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Building Community Capacity: Linking the Economic Benefits of Immigration and Entrepreneurship

Peter Donahue

Associate Director, International Student Support, Laurier International
Wilfrid Laurier University

Chair, Region of Waterloo, Local Immigration Partnership,



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Presentation Outline

- Economic Development Plans to attracting Economic Immigrants to our communities
- The Need for Change in Settlement/Immigration Services
- The Failure to see International Students as an Economic Resource
- How to Enable Immigration to Benefit our Communities

Economic Development Plans to attract Economic Immigrants to our communities

Economic Growth = Immigration

- A New Direction: Ontario's Immigration Strategy (circa 2012)
- Region of Waterloo: Economic Development Strategy 2015-2018
- Now or Never: An Urgent Call to Action for Nova Scotians
- Raise the proportion of economic immigrants to 70% from 52%
- Increase the Region's population from 500,000+ to 700,000+
- Economic doomsday forecast for the Province

The Need for Change in Settlement/Immigration Services

Impacted by Immigration Policies

- Skilled Worker program vs family reunification
- The For-Profit Settlement Service Provides and Training Institutes
- Finding an active role in Immigrant Recruitment
- Changing needs of Immigrants
- The Business of Settlement
- The importance of Social Entrepreneurism

The Failure to see International Students as an Economic Resource

The Brain Drain vs the Brain Train

- 200 international students in Brantford
- 10,000 international students in the Waterloo region
- Assume International Students want to stay in Canada
- Out of touch with services international students need
- Failure to recognize the resources of the international students
- \$7 Million annually
- \$350 Million annually
- Competition from emerging markets and opportunities in their home countries
- Restricting international students access to services and opportunities in our communities
- Connections of International Students

How to Enable Immigration to Benefit our Communities

- Bring the Settlement/Immigrant support service providers and the Economic Development Agencies together
- Skilled Workers vs Family Reunification
- Take advantage of the International Students and their resources
- A deeper understanding of the “Business of Settlement”
- Global Competition vs Local Community Connections
- Provide them with the services and support



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