

Executive Summary

This report is to analyze and assess the housing conditions of Chinese immigrant households in CMAs Edmonton in the 1991 census year. The study uses sampled data from the individual files and households and housing files of the 1991 Census Public Use Microdata (PUM). The report is therefore a cross-sectioned, not longitudinal, study on immigrant households in Edmonton.

The primary purpose of this study is to investigate the housing conditions of Chinese immigrant households in Edmonton and find whether they are well housed or not. The secondary purpose of this study is to develop a social profile of Chinese immigrant households in CMAs Edmonton. This study examines immigrant households as well as immigrant housing in general; Chinese immigrant households as well as Chinese immigrant housing specifically. The housing conditions of immigrants and non-immigrants aim to provide a benchmark for describing the housing situations of Chinese immigrants.

A conventional framework for examining housing conditions is used, which groups housing problems and needs into three categories: the state of repairs of dwellings (adequacy), the crowding and affordability of housing.

The main findings of this study are presented as follows:

- a) Generally, the housing conditions of immigrants were good in Edmonton since there was only a small proportion of immigrant households that lived in crowding

dwellings and also had financial problems. Meanwhile, the physical conditions of immigrant dwellings were better than those of non-immigrants in general;

- b) In the case of Chinese immigrants, they were adequately housed in Edmonton. Only a very small percentage of Chinese immigrants lived in the crowded dwellings; their physical conditions of dwellings were better than those of other immigrants; Specifically, smaller households had better physical conditions than larger households whereas the rented dwellings had better housing condition than the owned dwellings;
- c) Chinese immigrants had larger size households than other immigrants in general; their income increases as the size of household. However, proportionately more dwellings of large households were in need of major repairs in Edmonton;
- d) Proportionately more small Chinese immigrant households fell into low-income groups, especially single-person households whereas 63.64% of them lived below the poverty line. However, in terms of the state of repairs, proportionately fewer dwellings of small households were in need of major repairs;
- e) Proportionately more Chinese immigrant households maintained by the recent immigrants had the crowding problem. This was largely due to cultural preferences and financial constraints. With the length of staying in Canada, their crowding problems were reduced accordingly.