Role of government policy in immigrant settlement and integration

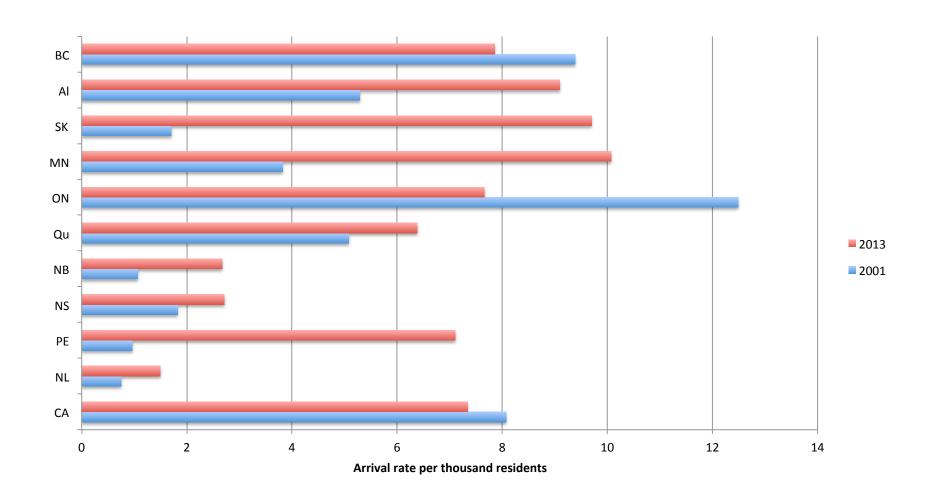
Ather H. Akbari Saint Mary's University

And

Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity

Presentation at 16th National Metropolis Conference, Gatineau Quebec, March 2014 (Workshop # C9)

Immigrant arrival rates, Canada and Provinces, 2001 and 2013



Settlement Funding Allocations

Provinces and Territories	2011-12	2012–13
	Net Allocation	Net Allocation
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$2,223,039	\$2,512,975
Prince Edward Island	\$3,946,142	\$5,218,024
Nova Scotia	\$7,012,146	\$7,078,944
New Brunswick	\$5,179,369	\$5,664,069
Ontario	\$346,521,868	\$314,950,874
Manitoba	\$32,027,618	\$36,539,512
Saskatchewan	\$14,255,519	\$17,995,061
Alberta	\$64,071,989	\$74,978,539
British Columbia	\$105,558,092	\$109,813,233
Northwest Territories	\$672,976	\$723,998
Nunavut	\$463,377	\$469,800
Yukon	\$709,534	\$932,632
Total	\$582,641,669	\$576,877,662
Innovations Fund managed by CIC NHQ (*)	\$16,028,557	\$15,850,289

Key to settlement of new arrivals in smaller areas

- Successful immigrant settlement requires dissemination of information
 - for immigrants
 - for local communities

Government versus private sector in immigrant settlement

- Can private sector play the role of information provider?
 - Information is a public good (free rider problem)
 - Market failure in providing adequate amount of information
- Need for government intervention

How government can facilitate dissemination of information?

- Act as information provider
 - May be inefficient
- Delegate this responsibility to specialized organizations