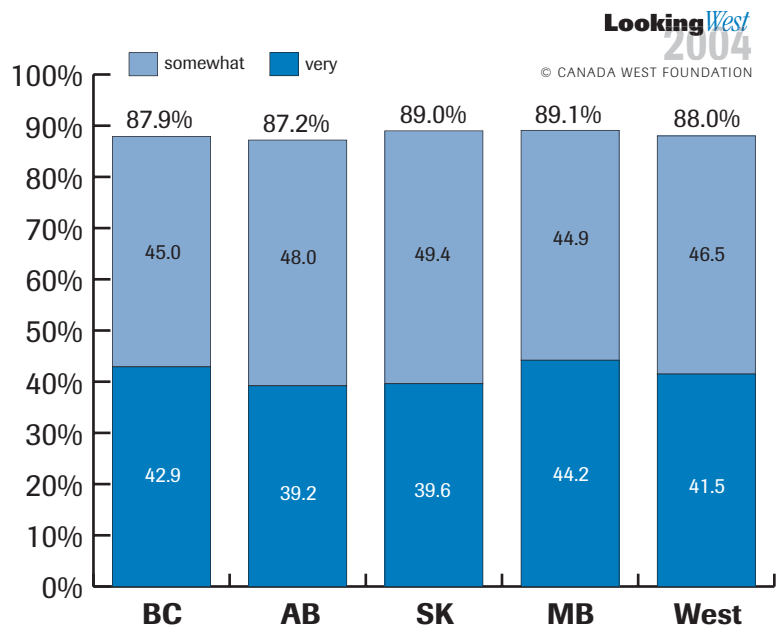


Immigration

The Looking West 2004 policy priorities data demonstrate that western Canadians do not see immigration as key to the future of their provinces: only one in ten (10.4%) westerners feels that attracting more immigrants is a high priority for long-term provincial prosperity and quality of life, while one-third (34.8%) feels it is a medium priority. The majority feels immigration is either a low priority (41.2%) or not a priority (12.7%).

Yet despite this, westerners 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 westerners state that their community is either very welcoming (41.5%) or somewhat welcoming (46.5%). Less than one in ten states that their community is not very welcoming (6.8%) or not at all welcoming (1.6%). Responses are relatively consistent across the four western provinces, and across urban sizes. Responses are also consistent among respondents born in or born outside Canada, suggesting that westerners' perceptions of their communities is accurate.

Figure 1:
Community Welcoming to New Immigrants, 2004



How welcoming would you say your local community is to new immigrants? Very welcoming; somewhat welcoming; not very welcoming; not at all welcoming.



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