An Alberta Immigration Approach

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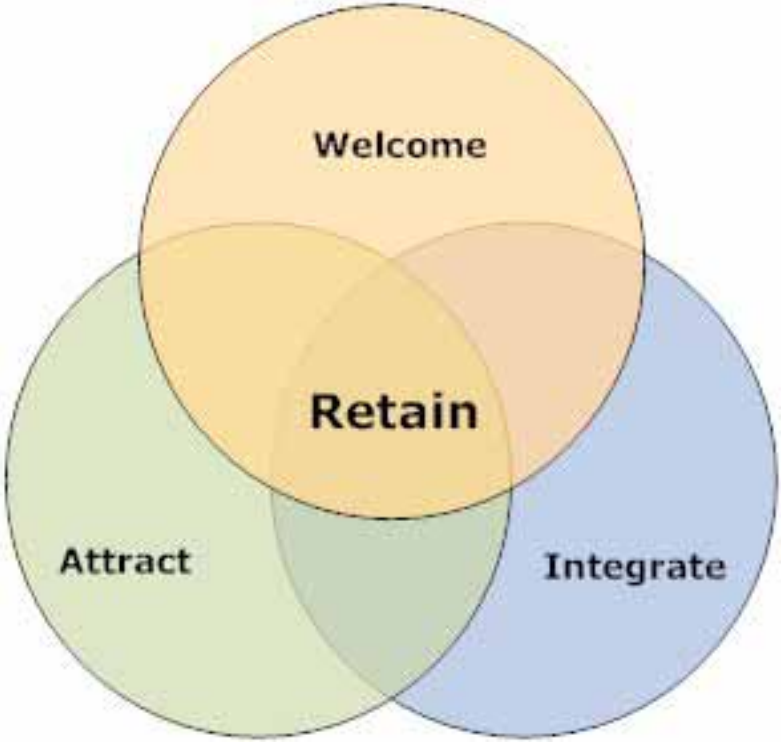
Outline

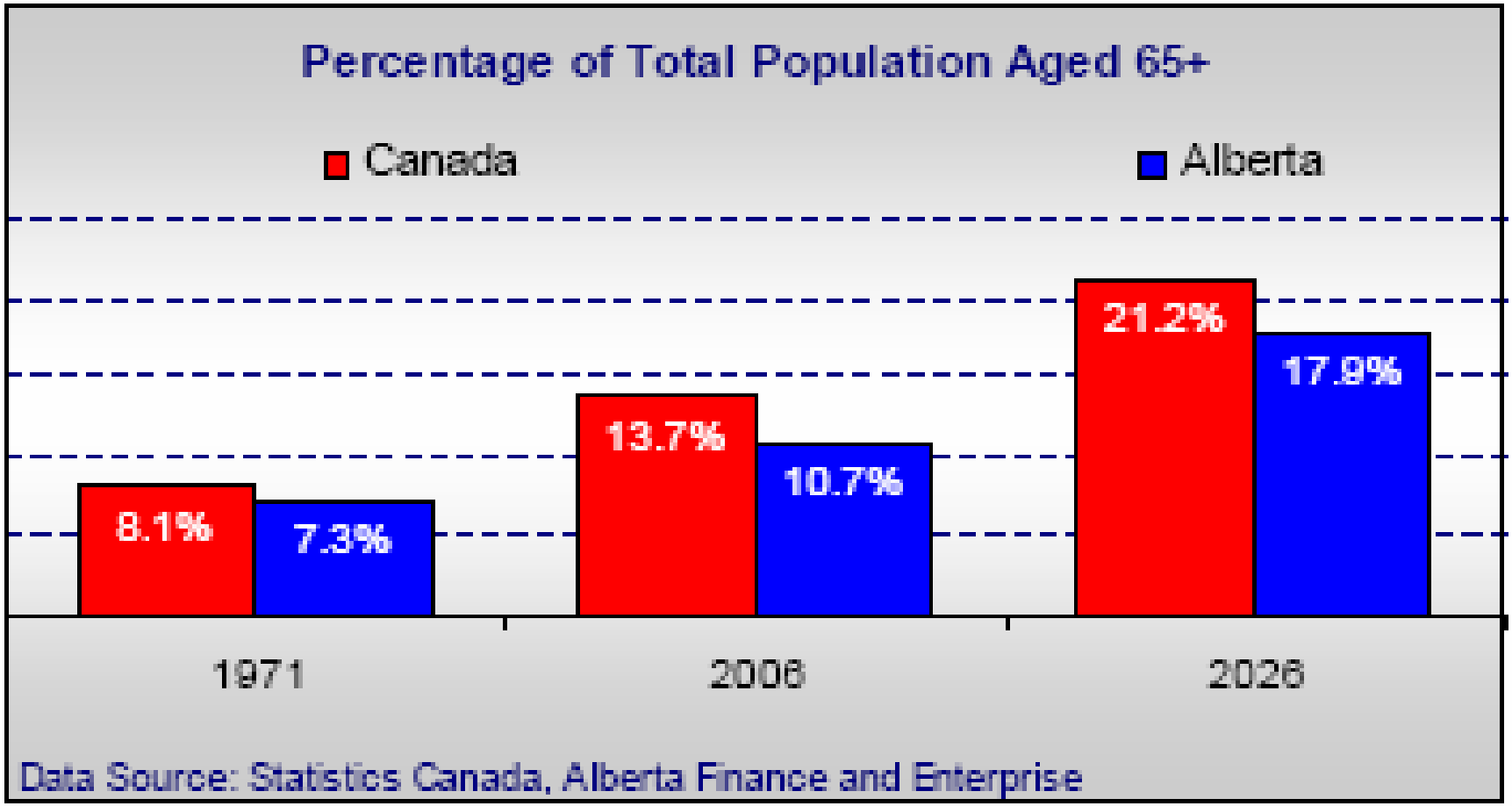
- Context of Temporary and Permanent Immigration to Alberta
- Trends and Challenges
- Alberta's Response
  - Labour Attraction
  - Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (AINP)
  - Foreign Qualification Recognition
  - Settlement and Language Programs

Alberta's Immigration Approach

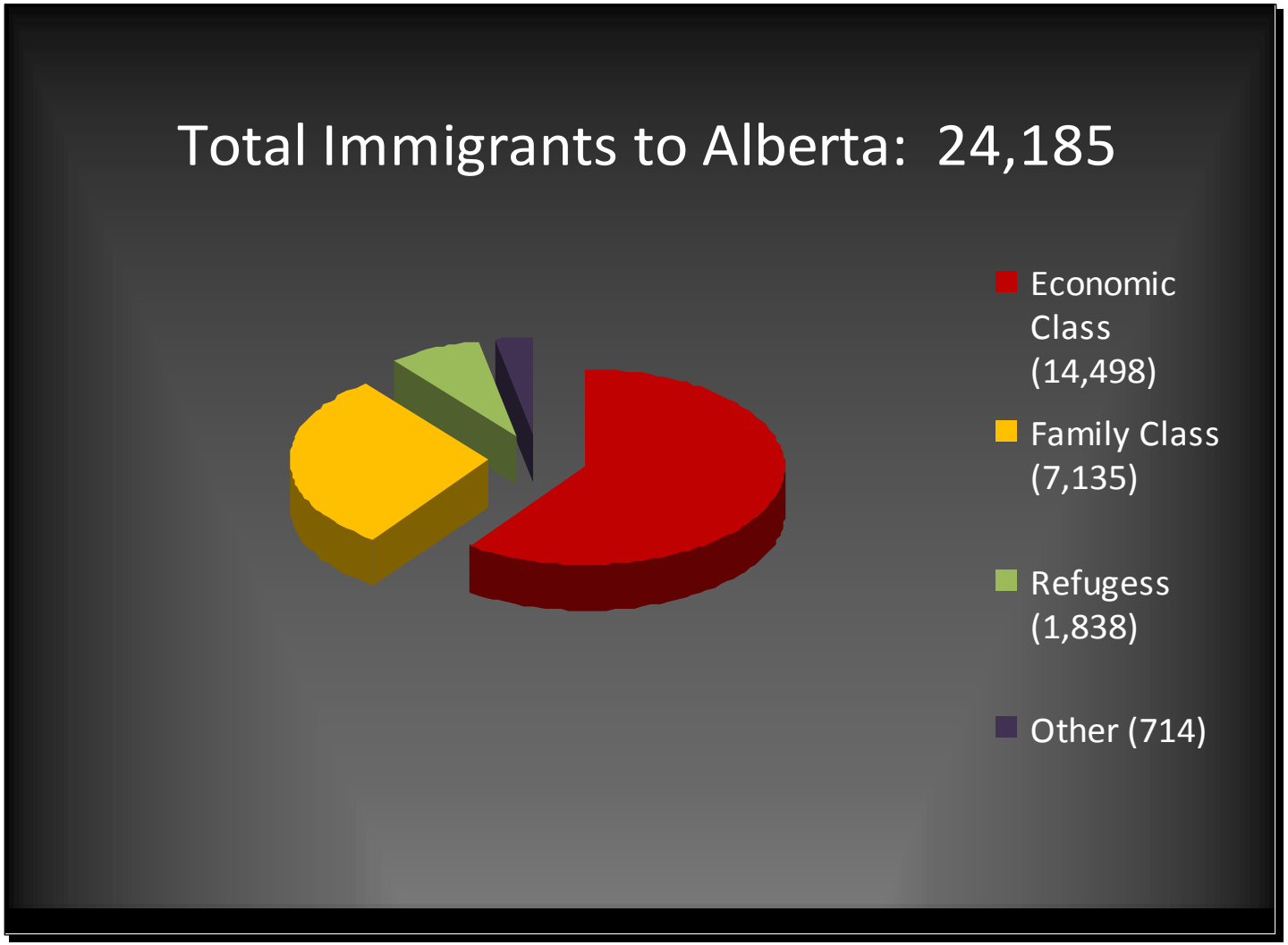
- Retaining newcomers is the fundamental priority of Alberta's immigration approach
- Based on three equally important realms of activity
  - *Attract*, *Welcome*, and *Integrate*
- Targeted programs and services supporting the seamless attraction, welcoming and integration of immigrants into the province's workplaces and communities



Labour Shortages Now and in the Future: What is Fueling our Need for Immigration?



Permanent Immigration to Alberta



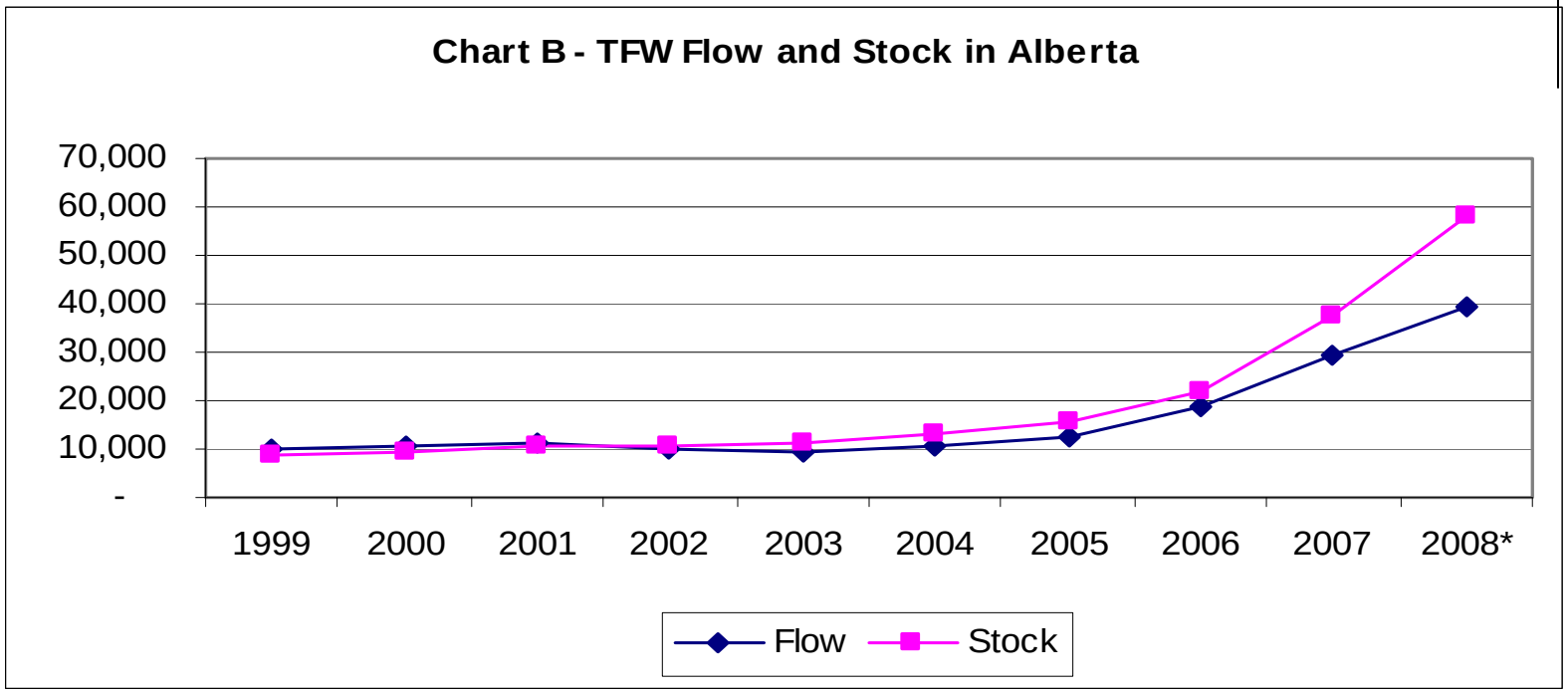
Federal Economic Immigration and Alberta

Economic immigrants include:

- **Federal Skilled Workers (FSW)**
- **Business Immigrants**
- **Provincial Nominees**
- **Live In Caregivers**

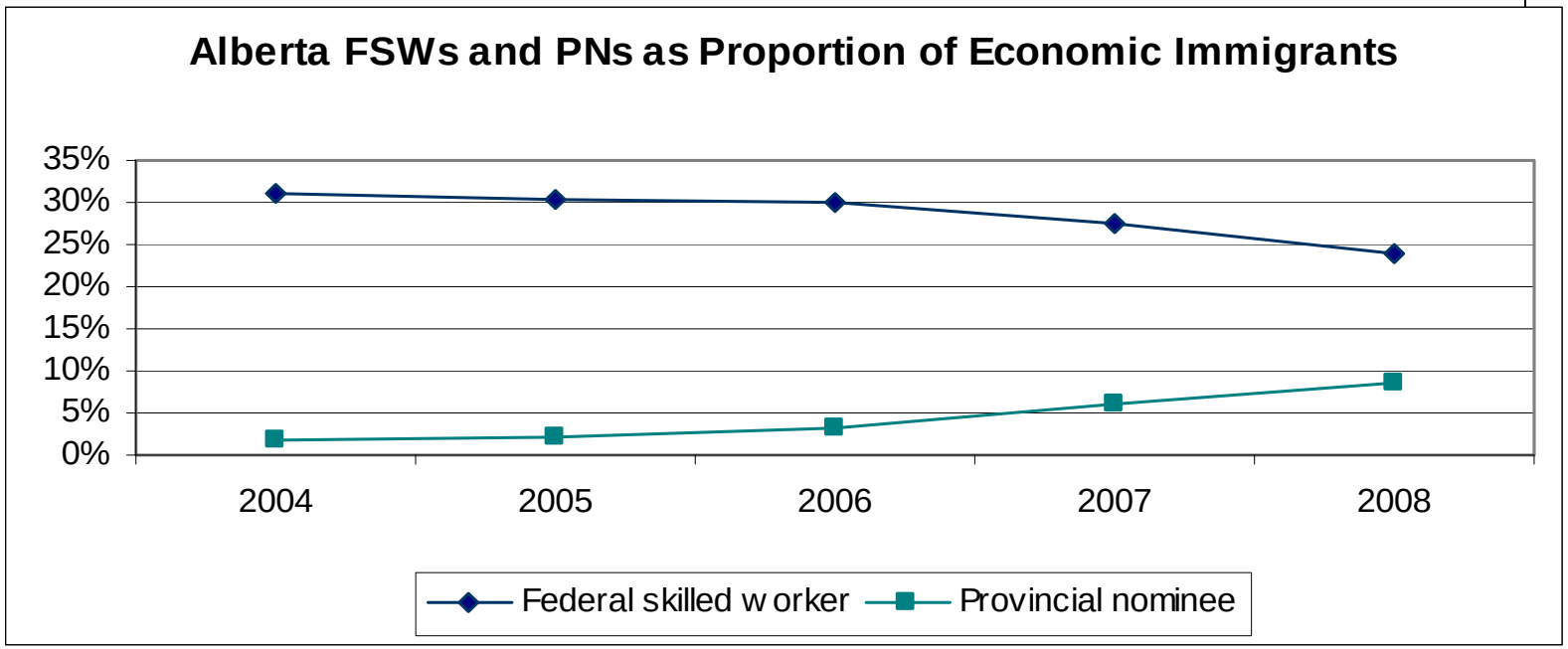
- Economic immigrant numbers are declining
- CIC has a processing backlog of over 900,000 applications
- Federal Minister recommends priority occupations under Bill C-50
- Alberta occupations are limited under priority listing
- Skilled trades and child care are absent
- Alberta will see less FSW immigrants

Increase in Temporary Foreign Workers: A Revealing Trend



- In 2008, TFW flow to Alberta increased to 39,177, up from 18,565 in 2006.
- At the same time, the stock of TFWs in Alberta has also been increasing at an escalating rate fuelled by increases in TFW flow.
- That is, the rate of inflow of TFWs is outpacing outflow, leading to more TFWs staying and working in the province

Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program: A Strategy to Respond to Alberta's Needs



In 2007/2008 the AINP issued 1,658 Certificates

Current AINP Targets

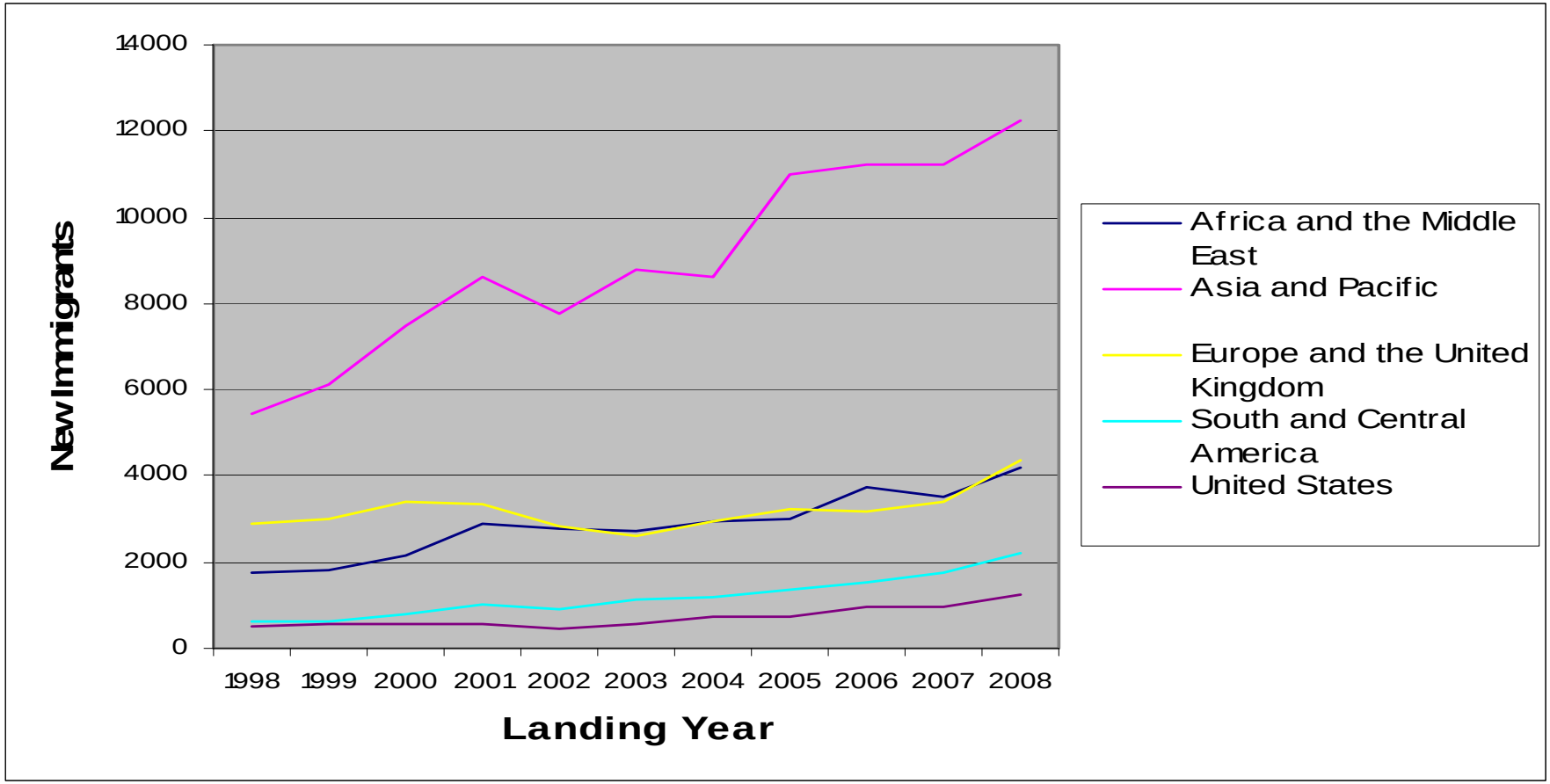
4000 for 2008/2009

5000 for 2009/2010

Program Expansion

- Selected Semi-Skilled Occupations
- Strategic Recruitment Stream
- International Graduates

Where are they from?



Emerging TFW Issues

- Impacts of increasing numbers
- Pressure to increase semi skilled occupations
- Worker Vulnerability
- Community impact of TFWs
- TFW’s filling long-term positions
- Continued information and support for employers who continue to recruit TFWs to fill positions during the economic slowdown

Labour Attraction

Priority Markets and Occupations

- US H-1B Visa Category
  - Primary source countries include: India, China, Philippines and Pakistan
- Trades, Transportation and Equipment Operators
- Sales and Services Occupations
- Health Occupations

Maximizing Labour Market Potential using Provincial Nomination

<u>Strategic Recruitment Stream</u>

- High Labour Market Potential
- Able to move freely within Alberta Labour Market
- Demonstrated Ability and Intention to live in Alberta
- There are three categories under this stream:

Compulsory Trades Category;

Engineering Occupations Category; and

U.S. Visa Holder Category.

How can we address the needs of TFWs?

- Pilots to assist TFWs to adjust to Alberta
- Delivery of
  Toolbox of Ideas for Smaller Centres
- Guides for TFWs and employers
- TFW Advisory Offices and Helpline

TFW Advisory Offices and TFW Helpline

- Offices located in Edmonton and Calgary
- TFW Helpline toll free anywhere in Alberta
- Provides information to employers about their rights and responsibilities, as well as TFWs

<u>From December 2007 to December 2008</u>

- 1092 Walk-Ins
- 2475 Phone Calls
- 1776 Referrals

Looking to the Future

- An integrated and flexible immigration system that balances temporary and permanent labour market pressures
- Ensuring the unique needs of temporary foreign workers are met while they are working in our province
- Promoting programs and initiatives that build welcoming communities for all newcomers

Thank you