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For immediate distribution – October 20, 2010

NEWS RELEASE

Manitoba attracts and retains immigrants with fast access to jobs

Provincial Nominee Program proves a good approach for smaller provinces

Montreal – Manitoba’s Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) has been successful in attracting and retaining immigrants, according to a new study published by the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP). The PNP is proving particularly useful for smaller provinces in addressing local labour shortages.

“Nominees entered the workforce rapidly and experienced low levels of unemployment in the following years,” write authors Tom Carter, Manish Pandey and James Townsend. “Close to 90 percent of those working had permanent jobs.”

The study, “Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program: Attraction, Integration and Retention of Immigrants,” provides an overview of various provinces’ use of the PNP. Under the program, immigrants seeking permanent residency apply directly to the relevant provincial government rather than through federal government channels.

According to the authors, Manitoba nominees had positive settlement and integration outcomes. They purchased homes, improved their language skills, developed social networks and felt established enough to support other family members’ immigration to Manitoba. Compared with federal economic class immigrants, nominees are more likely to stay in the province.

Nevertheless, recent immigrants – those who have been in Canada for 10 years or less – continue to have a higher incidence of poverty than native-born Manitobans, regardless of which program they entered under. However, poverty levels among nominees decreased steadily in the years after their arrival.

There are lessons from the Manitoba experience for other smaller provinces. In particular, the provincial government learned about local strengths for facilitating new immigrants’ integration, through consultation with immigrant communities.

“Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program: Attraction, Integration and Retention of Immigrants,” by Tom Carter, Manish Pandey and James Townsend, can be downloaded free of charge from the Institute’s Web site (www.irpp.org).

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