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NEWS RELEASE

Seniors' Migration a Local, Not National Phenomenon

Montreal – A new study from the Institute for Research on Public Policy suggests that the migration of seniors between communities and provinces is not significant and thus will not create major social and economic disparities across the federation as baby boomers retire.

In [*Where Will You Retire? Seniors' Migration within Canada and Implications for Policy*](#), authors Bruce Newbold, Director of the School of Geography and Earth Sciences at McMaster University, and IRPP Research Director Tyler Meredith, examine recent migration patterns among Canadian retirees and the impact these flows of people and income have had at both provincial and local levels.

"Although there is strong interest in relocation as Canadians begin to think about retirement, the evidence shows seniors are far less likely to move than younger, working-age Canadians," said Newbold.

Between 2001 and 2006, the latest census period for which data is available, only 5.2 percent of all seniors (age 60 and over) moved between communities, compared with 11.4 percent for working-age adults (20-59 years).

Notwithstanding this national picture, the authors note that a number of communities in British Columbia (e.g., Parksville and Penticton) and, to a lesser extent, Ontario (i.e., Barrie) are emerging as key "retirement destinations," where the in-migration of seniors is now an important factor driving population and income growth.

"Attracting ever-greater numbers of seniors is not necessarily a sustainable path to economic growth," cautions Meredith. "Communities need to carefully consider all of the implications before positioning themselves as retirement destinations."

As many of the demands for care, mobility and recreation will be met at the local level, population aging is a critically important issue for Canada's municipalities. The authors conclude that all communities need to start integrating the implications of aging into their planning, policy, and economic development processes.

[*Where Will You Retire? Seniors' Migration within Canada and Implications for Policy*](#) can be downloaded free of charge from the Institute's Web site (www.irpp.org).

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