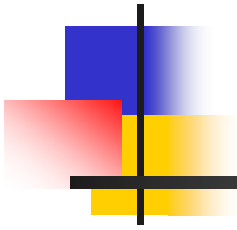


Our Mission:

Making Immigration More Possible



Altona - Community



Productive and prosperous agricultural region



Altona - Business



Altona - Growth



Altona “Immigration”

A Recent History

- In the early 2000's the Altona Community Development Corporation began talks with local businesses to determine their needs.
- The majority of businesses were finding it difficult to find and retain skilled labour.
- To assess how to fill this need the Altona Community Development Corporation held a strategic planning session.



Regional Impact

- After reviewing our employment numbers we realized this “gap” in labour supply would have a major impact in our region.
- Within 10 years employers would not be able to fill their current requirements without immigration.



Initial Steps

- Meetings were held with Star 7 Immigration Consultants together with members of the Manitoba Nominee Immigration Program.
- Working with both parties assisted in making many of the transitions into recruiting and relocating new employees easier.
- Immigration was seen as an economic enabler and would have impact on the region, affecting the expansion and recruitment of new business.



Coordinated Approach

- A decision point was reached.
- If immigration was going to be a key element of our region's continuing growth, a *coordinated approach* was needed to ensure its success.
- The Altona Community Development Corporation sponsored the establishment of an Immigration Coordinating Committee



What to consider?

- What would be the mandate of an Immigration Coordinating Committee?
- What type of immigrant suits the community?
- When they arrive, where will they live?
- Will language be a factor?
- Will their skills match our labour requirements?
- Education?
- Health Care?



Forming an Immigration Coordinating Committee

- Letters were sent to others requesting their participation in developing an Immigration plan.
 - RM of Rhineland
 - Town of Altona
 - Town of Gretna
 - Altona & District Chamber of Commerce
 - Rhineland Ministerial
 - Border Land School Division
 - Regional Health Authority
 - Local business representatives



Today's Immigration Coordinating Committee

- RM of Rhineland (Reeve and Councillor)
- Town of Altona (Mayor, Chief of Police and CAO)
- Altona Community Development Corp (Chair – also Town Councillor)
- Town of Gretna (Councillor)
- Rhineland Ministerial
- Regional Health Authority
- Border Land School Division (Superintendent)
- Two - Human Resources Officers representing local businesses
- Altona & District Chamber of Commerce (Manager)
- Host Family Coordinator
- Central Regional Health Authority – Area Leader
- South Central Settlement Services Program Coordinator
- Representative from the Altona Refugee Network



Community Involvement

- The Altona Immigration Coordinating Committee depends on community support.
- The Host Family coordinator matches up Host families (local volunteers) with new families.
- The host families help “newcomers” settle and become part of the community.

Community Involvement

- The
"We
nev
- Thi
nev
- " *W*
nev
- The
em
can



S
o all
vees



Transitional Period

- Many of the newcomers have no place to live upon arrival.
- Newcomer's containers, with all their belongings, don't arrive for at least six weeks after they arrive.
- The Altona Community Development Corporation felt it was essential these people had a home to come to.
- The Development Corporation purchased a two unit rental home which is fully furnished.
- This home assists newcomers to find short-term accommodations until they are able to find something that fits their needs.

Transitional Period





Impact of Immigration

- When becoming a truly multi-cultural community, many new challenges arrive.
- Altona is starting to feel some of the social impacts of immigration, in areas such as;
 - Education
 - Health Care
 - Policing
 - Social
 - Employment



Impact on Education

- This year the Border Land School Division has begun to feel more impact and has initiated a number of new programs to accommodate all levels of newcomers.
- Students are able to work within this system to accomplish their educational goals without feeling as an outsider or treated as less educated.



Impact on Education

- With students coming from different countries, equal education becomes a challenge.
- There are at least four different levels of assistance required. Most of the issues appear in the high grades.
- It is amazing to watch the younger generation pick up a second language so quickly.



Multi-cultural conflicts

- At present, we have had only a few cultural conflicts reported.
- Social and ethnic beliefs begin to play a big part in schools and after school activities.
- Larger urban centres are beginning to feel the impact as new gangs are becoming a reality.
- The community is closely monitoring this situation with the assistance of our Police Service, local churches and area schools.



Policing

- The Altona Police Service have held several informational seminars with the newcomers, to ensure they comfortable knowing they have a place to go when needed.
- The Police department is also working closely with the School Division to resolve issues as they may arise.



Social Impact

- Many of our newcomers are looking for small family farms.
- This year, as part of our program, the Immigration Committee will be holding a planning session aimed at finding ways to accommodate this need.
- Another challenge is to encourage integration, not segregation.



Employment

- A number of businesses in Altona work directly with immigration.
- One local company sent their Human Resources Officer directly overseas to recruit employees. This has been reported to have worked very well.
- Job fairs are held in foreign countries at which employers have the opportunity to interview prospective employees before they arrive in Canada.



How to Immigrate

- There are a variety of permits available for those interested in immigrating to Canada:
 - Work permits
 - Visitors permits
 - Permanent status
 - Employer directed
 - Sponsorship by family members that are already here



Settlement Services

- The South Central Settlement Employment Services are a vital part of making our area's immigration successful.
- They provide many essential services to newcomers, such as assisting in;
 - filling out health care applications
 - applying for social insurance numbers, etc.
 - making connections with services such as banking, the law, education and housing.



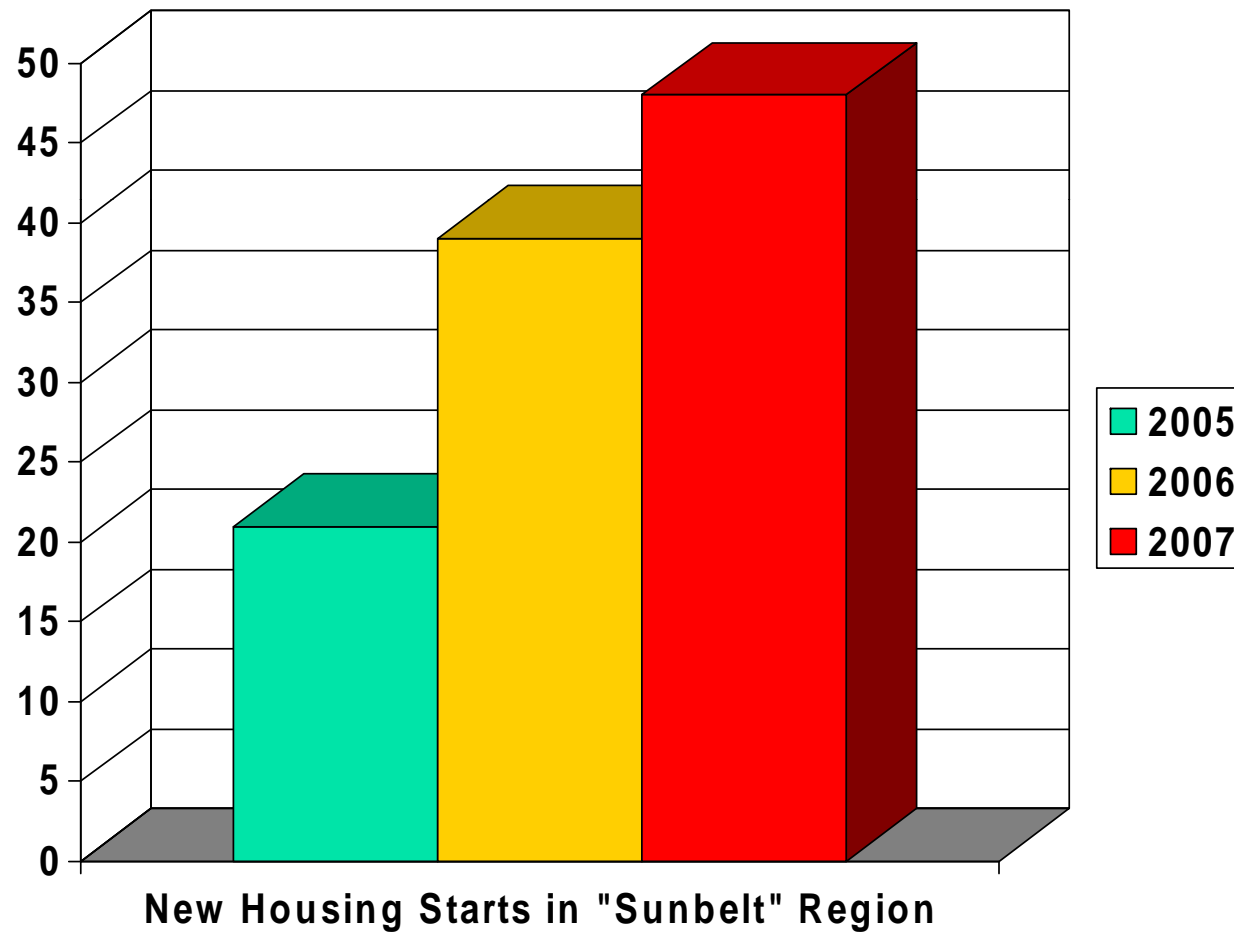
Housing

- Many of the new immigrants wish to live in rental property until they have established full time work and feel that the community suits their needs.
- Rental properties are not readily available in the region.
- At present, the Altona Community Development Corporation is working with developers to encourage construction of new housing to meet local demand.

Residential Growth

"Sunbelt" Region

includes Altona and surrounding R.M. of Rhineland





Retention

- One of the biggest lessons we've learned...
there are no guarantees immigrants will stay.
- Newcomers sometimes use the immigration process to get into Canada and then move out of Manitoba and into other provinces.
- This simply has to be accepted and incorporated as part of the overall plan.



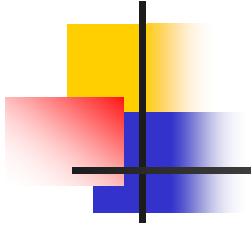
Recent Immigration Statistics

- New families since 2004 = **50**
- Rate of retention = **90%**
- Estimated economic value **\$ 3.6 M** since 2004 (direct value to the region)



Conclusion

- We promote a proactive approach to immigration and firmly believe that a *Immigration Coordinating Committee* can make a difference.
- We will have new challenges ahead;
 - Retention of those already here...
 - Preparing for those that are coming...
 - And being mindful and attentive to those who have made Altona what it is today!



Questions