



Looking *West*
2004

AB FACT SHEET

Immigration

May 2004

The Looking West 2004 policy priorities data demonstrate that Albertans do not see immigration as key to the future of their province: less than one in ten (8.3%) Albertans feels that attracting more immigrants is a high priority for long-term provincial prosperity and quality of life, while one-third (35.1%) feels it is a medium priority. The majority feels immigration is either a low priority (45.4%) or not a priority (10.3%).

Yet despite this, Albertans do view their communities as being welcoming environments. Looking West 2004 respondents were asked, "How welcoming would you say your local community is to new immigrants? Very welcoming; somewhat welcoming; not very welcoming; not at all welcoming." Almost nine in ten (87.2%) Albertans state that their community is either very welcoming (39.2%) or somewhat welcoming (48.0%). Less than one in ten (9.0%) states that their community is not very welcoming (7.7%) or not at all welcoming (1.3%). Responses are consistent among respondents born in or born outside Canada, suggesting that Albertans' perceptions of their communities are accurate. Responses are relatively consistent across urban sizes and communities, although respondents from Edmonton (40.0%) and medium sized Alberta communities (41.4%) are slightly more likely than respondents from Calgary (37.2%) and rural areas (39.0%) to rate their community as very welcoming to new immigrants.



This summary was authored by CWF Director of Research Loleen Berdahl, and is part of the Canada West Foundation's Building the New West Project. The Kahanoff Foundation, Western Diversification, the Privy Council Office, the Government of Saskatchewan, and Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations provided funding support for this research study. The opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Canada West Foundation's donors, subscribers or Board.

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