

WPO program in 2004 to assist our members in understanding the nature of the flow of immigrants, their issues but also how they are coping and contributing to our society and economy. An objective of the event is to encourage our business members to be more open and supportive of immigration.

WPO IMMIGRATION PROGRAM

JUNE 17, 2004

OUTLINE OF PROGRAM IN DETAIL

Prepare map of CMU showing the north campus, the building, parking etc. We should use the large east entry. Parking should be permitted on the traffic circle on the east side plus adjacent parking to the north. Signage should be in place to indicate parking and the right entry.

2:30 – 3:15 Immigrants who will be participating meet in advance to plan details of presentation.

3:00 – 3:50 Tour of campus for early arrivals available.
(To be organized by David Leis of CMU)

3:00 – 3:50 Arrival, registration – name tags
(Bonnie Wenaus)

- Immigration procedure – test all persons for eligibility for immigration against a set of criteria. We will measure admissibility of the senior family who first arrived in Canada.
- Art DeFehr to develop criteria
- Bonnie and to apply test as part of registration
- Develop badges for persons to wear. The following three badges need to be prepared. Should be about 2.5 – 3 inches round with large and bold print. The badges should be worn for the balance of the event including dinner. This becomes a basis for personal discussion of 'how we got here'.

- 1) Accepted
- 2) Nominee
- 3) Rejected

The purpose is to demonstrate that the current kind of immigration criteria would have excluded the families of many WPO members and to also show that the nominee category is a bridge that allows candidates with 'potential' to make it into Canada.

3:00 – 3:50 Reception in the entry hall at east end of building. Registration table and refreshments. Suggest we limit to soft drinks and bottled water. Get clearance from CMU that we can serve refreshments in that location.

3:50 Start of program in the chapel.

Stage should be set with a lectern on one side for presentations with a microphone.

Balance of stage should have up to 7 chairs and a high quality roving microphone.

Art DeFehr will act as MC for the afternoon.

Part I UNDERSTANDING IMMIGRATION

40 minutes maximum

Presentations to understand the nature, magnitude and rules of the current immigration system and how it applies to Manitoba.

1. Art DeFehr

- Introduction to the afternoon

2. Gerry Clement – Province of Manitoba

- 10-12 minute presentation about the history of immigration to Manitoba including data for at least the last 10-15 years or more and to break down by flows to show the impact of the Nominee program in recent years. The sources of immigration by country should be clearly shown and how they have changed. There should be a clear explanation of how the Provincial Nominee program works and future goals. Problems and issues should be mentioned.

3. John Nycek – Government of Canada

- 6-8 minute presentation that shows the national program and its results and goals as a backdrop to the provincial program. Explain the differences in goals and criteria of the provincial and national program,

why the federal Government supports the provincial program, any special programs such as students etc. The audience should understand the national program and appreciate the differences, especially the nominee program.

4. Adele Dyck – Immigration Consultant

- 5–7 minute presentation to explain what the agent does to promote Manitoba, the results for rural Manitoba in particular, why immigrants come, the key issues the immigrant faces and the issues faced by promoters like Adele.

A short question period for clarification

Part II WHO ARE THE IMMIGRANTS?

(This group should arrive at CMU around 2:30 and we should meet together in the chapel to discuss what each person will present so we get a rounded story)
Target one hour

This is the core part of the program. The idea is to understand the following:

- Characterize the different kind of flows and origins by hearing and meeting real people who represent these origins. The different aspects that will attempt to be shown in a kaleidoscope form will include the following:
 1. Geography: Presenters will be from South Africa, Black Africa, Germany, Soviet Union, South America, Asia.
 2. Ethnicity: White South African, Black African, Mennonite, German, Jewish, Asian
 3. Immigrant categories: Professional, skilled, nominee, refugee

Immigrant presenters: Each of these persons needs to be confirmed as to their availability and presence. We will invite them as couples.

Argentina: Gustavo Rymberg

Germany: Viktor Schaefer

South Africa: Johann and Lizzette DeVries

Congo: Delphin Mutaka

Asia: Do not yet have a candidate – should ask Clement's office for a good name – should be someone who came on the nominee program from Asia and that has an appropriate story.

Possibly should look for one more person. Could consider Wen Mei from Palliser as a Chinese student who stayed after her degree.

Bonnie - Try to finalize each of these people.

Each person will be introduced and asked to explain in a very short presentation who they are, their origins, why they chose Canada

Art will then use a question and answer format to draw out the differences in their stories and experiences here in Canada to highlight a number of issues that we face as a Province and that the immigrant faces on a more individual basis.

Part III DIALOGUE WITH THE AUDIENCE

30 minutes

Art DeFehr will moderate

The immigrants, the earlier Government presenters and possibly one or more additional experts (Jim Carr etc.) will all be on the stage. Dialogue can then take place between those on the stage and between the audience.

The goal will be to capture the sentiment of the audience in terms of how they feel about greatly increased immigration to Manitoba, personal examples from their families or places of work etc. A good outcome would be a strong endorsement by a business group to those in Government and an increased awareness of why immigration to Manitoba must be strategic to be successful.

6:00 END PROGRAM

Give instructions to the dinner venue – Green Gates.

6:00 – 7:00 Outdoor reception at Green Gates

7:00 – 9:15 Dinner

The guests from the afternoon will all be asked to stay with us for dinner.

Seating: One of the immigrants or experts will be seated with a name card at each table to permit some follow up discussion during the dinner. Bonnie to arrange. The balance of seating will take place in the usual WPO manner with selection of table numbers. Leona to handle this.

Immigration registration: Some people may only come for dinner. The registration for badges should also take place at Green Gates. A badge should be a requirement to enter the dinner area – the badges should be worn.

The dinner menu will focus on Canada rather than attempt to reflect the various ethnicities. “We are all Canadians now”

Gary Doer: We have a tentative commitment for Premier Doer to speak to us some time during the dinner on the subject:

“Why Immigration Matters to Manitoba”