



Institute for
Research on
Public Policy

Institut de
recherche
en politiques
publiques

For immediate distribution – April 4, 2012

NEWS RELEASE

Make long-term approach to immigration a priority, study says

Montreal – The labour market outcomes of immigrants have deteriorated over the past three decades, as recent arrivals have experienced difficulty finding employment and their earnings have declined. To improve the labour market outcomes of new immigrants, policy-makers should not focus only on the near term, but balance the short and long-term outcomes of adult immigrants, and also consider the outcomes of their children, according to a new study from the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP).

“More recent policy changes, notably greater use of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, the Provincial Nominee Program and ministerial instructions, have shifted the focus toward the short term, responding especially to pressures to fill occupational and skills shortages,” say authors Garnett Picot and Arthur Sweetman.

The study, *Making It in Canada: Immigration Outcomes and Policies*, provides an extensive review and analysis of existing research and recent changes to immigration policy and programs.

The authors point to a number of factors that explain the decline in labour market outcomes of immigrants, including a shift in source countries, weak language skills and continuing problems with the recognition of foreign work experience.

However, they point out that, unlike the declining outcomes observed among adult immigrants, the children of immigrants generally have positive educational and economic outcomes. Canada is one of the world leaders in this regard.

Picot and Sweetman make a number of policy recommendations to address the ongoing challenges. They suggest maintaining a focus on highly skilled immigrants (including those from trades and with post-secondary degrees), selecting young immigrants, continuing to emphasize language skills, placing employer-sponsored immigration within the context of longer-term goals and reducing immigrant inflows during recessions.

Making It in Canada: Immigration Outcomes and Policies, by Garnett Picot and Arthur Sweetman, can be downloaded free of charge from the Institute's Web site (www.irpp.org).

-30-

For more details or to schedule an interview please contact the IRPP.

To receive our monthly bulletin [Thinking Ahead](#) via e-mail, please subscribe to the IRPP e-distribution service by visiting our Web site.

Media Contact: Nicola Johnston

Tel: 514-787-0737

Cell: 514-235-8308