



Demographics, Immigration and Population Policy in Canada

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Presentation to the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
Berlin, Germany

November 8, 2006

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Background

- This is an invited *Trans Atlantic Dialogue* presentation, co-sponsored by the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation and the Canadian Embassy in Berlin.



Canadian Policy Research Networks

- Who are we?
- What do we do?
 - Networks: Family, Work, Health, Public Involvement
 - *Research*: Labour Market, Citizenship & Civic Engagement, Health Care, Diversity, Cities and Communities, ...
 - *Information Resources*: Diversity Gateway, Job Quality, E-Network
 - *Public Affairs and Outreach*

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Overview

- Policy Research Perspectives for Understanding and Achieving Well-Being in Canada
- Demographic Change
- Immigration
- Population Policy

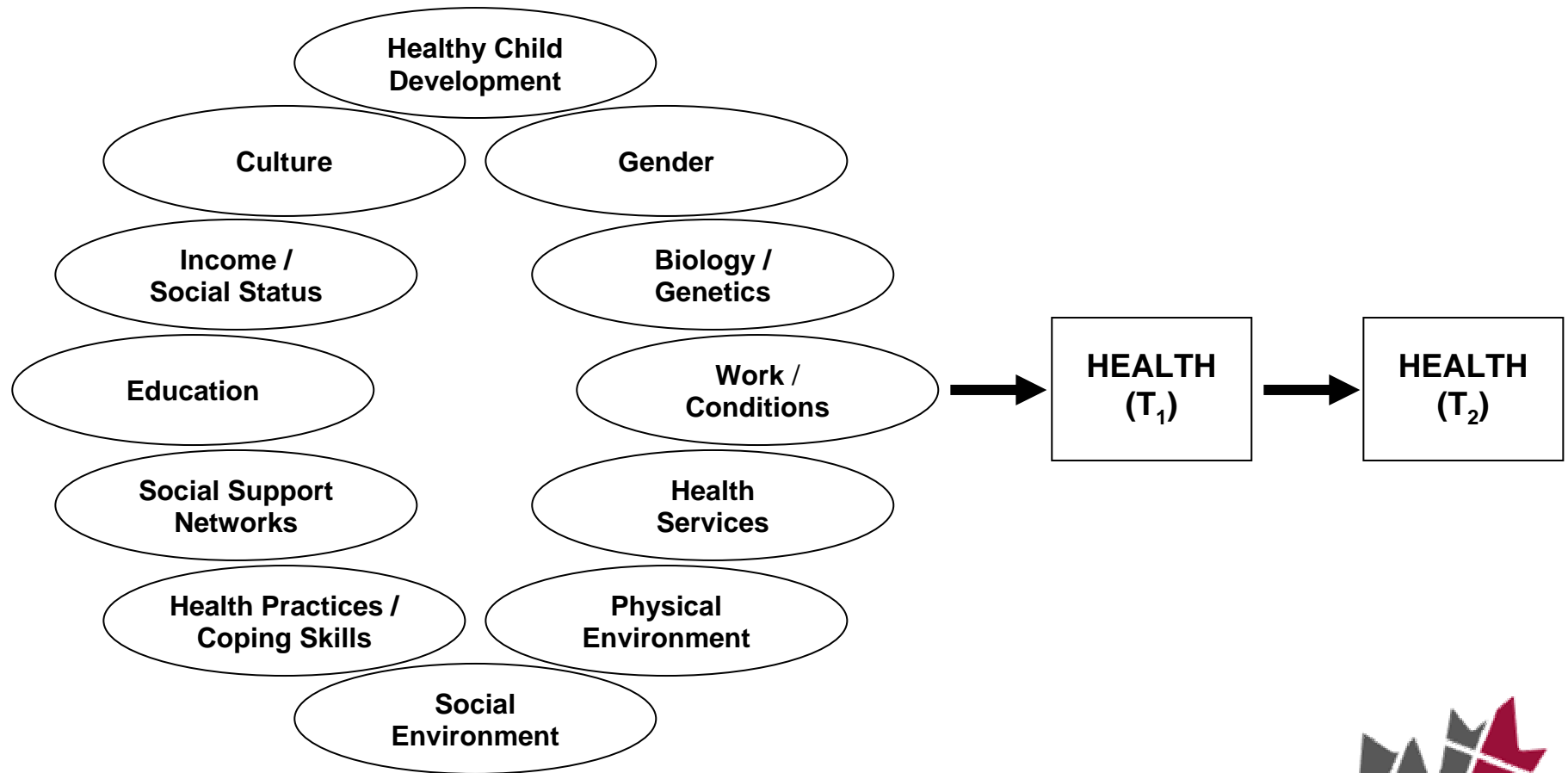


Understanding Well-Being

- What things are important?
 - Determinants of Population Health
- Who is responsible?
 - The Well-Being Diamond
- Where is well-being achieved?
 - Place Matters
- When do we achieve well-being?
 - All the Time
- Why is well-being of concern?
 - The Values of Canadians



What Determines Health?

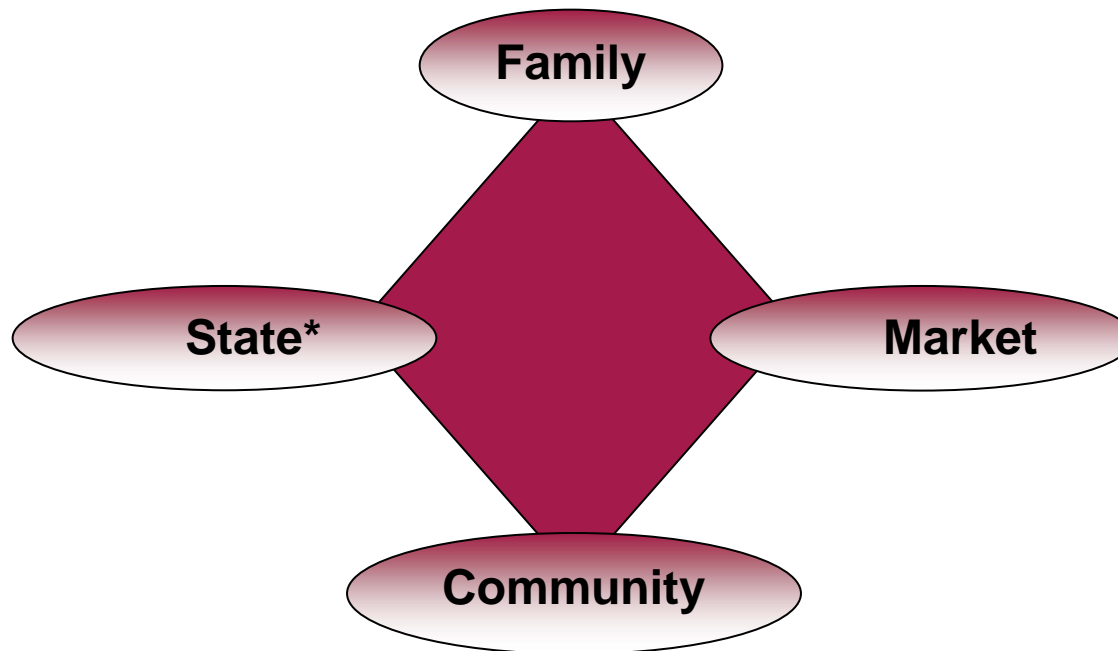


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Who Is Responsible?

The Well-Being Diamond



*State includes governments (federal, provincial, territorial and municipal) and core public services such as education and health care.

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Place Matters

- Access to local knowledge and networks
- Where problems, and innovations, originate
- Variations of local experience means one-size *doesn't* fit all
- Policy and programs have to be responsive to a community's problems, capacity, culture and character



A Challenging Process

- Achieving well-being involves an ongoing, dynamic and challenging process of knowledge development, understanding, implementation and reflection
- There are different priorities to be addressed at different periods over the life course
- In other words: We have to keep working on attaining well-being, all the time ...



Foundation of Canadian Values

- Sharing
- Caring
- Respect
- Accountability
- Truth (and its plurality)
- Fairness
- Responsibility
- Engagement
- Diversity (e.g. culture, religion, lifestyle)

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Achieving Well-Being

- How Do We Achieve Well-Being?
 - Power
 - Governance
 - New Approaches, Collaborations?



Governance Matters

- Working together
- Ensuring coherence in policy and programs
- Centralized *and* decentralized government doesn't work – collaborative governance is required
- Enhanced governance necessary to foster dialogue and build trust



Demographics: Change and Challenges

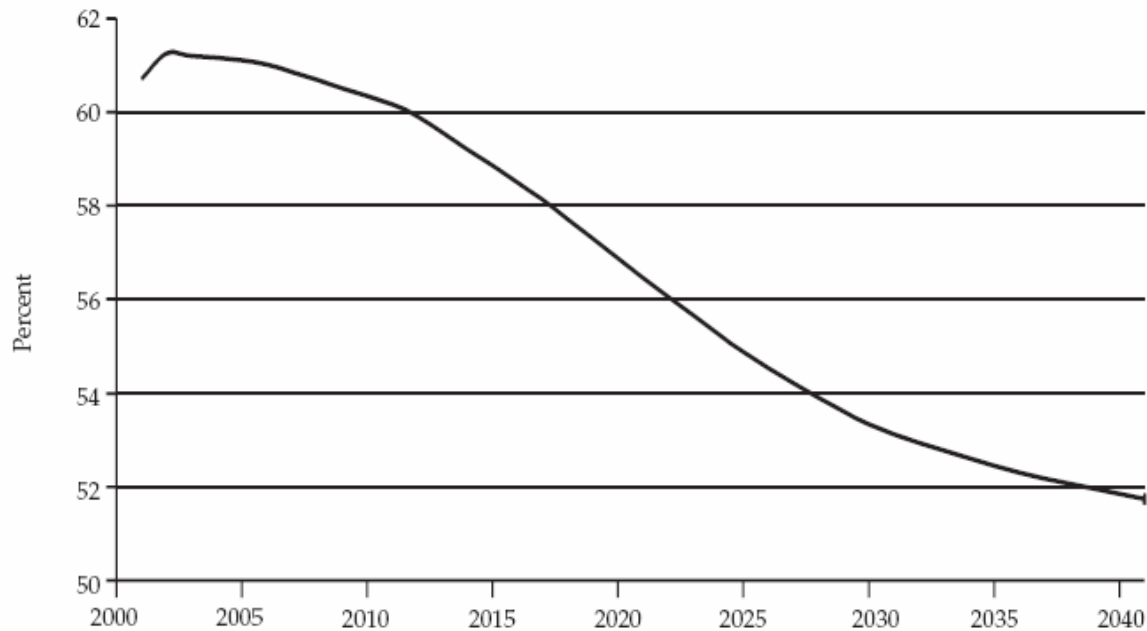
- Dependency ratios in Canada:
 - In 2005, 5 working age people for every person 65+
 - By 2025, 3 working for every person 65+
- Median age of Canadians at nearly 39 years
- 24% of population age 0-19
- By 2025, 20% of Canadians will be 65+
- Canadians retiring at a younger age:
 - 65 in 1976; 61 in 2005



Support Ratio

(Workforce as a share of the working age population 15+)

Figure 1: Projected Support Ratio for Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, author's calculations.

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Immigration

- Estimated that over 3 million immigrants per year required to offset population aging
- Canada's annual target just increased to highest level in 25 years (up to 265,000 people)
- In 2005, 43% of immigrants from China, India, Philippines, Pakistan and South Korea; 2% each from France and UK



Diversity - Data

	Base Population, <i>2001</i>	Proportion of Population, <i>2001</i>	Projected Population, <i>2017</i>	Projected Proportion of Population, <i>2017</i>
Immigrant	5,655,900	18.5%	7,682,500	22.2%
Racially Visible	4,037,500	13.4%	7,116,200	20.6%
Aboriginal	1,066,500	3.4%	1,427,900	4.1%



Diversity – Public Opinion

- Are immigrants good for a country's economy?

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Australia	70.5%	8.3%	21.2%
Canada	62.7%	12.5%	24.8%
USA	45.4%	24.6%	30%
Sweden	44.3%	20.2%	35.5%
France	35.1%	35.9%	29%
Germany	28.6%	32%	39.4%
Great Britain	21.6%	41.6%	36.8%



Population Policy

- **The Policy Mix:**
 - Immigration
 - Later retirement
 - Fertility
 - Family friendly policies
 - Baby bonus / child benefits
 - Child care
 - Parental leave
 - Geographic distribution



Population Policy: Quebec and the Rest of Canada

- Federal and provincial population policy most notable for its *absence*
- Some academic and think tank research, primarily from an economic growth perspective
- Quebec has introduced pro-natalist policy:
 - Allowance for Newborn Children (1988-1997)
 - Universal Child Care (1997)

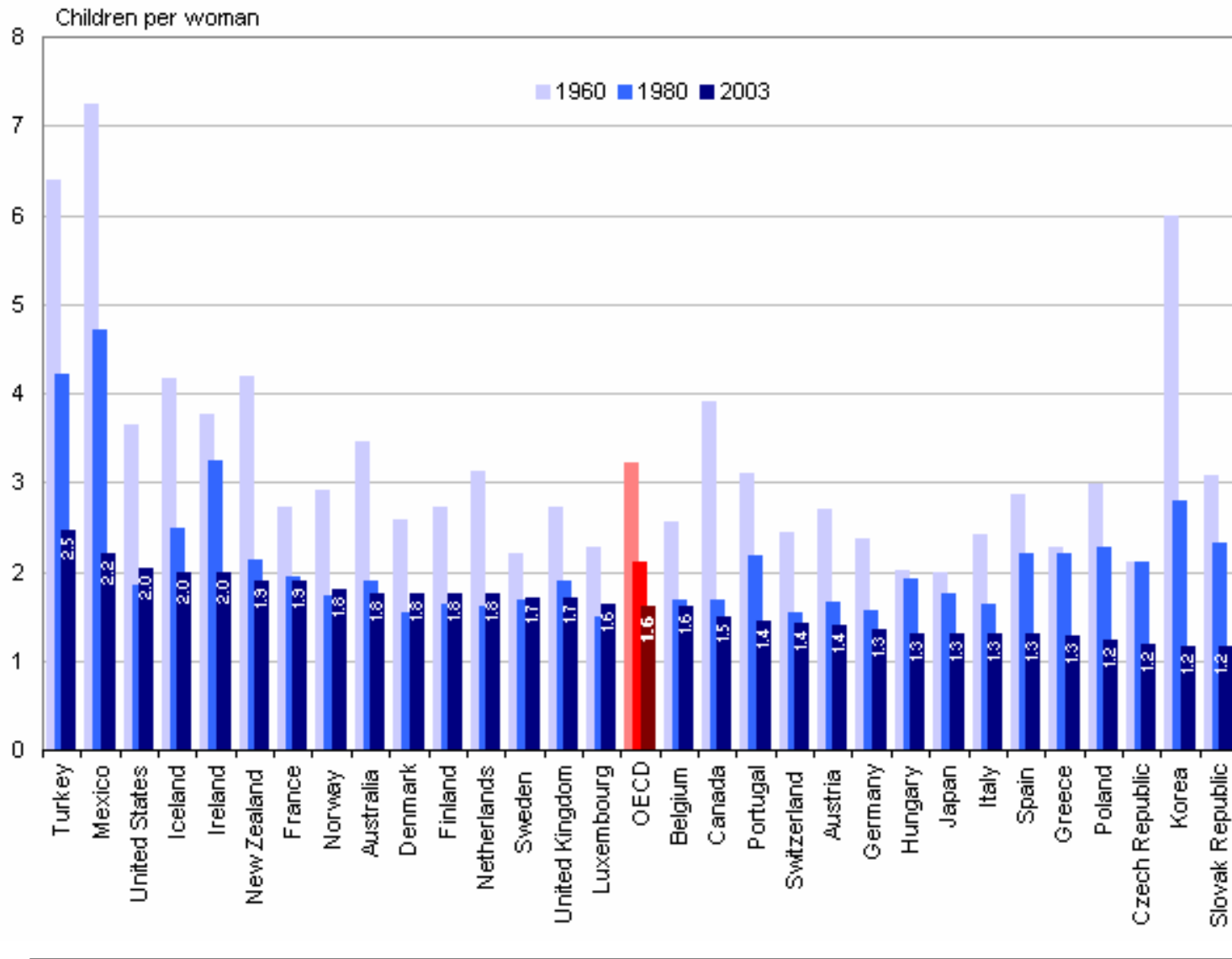


Population Policy - Fertility

- Canada's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) below replacement rate since 1972 – 1.6 in 2005
- Regional differences:
 - 1.3 in Newfoundland and Labrador
 - 1.5 in Quebec
 - 3.0 in Nunavut



Chart 5.4. Total fertility rates, children per woman aged 15-49, 1960, 1980 and 2003



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What Do We Know?

- A solid understanding of community well-being – what it is and how to achieve it
- Canada's population continues to experience considerable change – demographic, social, economic, environmental and cultural
- So, there are still many challenges



What to Do?

- Finding the balance, the resources and the supports for dynamic citizen and community engagement, shared learning and a commitment and ability to change
- Ensuring the inclusion and participation of all citizens in the social, economic, cultural and political life of the community and nation





For additional information:

www.cprn.org

e-mail: family@cprn.org

Diversity Gateway:

www.cprn.org/en/diversity.cfm

Join our weekly news service:

<http://e-network.ca>

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