Policy and Practice Questions Arising from TIEDI

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Areas of Concern

- Discussions with community partners helped to identify several issues of particular concern:

  - Changing Pathways to Permanent Residence

  - Filling the Data Gap

  - The Effect of Gender in Immigrant Integration

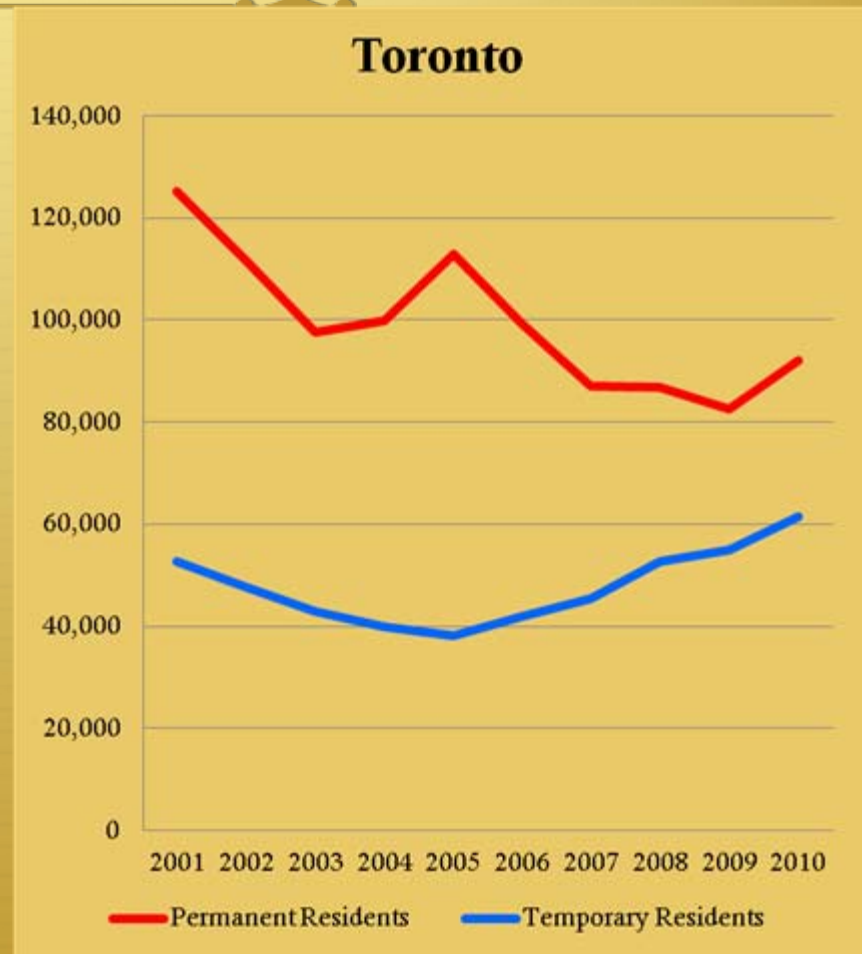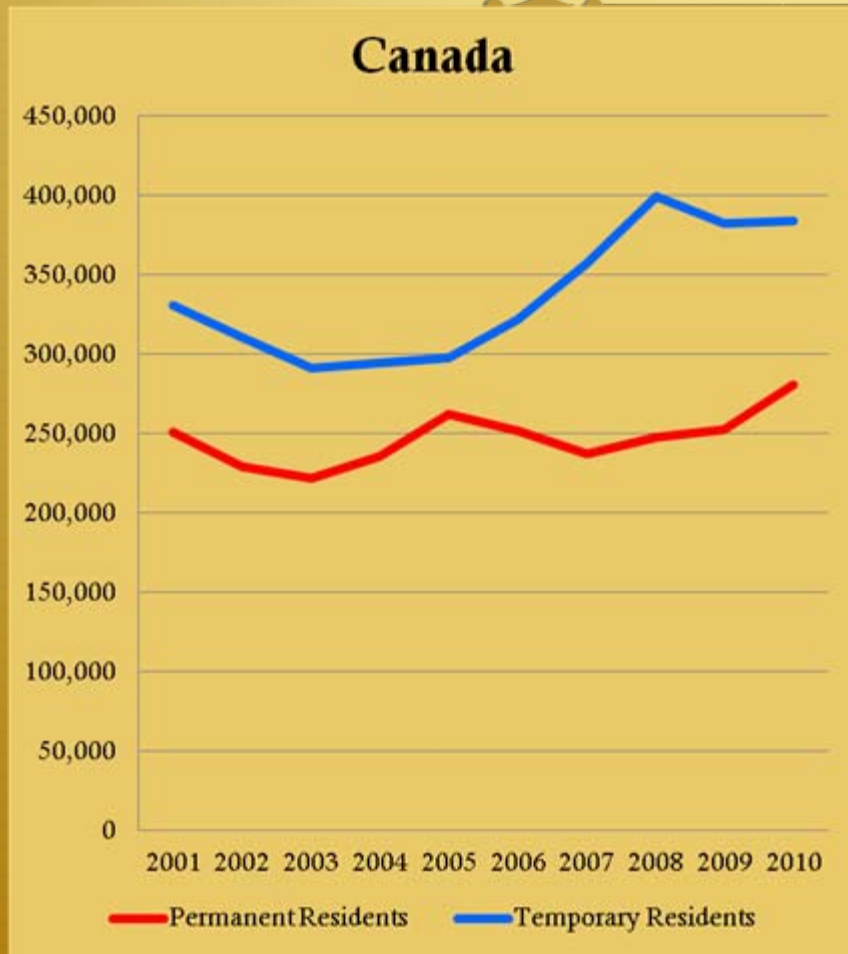 - Transitioning from Underemployment to Skills-Commensurate Employment

TIEDI Roundtables

- Discussions with community partners to understand how the issues are affecting community organizations

  - **Roundtable 1: Pathways to Permanent Residence** Friday, January 27

  - **Roundtable 2: Filling the Data Gap** Friday, February 3

  - **Roundtable 3: The Gender Gap in Labour Market Outcomes for Immigrants** Friday, March 9 (9am-12:30pm)

  - **Roundtable Session 4: Immigrant Transitions from Underemployment to Skills-commensurate Employment** Friday, March 9 (1pm-4pm)

- Aim was to derive policy and practice outcomes of the TIEDI findings

- However, more questions and areas requiring further research were also identified through the roundtables

Roundtable 1:Changing Pathways to Permanent Residence

- Changing patterns of immigrant class of entry
    - Increasing numbers of temporary residents
    - Expansion of PNPs (although not in Ontario)
    - Increase in LCP immigrants
    - Smaller proportion of skilled worker immigrants in Toronto
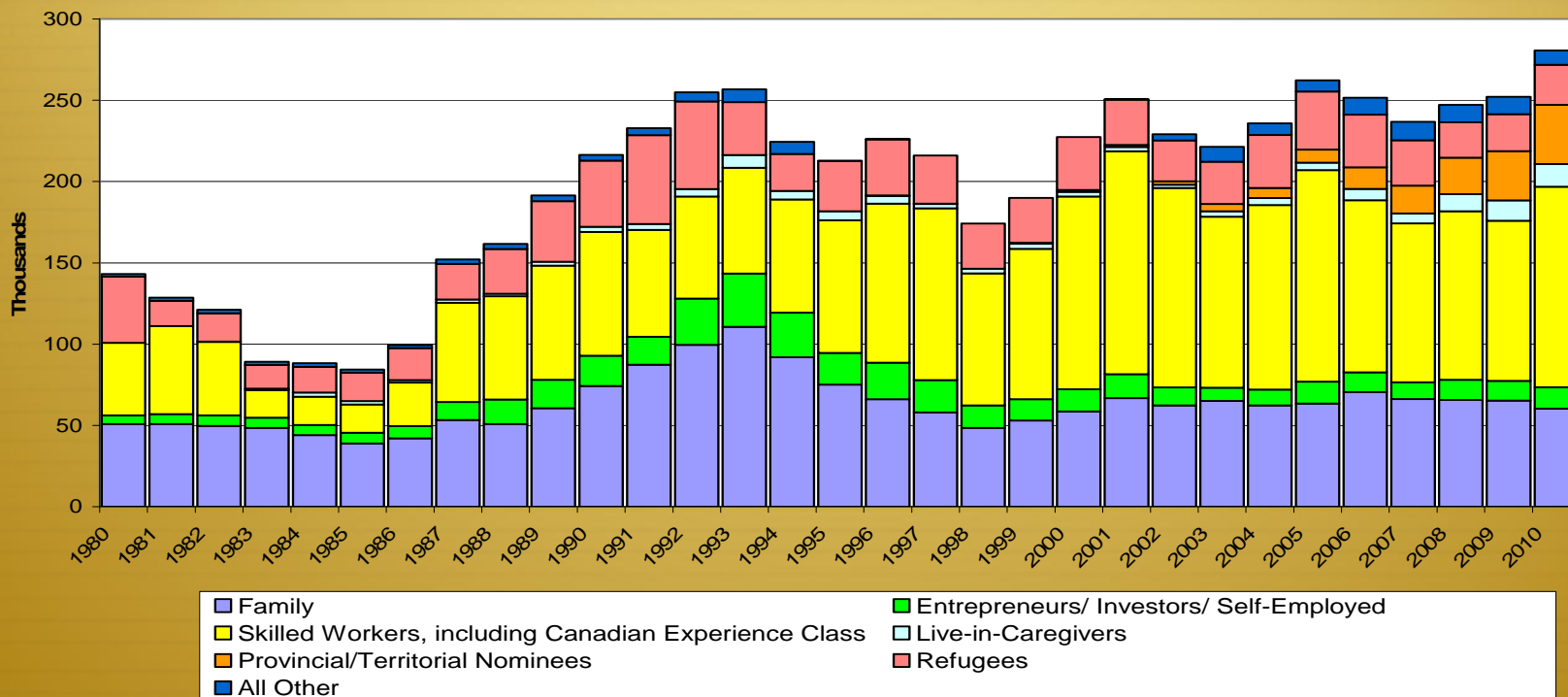
Entry of Temporary versus Permanent Residents

Composition of Permanent Resident Entries - Canada

Figure 3: Number of Permanent Residents by Immigration Class Category and Landing Year (1980-2010), Canada

Legend:
- Family
- Skilled Workers, including Canadian Experience Class
- Provincial/Territorial Nominees
- All Other
- Entrepreneurs/ Investors/ Self-Employed
- Live-in-Caregivers
- Refugees

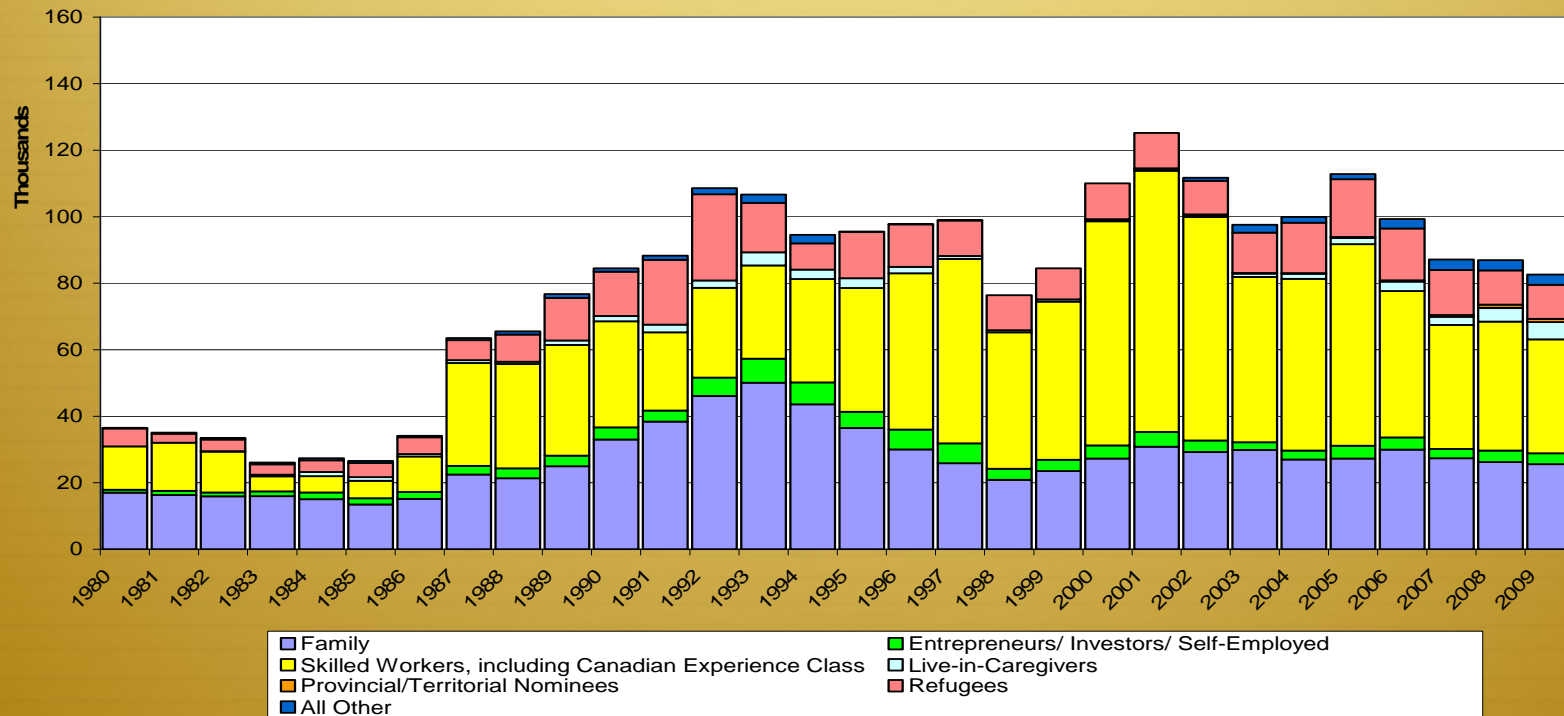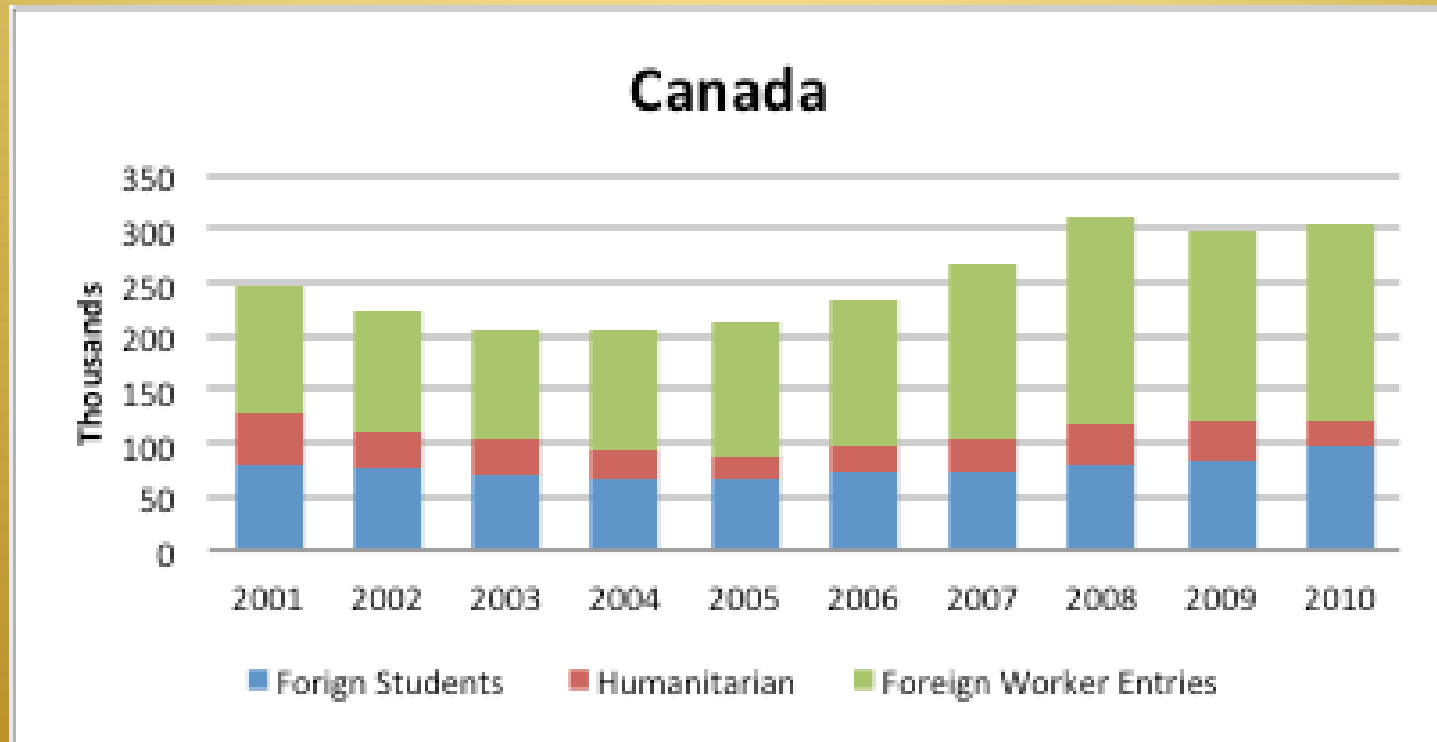# Composition of Permanent Resident Entries - Toronto

Figure 4: Number of Permanent Residents by Immigration Class Category and Landing year (1980-2009), Toronto
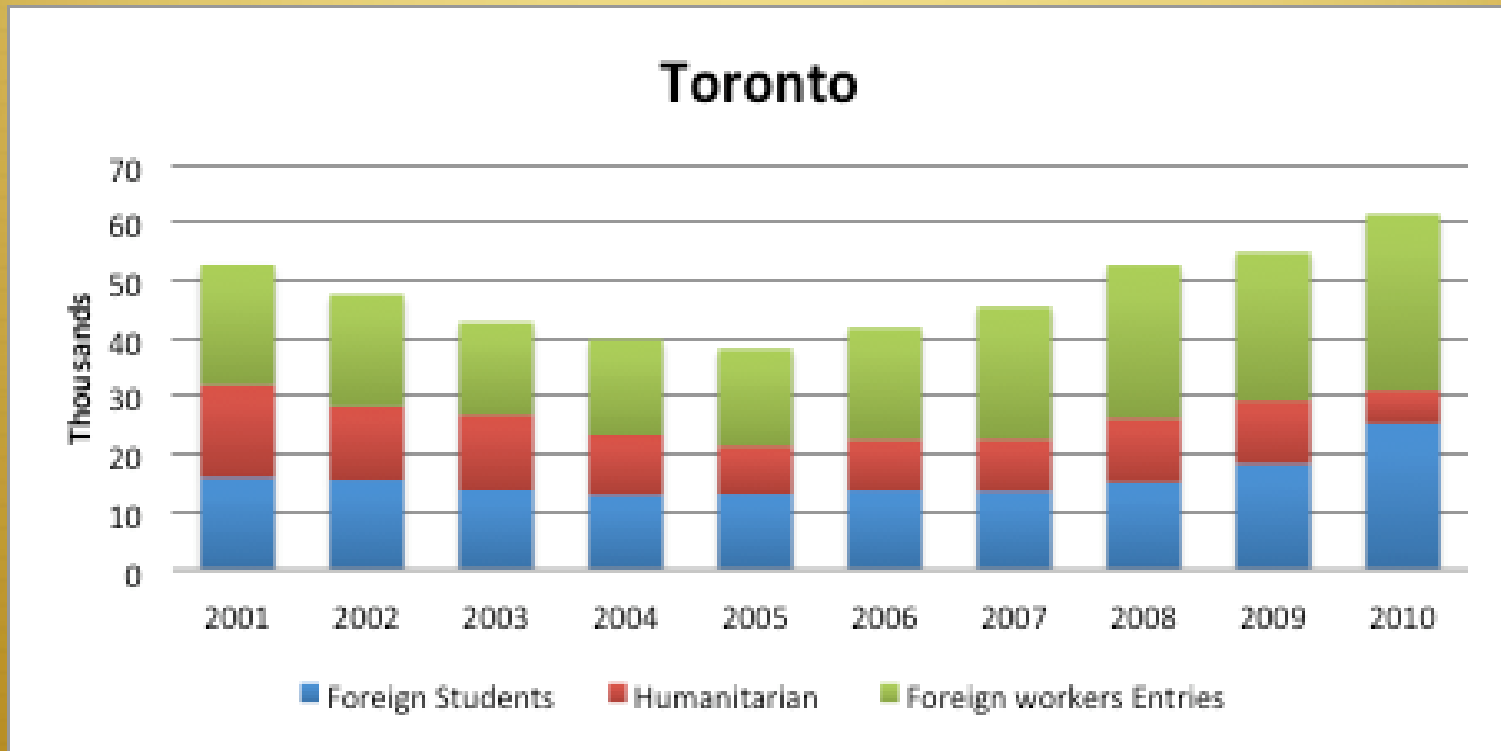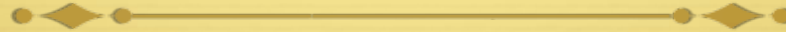

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Permanent Residents Data System (PRDS), 1980-2009

Composition of Temporary Resident Entries - Canada

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures 2010.

Composition of Temporary Residents - Toronto

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures 2010.

Changes *Within* Programs

- New systems for refugee determination

- Changes to the 'points system' for selecting skilled workers

- Modified conditions associated with the LCP

How Have These Changes Affected Community Organizations?

- ✦ Increase in the number of precarious workers

- ✦ Immigrant service organizations overburdened with limited funding that fails to match the rising need for services

- ✦ Increased pressure to deal with complex cases where people are not eligible for funding based on existing criteria

Emerging Issues

- Mental health issues rising from family separation

- Funding cuts to services further erode social supports

- The difficulty of providing services to LCP workers and other unskilled migrant workers

- Need for more research on transition from temporary to permanent resident under the PNP, LCP and Canadian Experience Class programs

- Need for data on temporary residents as well as those without status

Policy Changes to Help Serve the Needs of a Changing Population

- The funding model should be changed to reflect the changing immigrant population and ensure adequate resources and less competition between service organizations

- Policy changes are required regarding the live-in caregiver framework in order to ensure LCP workers can access services

- Need for legislated protection for workers who fall into exploitative conditions, especially for temporary foreign workers, and for those in an informal labour market

Roundtable 2: Filling the Data Gap

- Data and analysis challenges experienced by TIEDI

  - Requests for analysis outside of TIEDI's mandate (e.g. non-labour market outcomes such as childcare needs, and health profile)

  - Outdated data (e.g. census data) or non-existing data (e.g. information on temporary residents)

  - Requests for neighbourhood-specific labour market outcomes of specific immigrants groups living inside or outside the Greater Toronto Area.

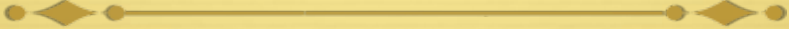 - Limitations in gender- and immigrant group-specific analysis

Program Data

- Significant data exists within individual community organizations (ICAN, ICARE), but not available to workers

- Settlement organizations lack the time and capacity to coordinate, manage and analyze the data that they input.

- Very little sharing of information between organizations even all organizations collect very similar data.

What Information Is Needed?

- Data entry systems to have a space for recording qualitative information, which can later be analyzed

- Data that provides a broader understanding of the labour market, with emphasis on issues such as social capital, networks and effects of class

- Longitudinal information on goal setting and quality of life for an individual would also be beneficial

- Data that compares the number of people landing to those that are being served

Collaboration Between "Experts" and Workers

- At the program level, needs to be collaborative effort between politicians, bureaucrats and service providers to provide a holistic view of labour market needs

- Government officials and those who work in data are often disconnected from service providers that use the data, and unaware of community needs

- One problem with collaboration is that there are competing priorities between governmental departments, which makes effective collaborative projects difficult

Creation of a Feedback Loop

✦ In order for data to be useful, it must become accessible knowledge

✦ Service providers would like the data that they are collecting for funders and government agencies to feed back to their own organization as useful, aggregate information

✦ Service providers would also like to share information between themselves

Thanks!

Questions/Comments?