The Potential of Regional Immigration Policies

Presented by:

Art DeFehr

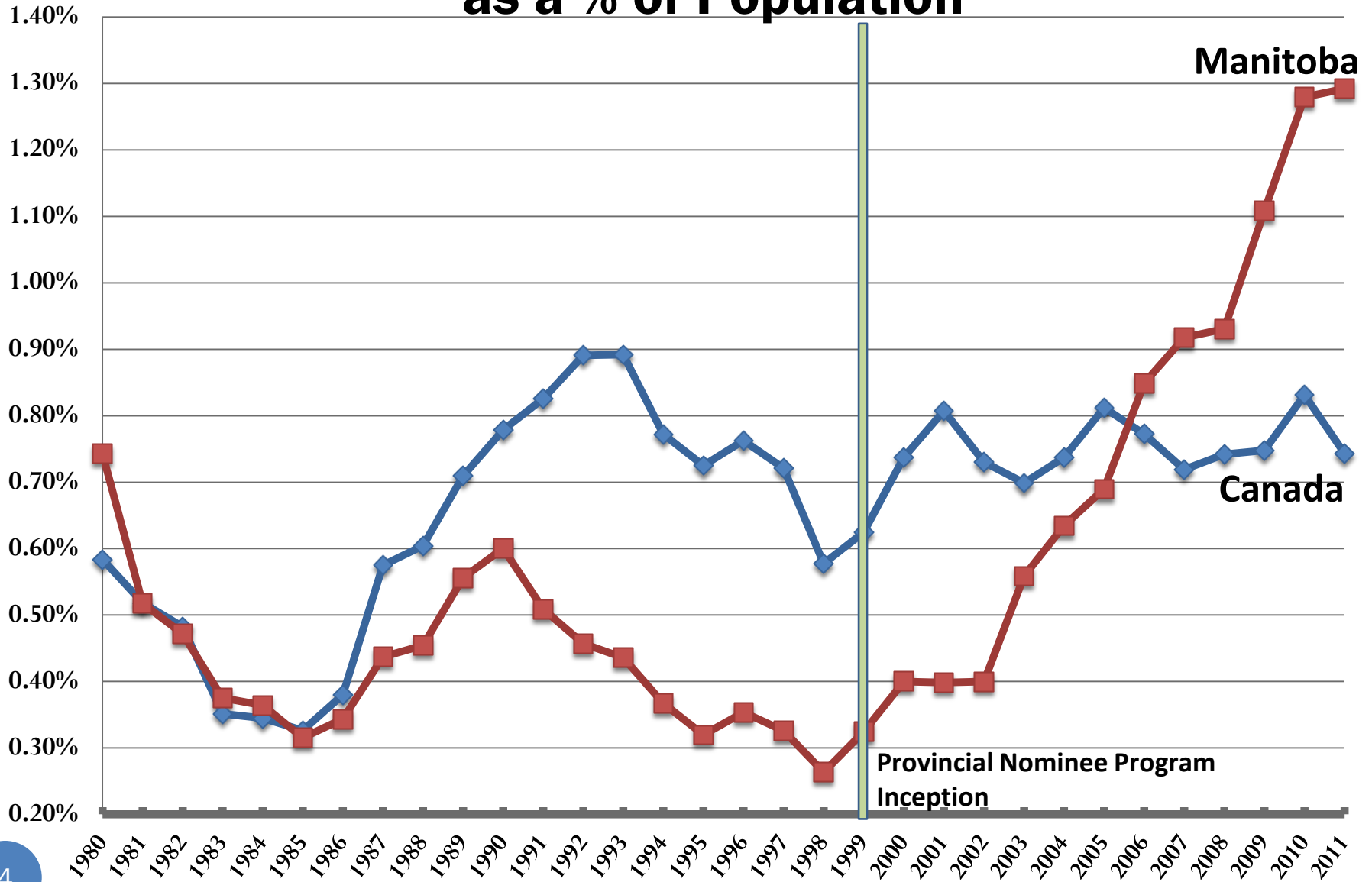August 15 and 16, 2012
Palmer Conference
Charlottetown, PEI

The Manitoba Immigration Story – Outcomes and Lessons

- Population Policy – response to economic and demographic stagnation
- Federal System did not work for Manitoba
- Focus on "likely to succeed" rather than only jobs
- Build community rather than "plug employment holes"
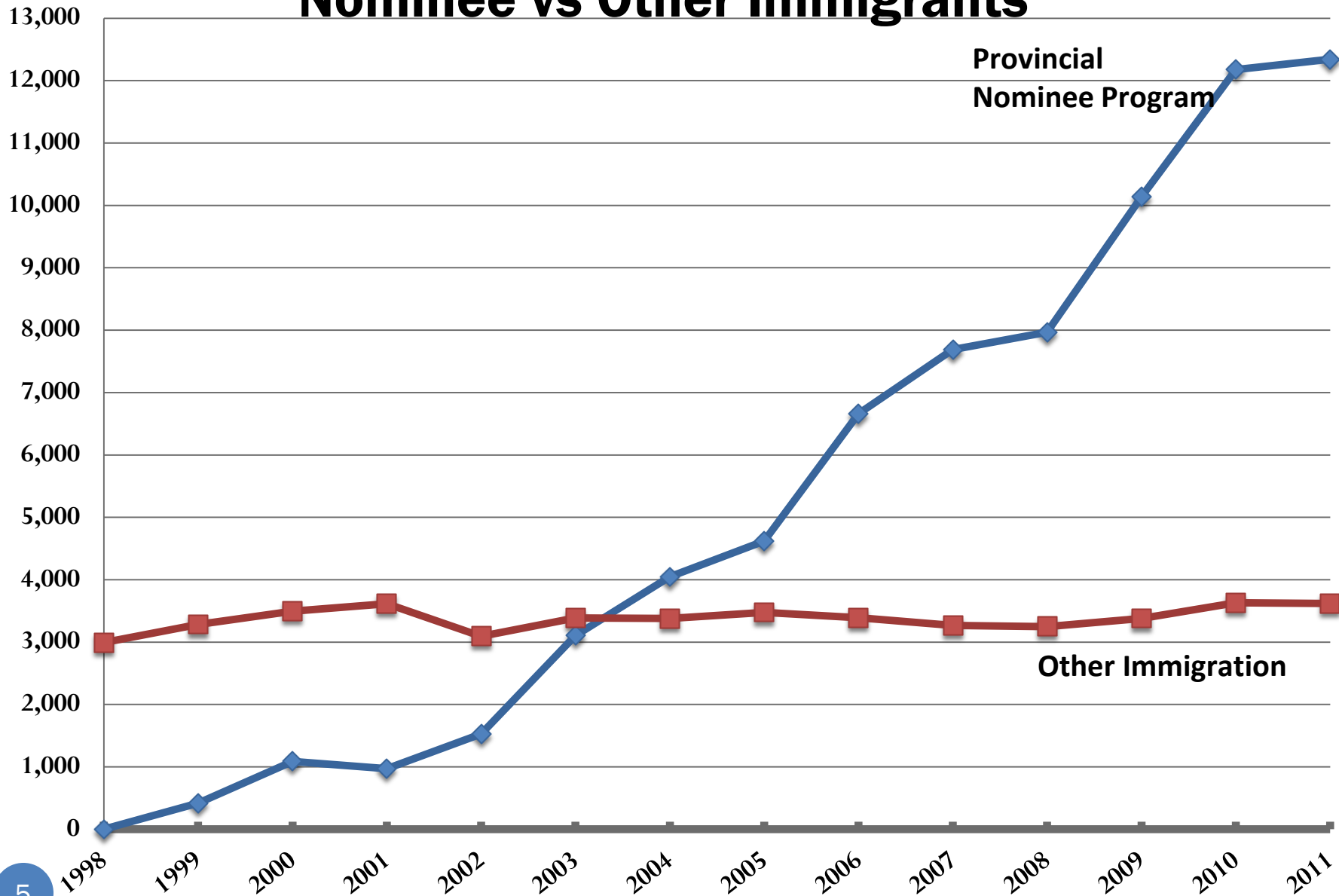- Private sector played important role

Canada/Manitoba Immigration as a % of Population to 1999

Canada

Manitoba

Provincial Nominee Program Inception

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5/30/2013
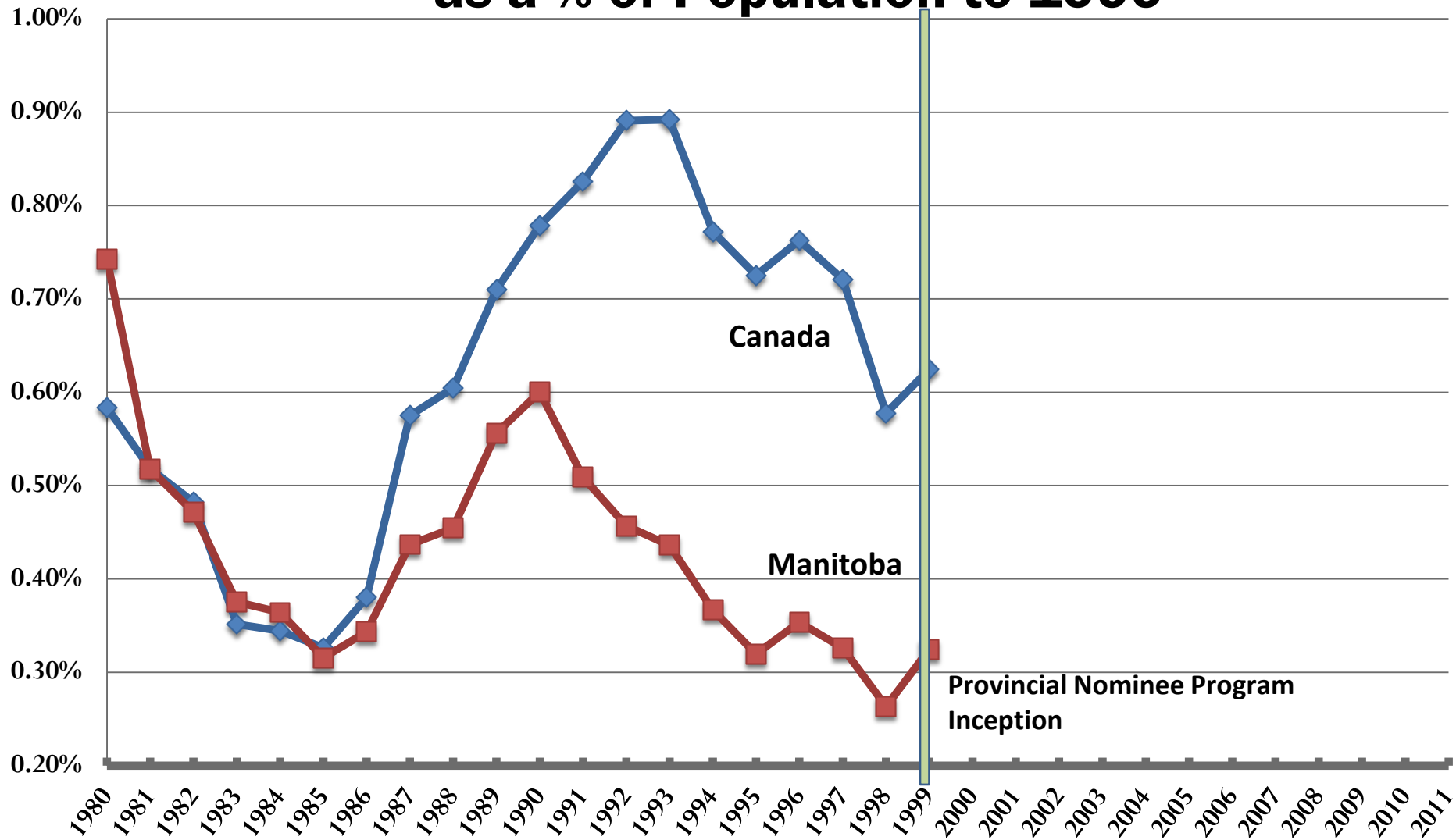
Canada/Manitoba Immigration as a % of Population

Manitoba

Canada

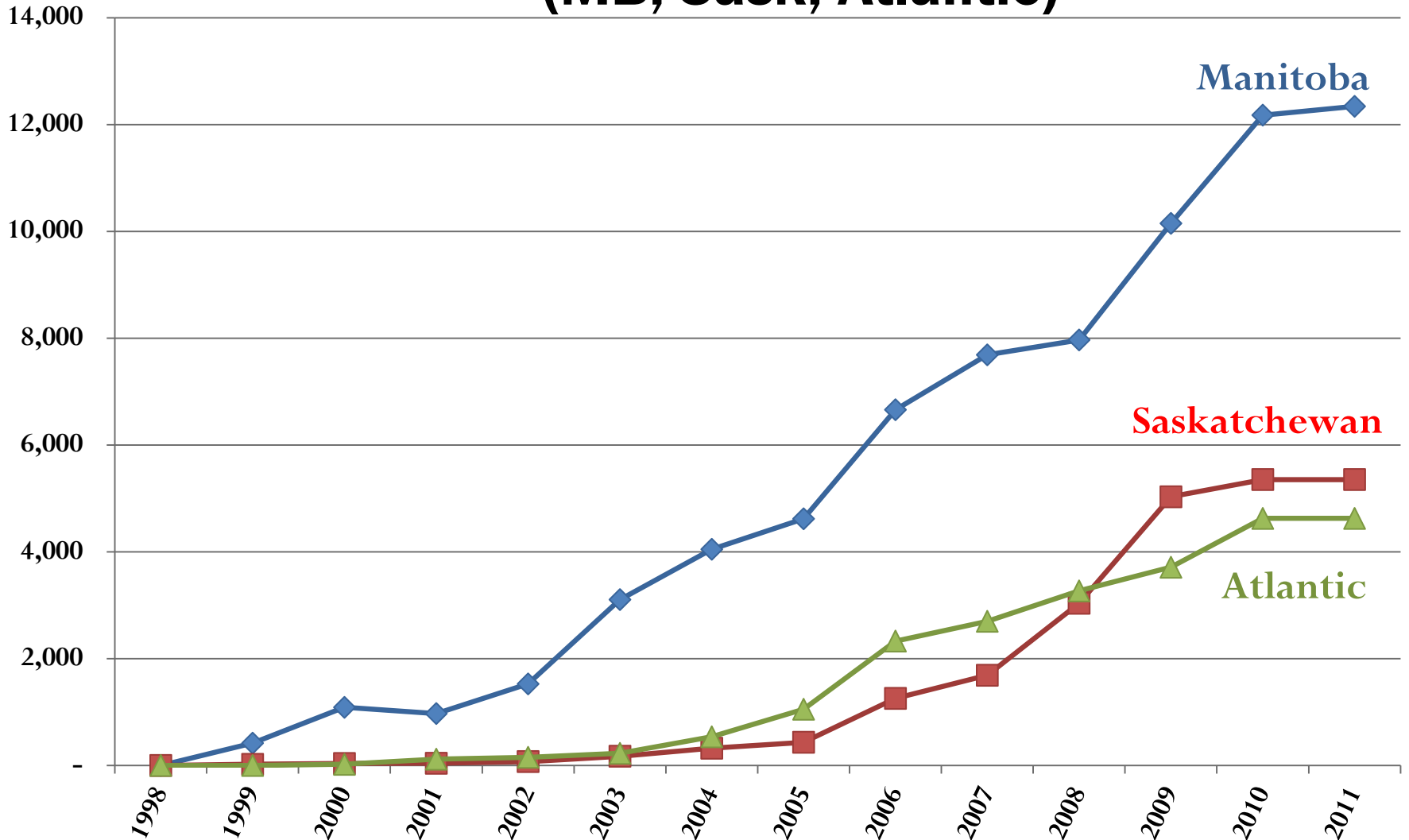Provincial Nominee Program Inception

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5/30/2013

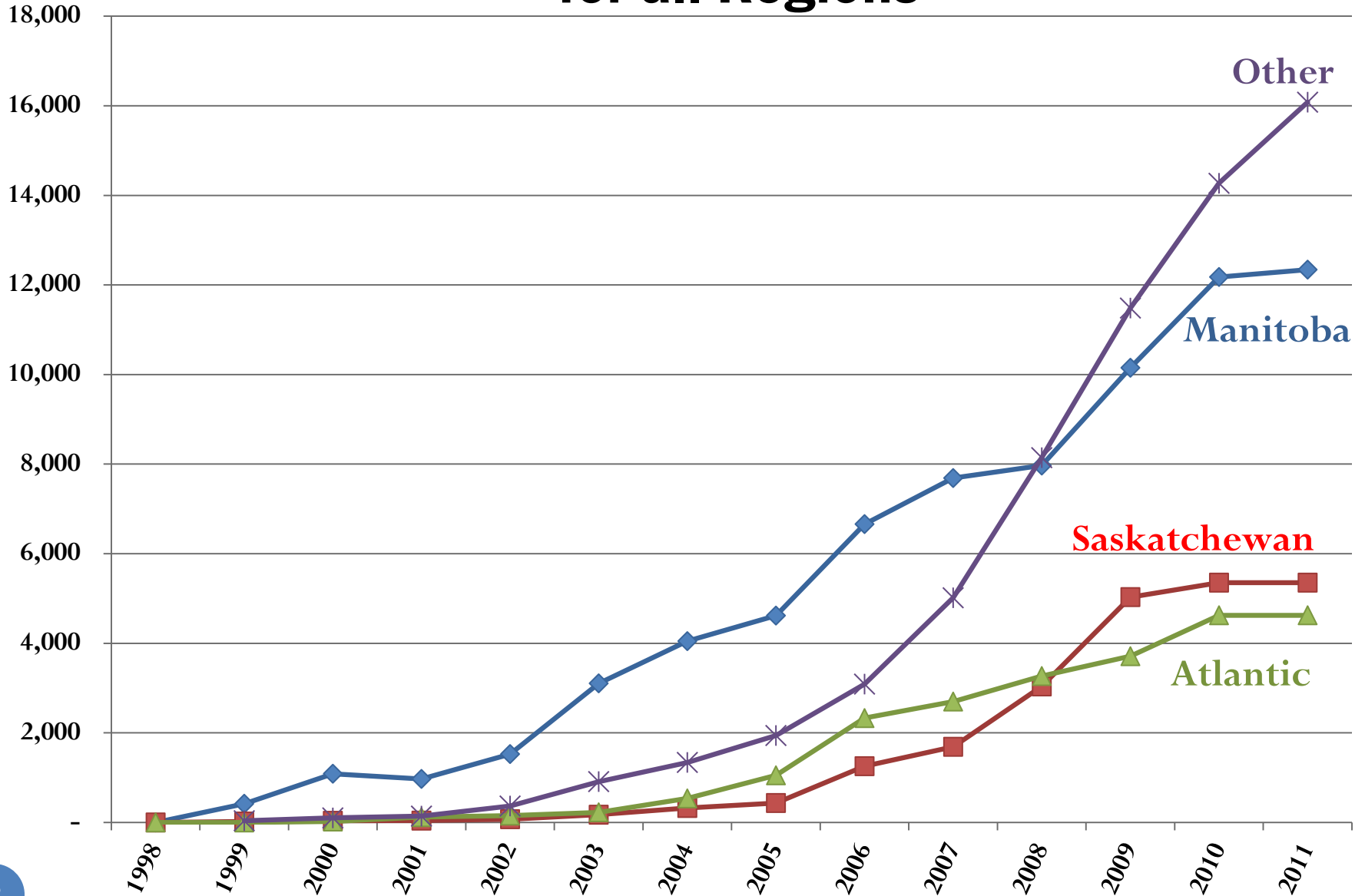# Manitoba
Nominee vs Other Immigrants

Measure of Success in Manitoba

- Positive employment experience

- 85% plus retention

- Home ownership equal or higher than Canadian average

- Success of smaller communities to attract and benefit

- Visible growth and excitement in Winnipeg

- Support from full political spectrum
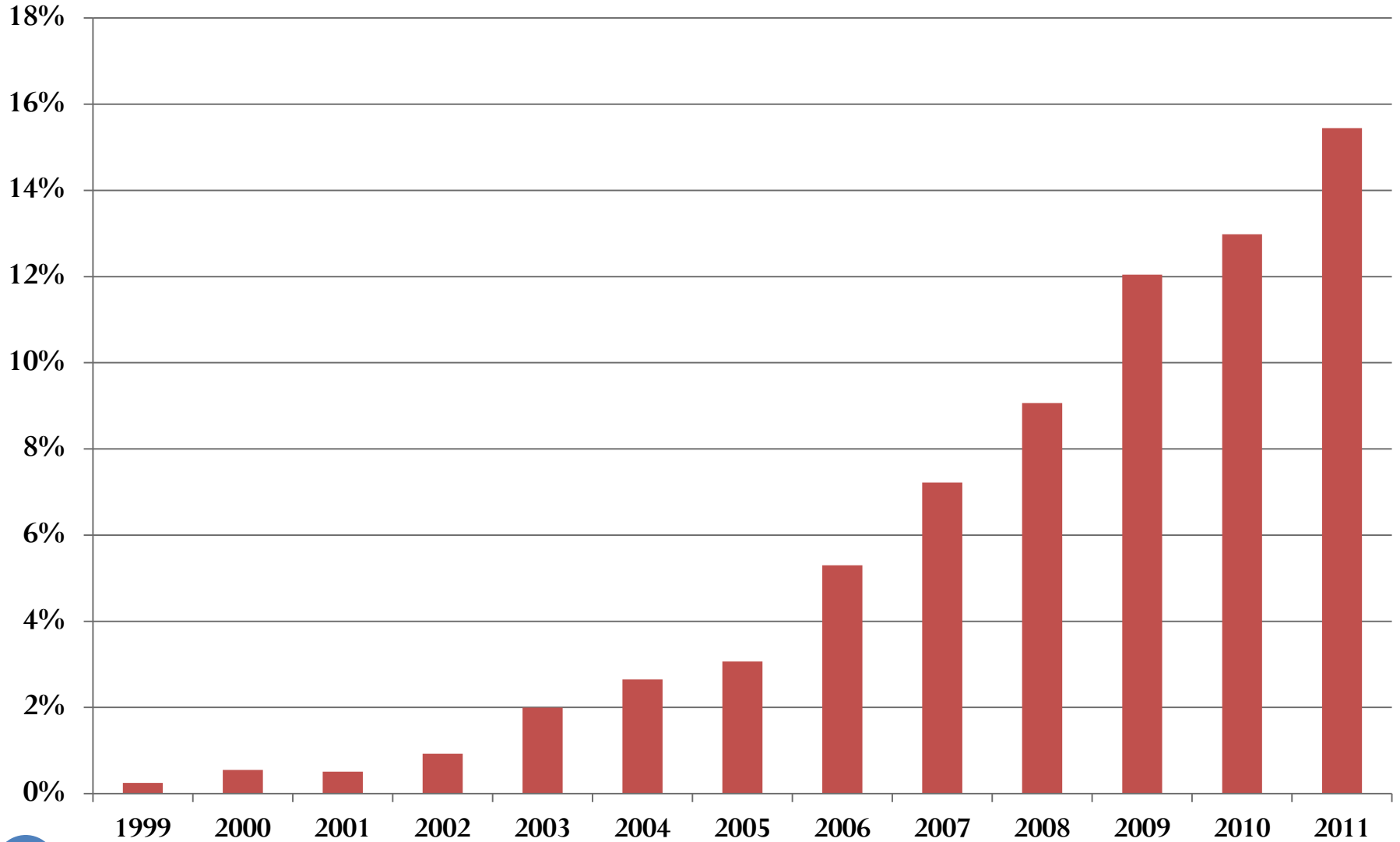
- Broad community and business support

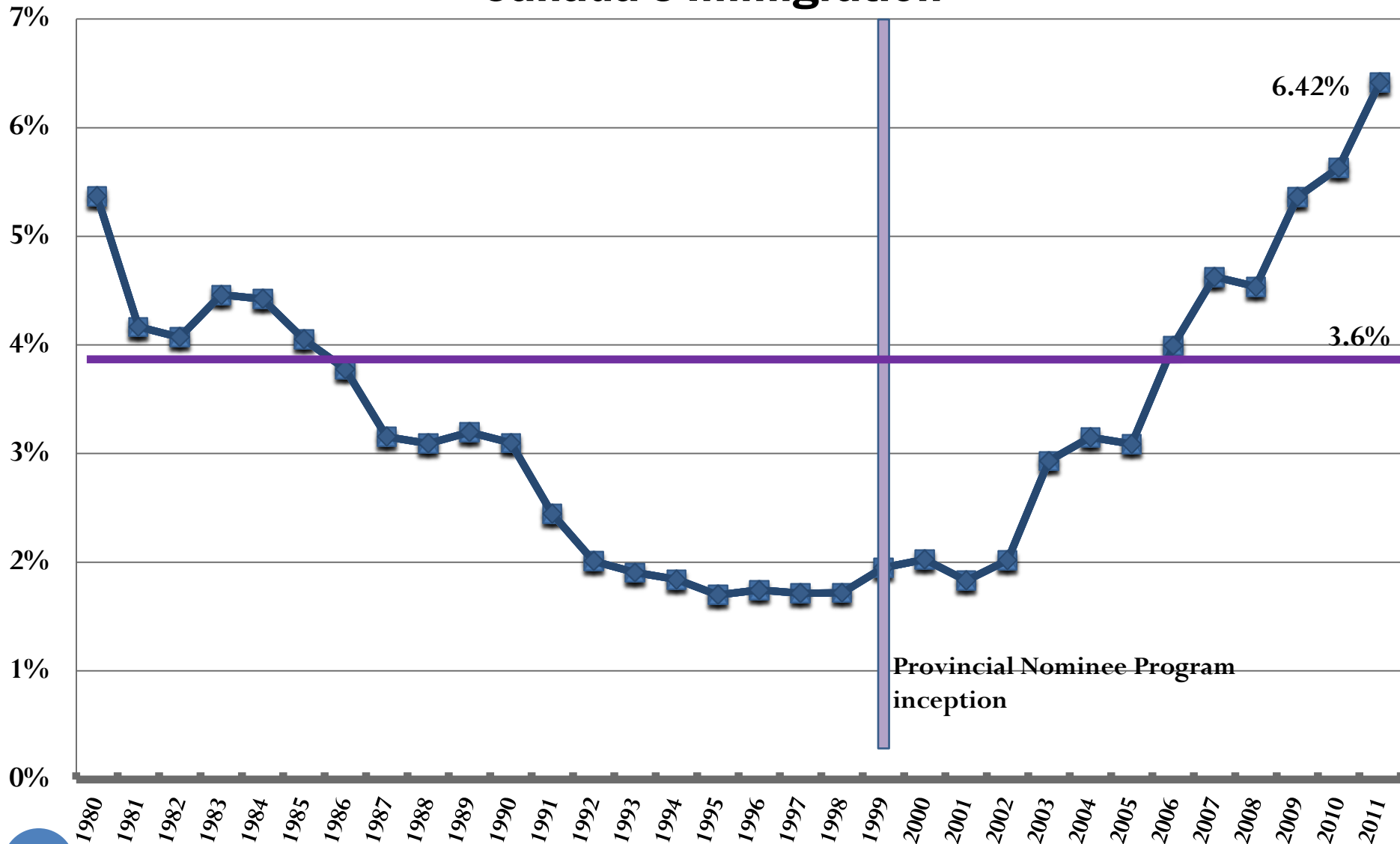PNP Programs Across Canada
(MB, Sask, Atlantic)

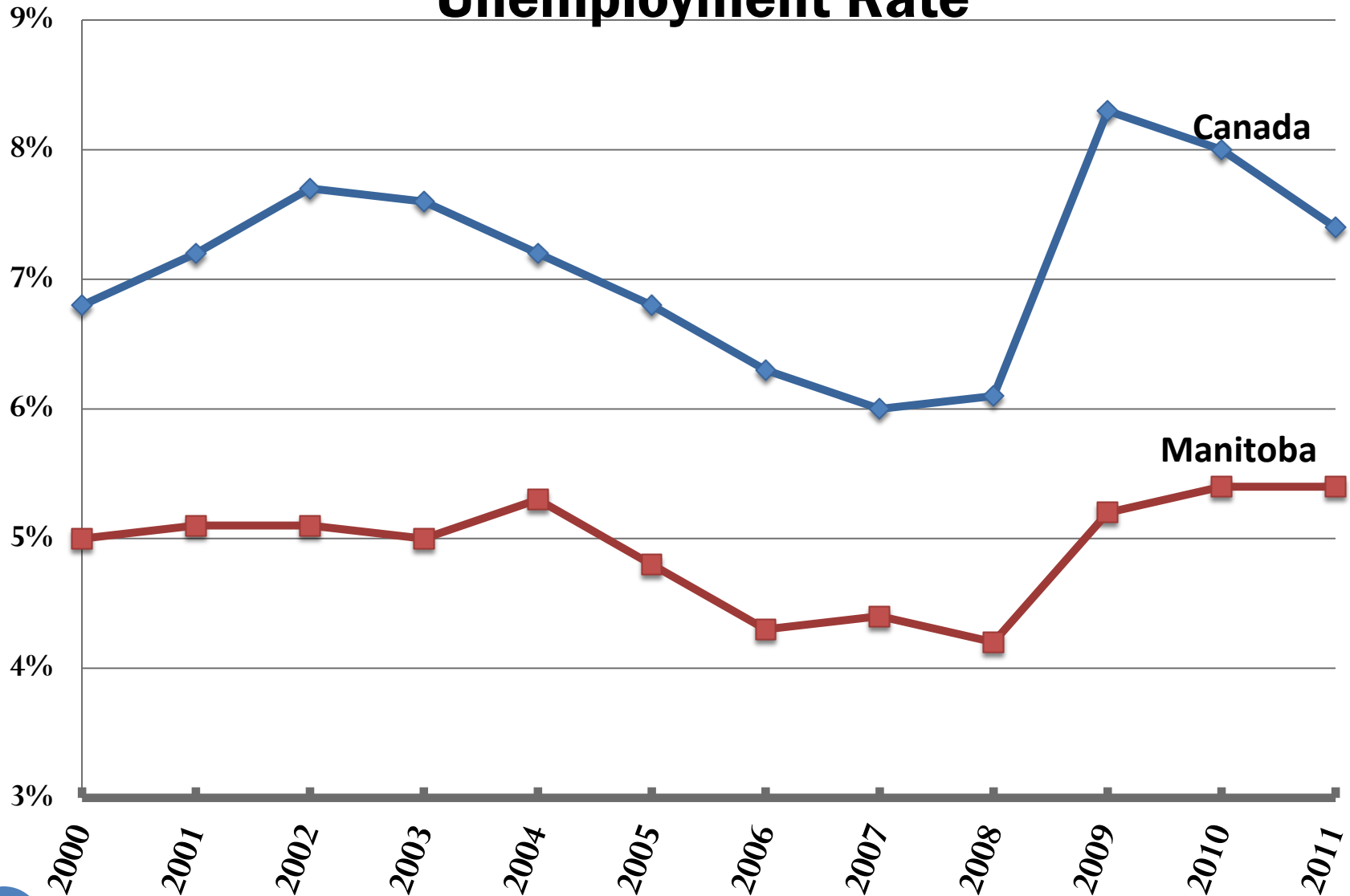# PNP Programs Across Canada for all Regions

5/30/2013

Provincial Nominee Program as total share of Canadian Immigration – 1999 - 2011

Manitoba Immigration as a % of Canada's Immigration

6.42%

3.6%

Provincial Nominee Program inception
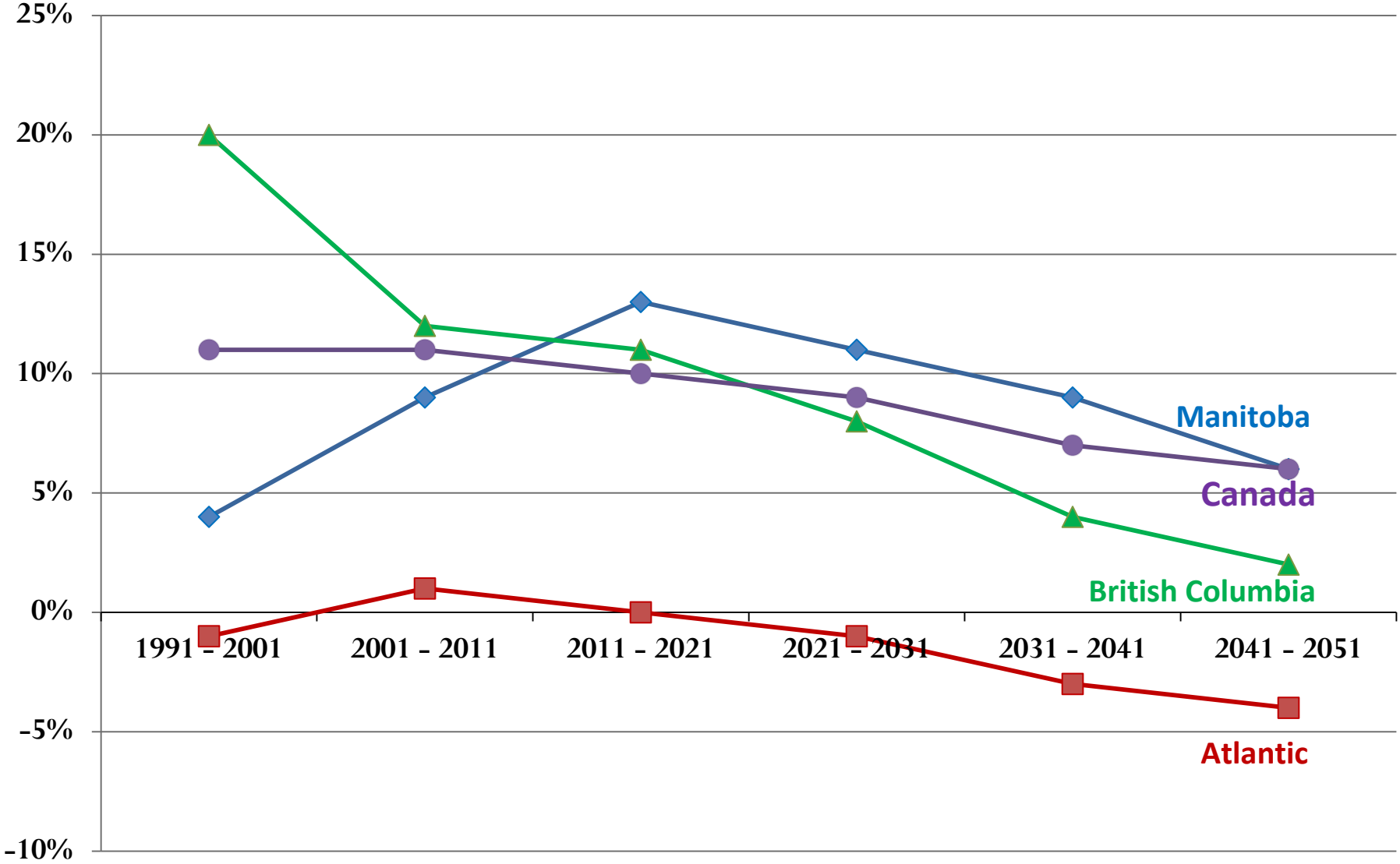
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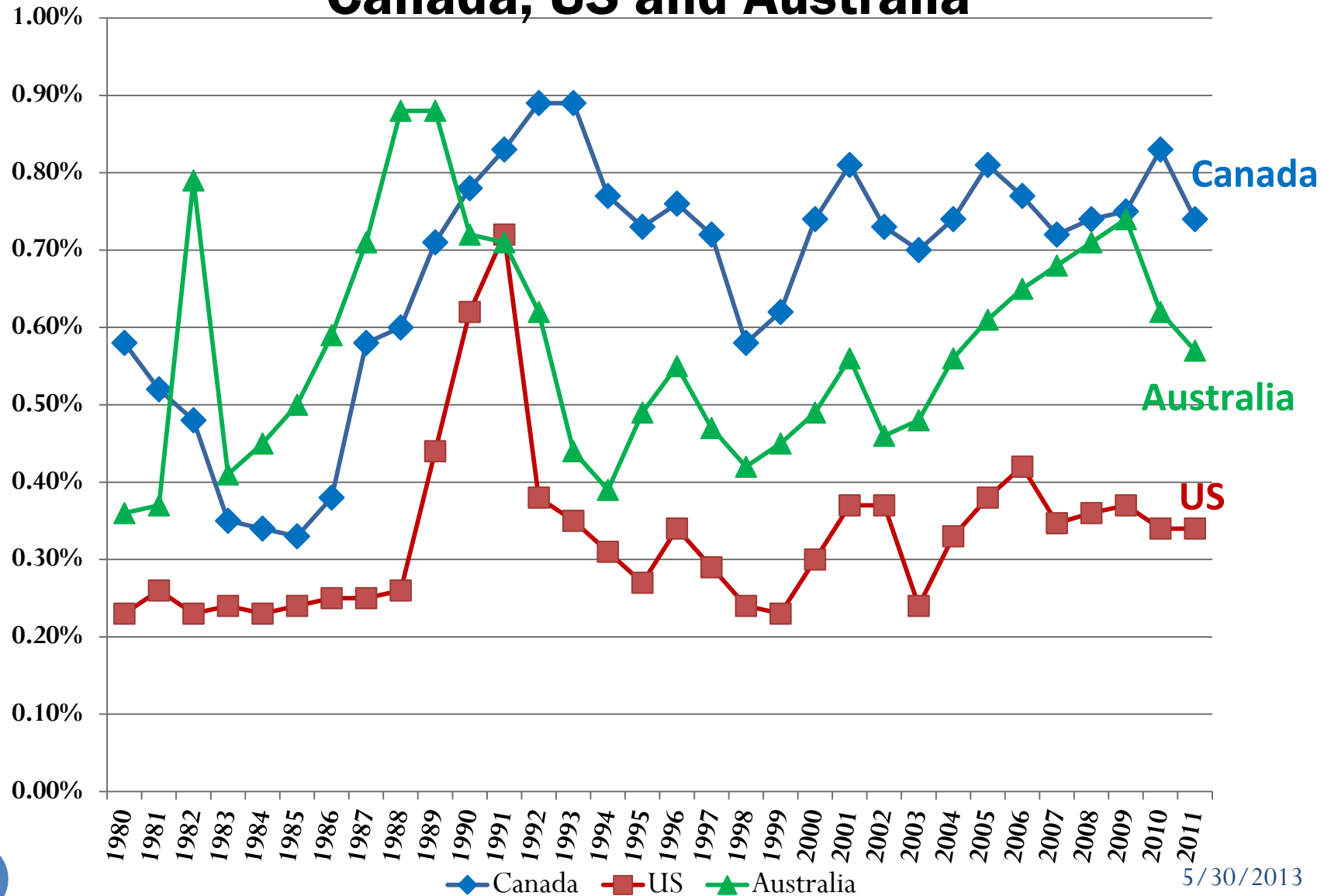**Manitoba vs. Canadian Unemployment Rate**

Provincial Unemployment Rate vs. Number of Immigrants to Manitoba

12

5/30/2013
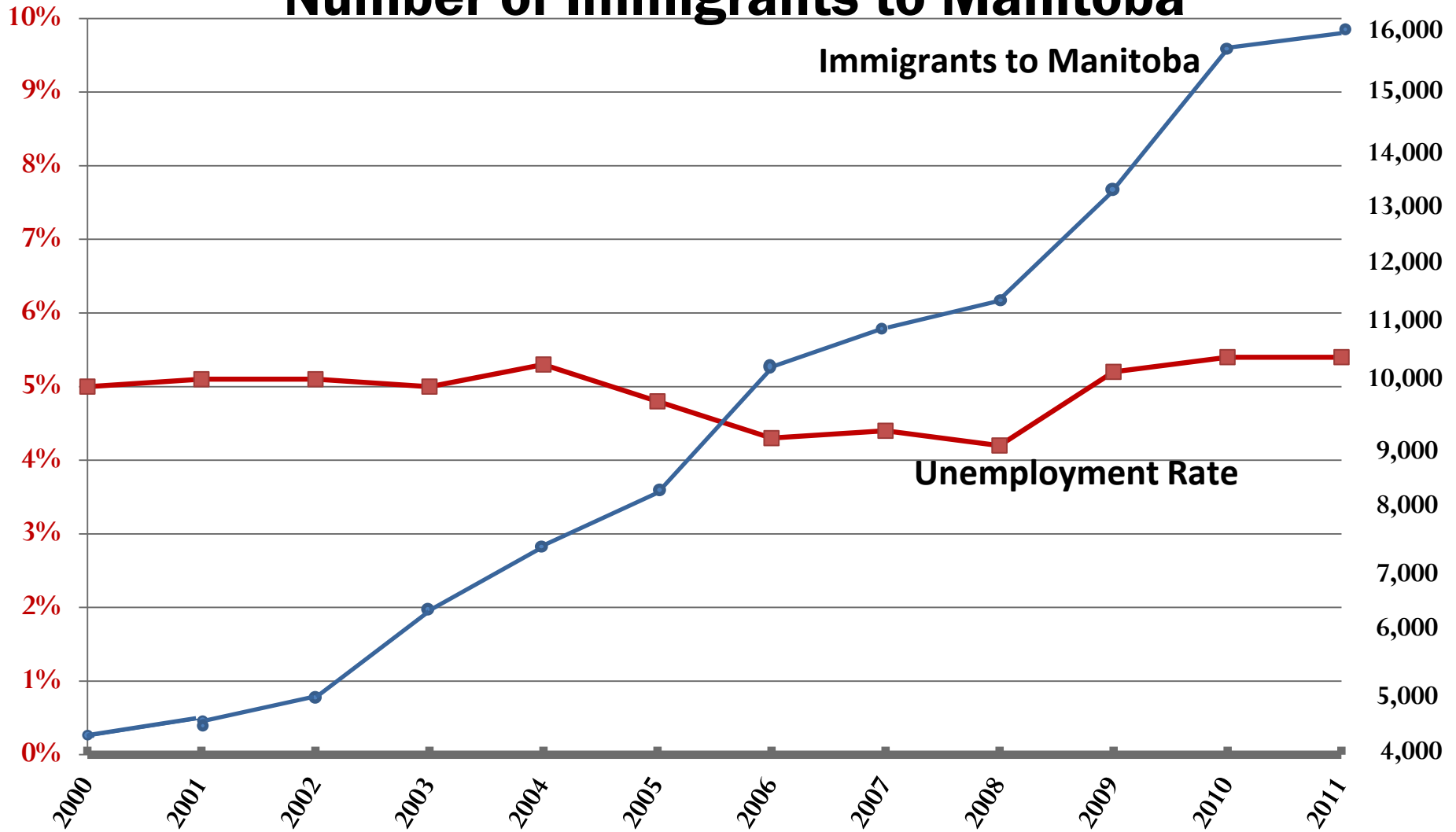
POPULATION GROWTH HISTORY AND PREDICTIONS

International Comparison
Canada, US and Australia

Policy Questions

1. Should there be a Cap on immigration numbers?
   a) National Cap
   b) PNP Cap
   c) Other Categories

2. PNP programs – All provinces or limit PNP to where federal programs have historically not worked well?

3. Location restrictions for some immigrants – Is there a place for a category that accepts some time-limited restrictions on re-location?

   <u>Would location restrictions work for Atlantic?</u>

Policy Questions (continued)

4. Temporary Foreign Worker Program – Do we adequately understand the sociology and long term impact of this flow of people?

5. Language Requirement – Does one size really fit all?

    Will level 4 English damage effectiveness of PNP?

6. Family Re-unification – Program rules and design must reflect the actual capacity to accept and absorb.

Policy Questions (continued)

7. Diversity of immigration flow is important – how much do we do by design rather than by accident?

8. Building Community versus filling slots – the right balance is critical. If wrong the consensus in favor of immigration may decline.

Immigration works if.......

✓Intelligently Designed

✓Implemented with competence

✓Supported by total community

DON'T MESS WITH WHAT WORKS