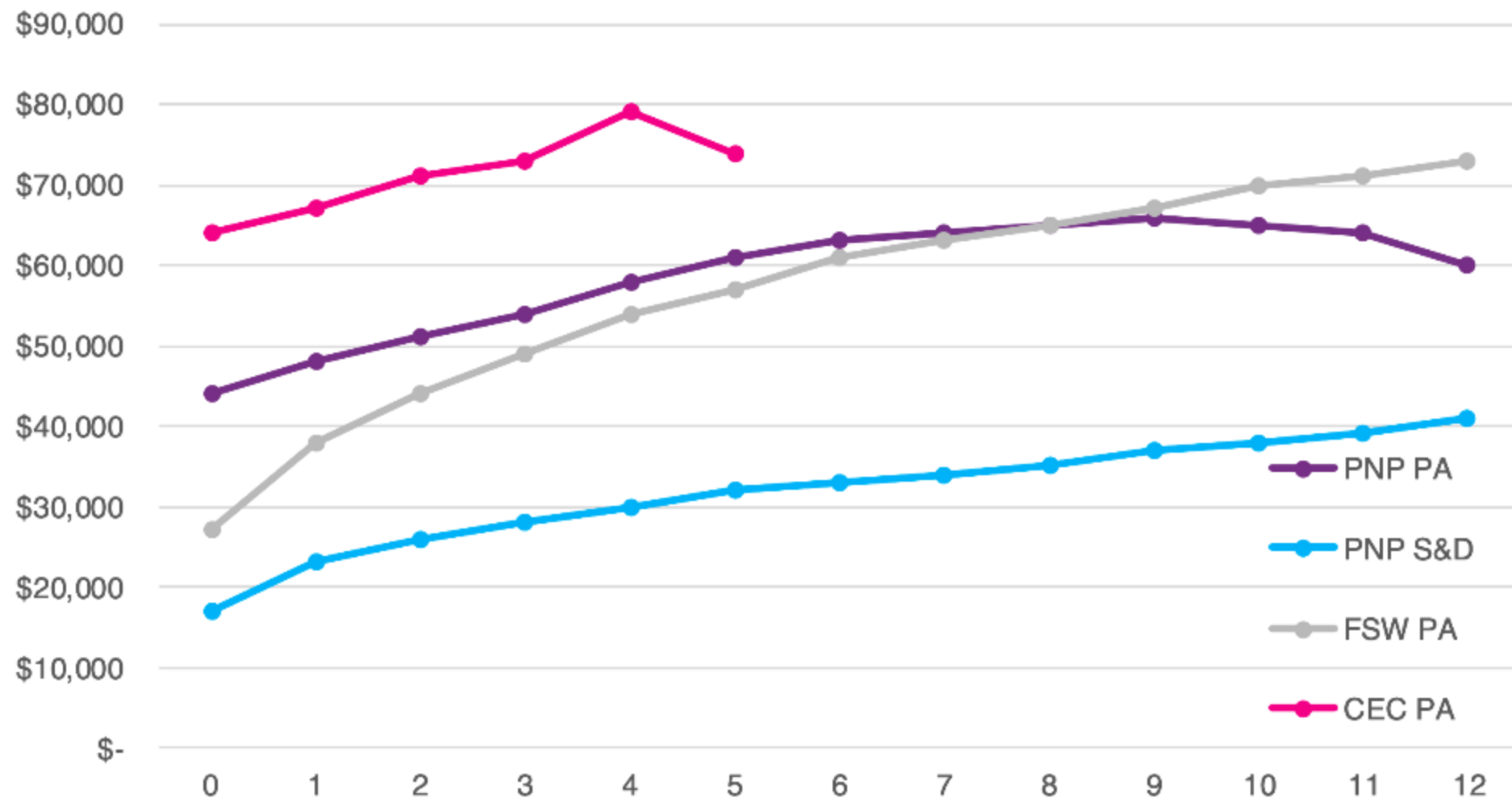
Figure 1.10. Labour immigrants by province and migration programme, 2017



Federal vs. provincial immigrant selection

- Provincial programs use a more stepwise logic
 - In 2015, 76% of PN immigrants had been in Canada as a temporary resident, vs. 17% for FSW immigrants
- Provinces place less priority on education
 - In western Canada in 2017, 52% of PN immigrants had completed a university degree, vs. 79% for FSW
- Most PN programs require a job offer
 - So a very high fraction report employment earnings immediately (over 90% across western provinces within the first year of landing)
- PN earnings are initially higher than FSW
 - But this changes over time

Figure 3: Average Employment Earnings by Years since Admission and Immigration Category, 2002 to 2014 Admissions



Source: IMDB 2014 – 2002-2014 admissions

And the credentialization issue isn't as prominent for PN immigrants

Table 11: Share of PN PAs Holding a Job Commensurate with Skill Level of Intended Occupation - At Time of the Survey

PT	Not commensurate	Commensurate
Atlantic	24.4%	75.6%
Ontario	22.6%	77.4%
Manitoba	40.7%	59.3%
Saskatchewan	21.2%	78.8%
Alberta	15.6%	84.4%
British Columbia	11.4%	88.6%
Territories	10.5%	89.5%
Total	22.7%	77.3%

Source: Survey of PNs

Why?

- A higher fraction have Canadian education
- Most have Canadian work experience
- Their education level is lower

Evaluation of the Provincial Nominee Program

Evaluation Division

Research and Evaluation

November 2017

All of this means...

- In Western Canada, we see an economic immigration program 'on steroids'
- The issues associated with economic integration are therefore different in western Canada
- However, integration is a complex process that includes several dimensions
 - Economic issues only represent a portion of the process
 - And reception is a crucial issue
- From the perspective of service providers, the challenges seem the same
 - Since only those needing support typically seek it

Integration support

- Outside Quebec, IRCC settlement and integration funding is allocated on a percapita basis
 - This means IRCC is spending \$315 million on settlement and integration support in western Canada in 2019-20 (compared with \$343 million in Ontario)
- Spending rules and contractual processes are essentially the same, with similar actors (SPOs)
 - But service utilization patterns are different

Immigrant Landings, by Category, vs. Settlement Service Utilization (3 year lag)

	Ontario			Western provinces		
	Immigrants 2012-16	Settlement service clients 2015-19	Client Services / immigrant	Immigrants 2012-16	Settlement service clients 2015-19	Client Services / immigrant
Total immigrants	512,023	1,745,800	3.4	528,391	1,283,860	2.4
Economic	249,868	691,160	2.8	348,772	664,365	1.9
Federal	235,295	595,440	2.5	166,882	342,250	2.1
Provincial	14,620	95,720	6.5	181,890	322,115	1.8
Family	171,697	456,085	2.7	131,277	286,690	2.2
Refugees	80,445	510,535	6.3	44,439	293,220	6.6
Other	10,013	88,015	8.8	3,903	30,075	7.7

Sources:

Immigration statistics: IRCC Facts & Figures 2016

Provincial Nominee national statistics: IRCC Annual Reports to Parliament

Estimated PN/Federal values for Ontario and Western Canada: IRCC Evaluation of the Provincial Nominee Program, 2017

Settlement Services: IRCC_M_SSC_0002_E

But should we really be thinking about western Canada as a region?

- Shifting our perspective to the urban scale is more appropriate
- Essentially, cities receive immigrants, and immigrants make cities
 - Especially in a time when the majority of Canada's population growth is associated with net migration

Canada, and western Canada, as two-speed societies

Immigration and population growth, Canada, 2011-16

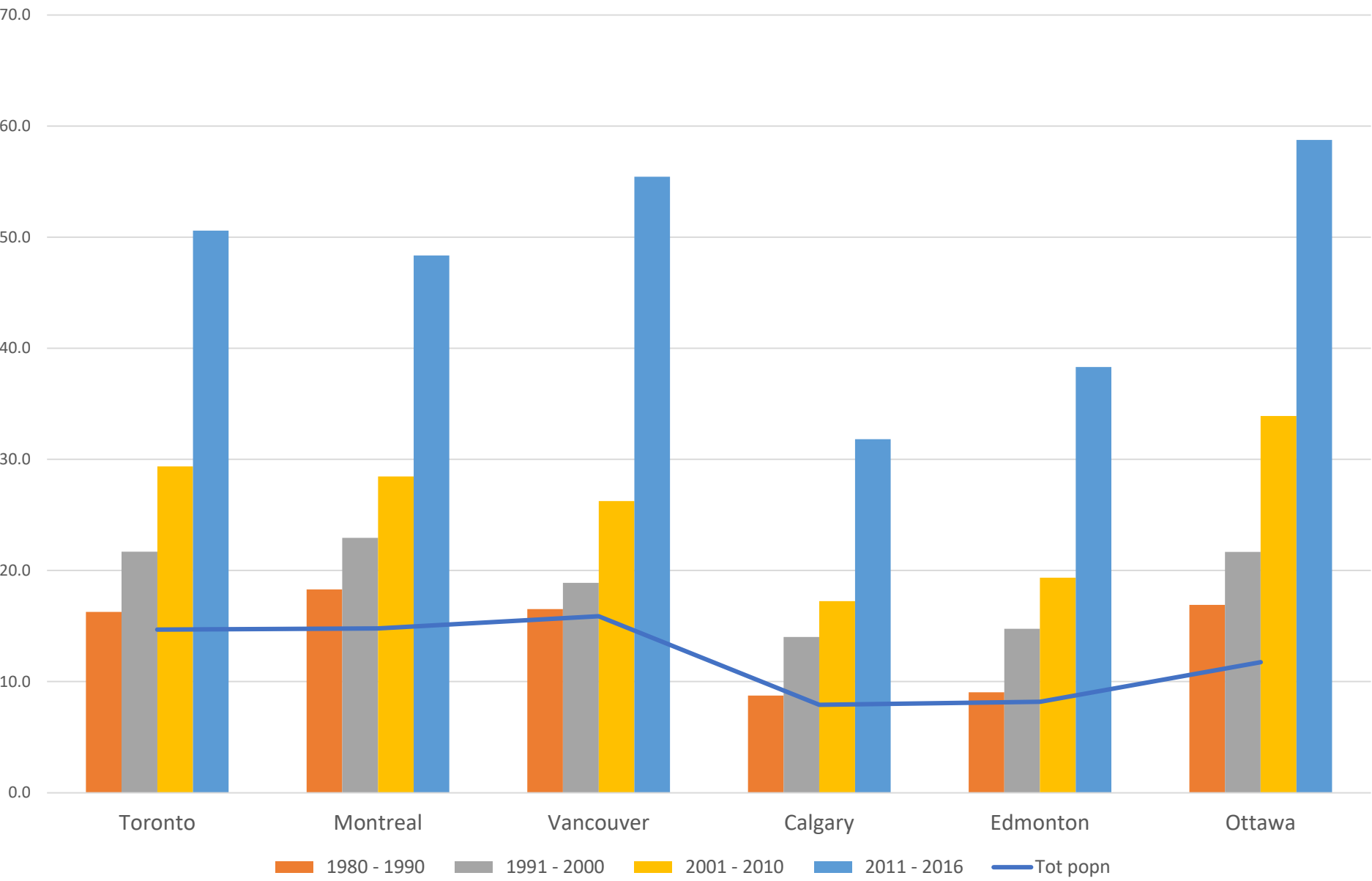
	Canada		Western Canada	
	Top 10 CMAs	Other	Top 10 CMAs	Other
Total population	54.3	45.7	67.7	32.3
Immigrant population	81.9	18.1	85.5	14.5
Recent Immigrants	81.2	18.8	85.2	14.8
Popn growth 2011-16	71.0	29.0	116.5	-16.5

Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census Profiles

A tool to investigate the dynamics of integration in Canadian cities

- www.superdiv-Canada.mmg.mpg.de
- Please visit!
- Next slide: a very brief glimpse of cities as 'integration machines'
 - Note the distinctiveness of Calgary and Edmonton

After-tax low income population (%), Refugees, by arrival cohort, 2016



Closing thoughts

- Given the scale and diversity of Canada, the dynamics of migration differ across regions
- Western Canada exemplifies Canada's effort to harness immigration as a force of economic growth
 - This opens important questions about the relationship between immigration profiles, service landscapes, and outcomes
- Across all the regions of Canada, settlement and integration happens in cities
 - Again, this opens questions about the urban scale and integration processes
- This has produced a 'two-speed' Canada
 - And this also opens important analytical and political questions



SESSION 3

Rethinking Settlement and Integration in Canada

Discussant: Manolli Ekra| Ontario Council of Agencies
Serving Immigrants (OCASI)

Audience Q&A