



Looking *West*
2004

BC FACT SHEET

Immigration

May 2004

The Looking West 2004 policy priorities data demonstrate that British Columbians do not see immigration as key to the future of their province: less than one in ten (8.5%) feels that attracting more immigrants is a high priority for long-term provincial prosperity and quality of life, while one-third (31.4%) feels it is a medium priority. The majority feels immigration is either a low priority (43.1%) or not a priority (16.2%).

Yet despite this, British Columbians 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 (87.9%) British Columbians state that their community is either very welcoming (42.9%) or somewhat welcoming (45.0%). Less than one in ten (8.7%) states that their community is not very welcoming (6.7%) or not at all welcoming (2.0%). Responses are relatively consistent among respondents born in or born outside Canada, suggesting that British Columbians' perceptions of their communities are accurate. Variations are seen by community, with Vancouver area respondents (51.2%) being most likely to state that their community is very welcoming.



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