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NEWS RELEASE

Second generation Canadians: A success story for most

Immigration policy about more than short-term labour market goals

Montreal – The majority of second generation Canadians are more educated and earn more than those with Canadian-born parents, according to a new study from the Institute for Research on Public Policy.

In the study, “Immigration in the Long Run: the Education and Earnings Mobility of Second Generation Canadians”, author Miles Corak found that Canada’s mobile society proves particularly beneficial for the children of immigrants.

However, the results vary by region of origin, with the largest intergenerational gains in earnings made by daughters whose parents were born in Asia and virtually no gains made by sons whose parents originated in the Caribbean or South America. “Above-average education combined with below-average earnings in one generation is replicated in the next generation for members of certain visible minority groups from particular countries and regions,” warns Corak.

Immigration policy needs to be considered from a longer-term, cross-generational perspective, rather than with regard just to labour market outcomes, concludes Corak.

“This perspective offers a different lens through which to view current developments to meet labour market shortages associated with, for example, the resources boom in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan,” says Corak. “Policy changes to increase the flow of less-educated workers – admitting only single men and women, or using temporary worker permits so that their families have even fewer rights and access to benefits – do not resonate with the longer-term cross-generational goal of integration.”

“Immigration in the Long Run: the Education and Earnings Mobility of Second Generation Canadians,” by Miles Corak can be downloaded free of charge from www.irpp.org.

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