Immigration and the population of Canada: The 2000-2010 decade in historical context

Roderic Beaujot & Muhammad Munib Raza
Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario

Since the early 1900s, Canada attracted a larger share of immigrants coming to the Americas: US was 14.3 times the size of Canada in 1900, compared to 9.0 times in 1990.

At age 45-64, the average total income of the 1995-1999 Immigration cohort represents 66% of that of the Canadian born at the same ages.

At ages 25-64, compared to the Canadian born, 1995-2004 Immigration cohorts have more education but are less likely to be employed.

Immigration and population: growth, distribution and age structure
1901-2011 net migration accounted for 32% of population growth.
Significant impact on population distribution, to advantage of West, then Ontario and British Columbia. The immigration of the period 1951-2001 made the population younger only by 0.8 years.

Socio-cultural and socio-economic impact of immigration
By continents of origin, the arrivals of 1946-61 were 97.5% from Europe, US or Australia, but by 2001-06 the majority were from Asia (60.5%), with 19.8% from Europe, US or Oceania.

Discussion
In hindsight, it would appear that the post-war immigrants of 1946-61 benefited not only from the growing economy in which they arrived, but also from a previous period where immigration levels were low.

Benoit Laplante: There is a growing concern that the current level of immigration cannot be sustained if the economic integration of immigrants remains an objective...