

## Looking West

## SK FACT SHEET

## **Immigration**

May 2004

The Looking West 2004 policy priorities data demonstrate that Saskatchewan respondents do not see immigration as key to the future of their province: less than two in ten (17.1%) Saskatchewan respondents feel that attracting more immigrants is a high priority for long-term provincial prosperity and quality of life, while almost four in ten (37.8%) feel it is a medium priority. Over four in ten feel immigration is either a low priority (33.6%) or not a priority (10.6%).

Yet despite this, Saskatchewan respondents 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 (89.0%) Saskatchewan respondents state that their community is either very welcoming (39.6%) or somewhat welcoming (49.4%). Less than one in ten (7.7%) states that their community is not very welcoming (5.9%) or not at all welcoming (1.8%). Variations are seen with community size, with the majority (51.0%) of respondents from medium sized cities stating their community is very welcoming. Respondents from Saskatoon (41.0%) are slightly more likely than respondents from Regina (37.3%) and rural Saskatchewan (36.5%) 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.