



12. Immigration will remain strong

Population projections for Canada indicate that by 2026, there will be more people dying than will be born within Canada and thus our only source of population growth will be from international immigration. Thus, rural communities able to welcome other cultures are more likely to grow. In addition, within rural Canada, Aboriginal populations are growing and welcoming Aboriginal citizens is another potential source of demographic growth.

Implications: If your community is going to grow, your community will have a greater diversity in the types of people, their activities, and their values. There will be wider networks of connections with a more global distribution. There will be a greater need for new ways of communicating and supporting local norms and customs.

Strategies to consider:

- Use 'Welcome Wagons' and similar institutions to integrate newcomers.
- Organize cultural events (e.g. travel 'show and tell')
- Encourage wider travel and transfer of knowledge gained.
- Develop norms of exploration, support of diversity, and tolerance.
- Find ways to use the networks of different cultures to build economic opportunities for your community.

Questions to ask:

- What are the characteristics of recent immigrants to the community?
- How are their interests best served?
- What techniques of integration have been used by other communities? Which ones work well? Which ones don't?
- Which types of people and cultures are most attracted to your community? How can they be encouraged and supported?