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WELCOMING COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

bulletin

Special Issue on the Launch of the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership

Message from the Co-Chair

*New Pathways to Prosperity
Partnership Awarded \$2.5-
Million Grant to Support
Settlement and Integration of
Immigrants across Canada*

*Principal Investigator: Victoria
Esses*

Project Co-Investigators:

Atlantic Node:

- ◆ Michael Haan
- ◆ Abdie Kazemipur
- ◆ Carlo Lavoie
- ◆ Terry Murphy

Quebec Node:

- ◆ Bill Reimer
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Ontario Node:

- ◆ Caroline Andrew
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British Columbia Node:

- ◆ Paul Bramadat
- ◆ Julie Drolet

*Chair of the Standing
Committee on Francophone
Minority Communities: Chedly
Belkhodja*

*Head of the Pathways to
Prosperity Secretariat: Meyer
Burstein*

Message from the Co-Chair

I am pleased to officially announce that our application to the SSHRC Partnership Grants competition was successful, and we are now in the process of launching the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership. As many of you know, the Welcoming Communities Initiative will serve as the Ontario node of the partnership, collaborating with nodes in the Atlantic, Quebec, Prairies, and British Columbia. Over the course of the summer, we will be developing the new Pathways to Prosperity central website, as well as the regional websites, modelled on the Welcoming Communities Initiative framework. We will also be developing guidelines and codes of conduct. Our initial research agenda will then be launched in the fall, following meetings and consultations with stakeholders. I look forward to commencing this important work and to establishing a firm collaboration among all members of the partnership. Additional details about the partnership appear in the press release below.

Victoria Esses

New Pathways to Prosperity Partnership Awarded \$2.5-Million Grant to Support Settlement and Integration of Immigrants across Canada

London, ON – In 2001, more than three quarters of immigrants to Canada settled in one of only three cities: Toronto, Vancouver or Montreal. A decade later, an ever-increasing number of newcomers are finding homes in smaller communities across the country.

Now, a new community-university research partnership will help facilitate this transition.

Awarded \$2.5 million over seven years by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the *Pathways to Prosperity Partnership* will bring together researchers, government departments, and community partners from coast to coast to improve policies and practices that help attract, settle and integrate newcomers in communities across Canada – particularly in medium-sized and small cities and towns.

"We plan to equip community organizations and governments, including muni-

cial governments, with the tools they need to devise and implement evidence-based strategies that promote inclusion, local development and economic and social sustainability," says project founder Victoria Esses, who is Professor of Psychology and Director of the Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations at Western University.

The network of researchers, policymakers and practitioners will involve itself in analyses of promising and effective practices as well as evaluative studies of policies and programs, with a view to driving innovation in the integration field. The network will also focus on the sustainability of Francophone minority communities and the particular challenges of Northern and remote communities.

The Partnership has obtained solid commitments of support from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and partnering provincial immigration ministries. Its work will complement the efforts of federal, provincial and territorial governments working to improve the settlement and integration outcomes of newcomers to Canada. As part of this effort, the network will contribute research expertise to the development of Local Immigration Partnerships as they are established across the country.

"As an increasing number of newcomers to Canada choose to settle in small and remote communities, this national network will focus on improving the policies and practices to help attract and integrate newcomers in these under-studied communities," says Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney. "It will also contribute to Canada's ability to avoid a patchwork approach to the important work of settling newcomers, as we strive to create a faster, more flexible and balanced immigration system."

The Initiative is deeply committed to training the next generation of researchers, practitioners and policy-makers. This will be achieved through the provision of education and training opportunities, including a proposed joint Master's program in migration and settlement featuring distance education, student exchange programs offered by participating Canadian universities, and field placements.

The partnership will be supported by a strong secretariat led by Meyer Burstein, former Director-General responsible for strategic planning, research and analysis at Citizenship and Immigration Canada and former head and co-founder of Metropolis.

Additional financial and in-kind support from more than 100 partners, and the participation of over 180 collaborators from more than 50 universities, will help foster research and policy development across five regional nodes: Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies and British Columbia.

An important partner is the *Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance / Alliance canadienne du secteur de l'établissement des immigrants (CISSA- ACSEI)*. "CISSA-ACSEI's goal of ensuring the full participation of immigrants and refugees in all aspects of Canadian life while building more welcoming and inclusive communities is fully captured in the objectives of the *Pathways to Prosperity Initiative*," said Chris Friesen, CISSA-ACSEI's chair. "Members of the Initiative have, in the past, conducted important studies on behalf of CISSA-ACSEI and we are excited about the prospect of being able to expand our working relationship."

Below is information introducing readers to the Project's Principal Investigator, Co-investigators, Chair of the Standing Committee on the Sustainability of Francophone Minority Communities and Head of the Secretariat. Subsequent issues will introduce our partners and stakeholders, not all of whom have been named.

Principal Investigator – *Pathways to Prosperity*: Victoria Esses

Victoria Esses has a strong record of leadership in the area of collaborative, multidisciplinary research. She is the Co-Chair of the Welcoming Communities Initiative and is the principal investigator of the SSHRC Community-University Research Alliance Grant that launched the WCI. Victoria is also the founding director of the Collaborative Graduate Program in Migration and Ethnic Relations at Western University, serving as its director from 2007-2011. In 2008, she founded and is currently director of the Western Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations.



Victoria has served in various administrative positions for the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, including as an elected member of Council, chairing committees, organizing conferences and workshops, and, most recently (2007-2011), serving as lead editor of *Social Issues and Policy Review*. In 2010, she received the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of this work. For the past few years, Victoria has also served on the advisory committee of the Receiving Communities Initiative, a U.S.-based group whose goal is to facilitate the integration of immigrants in new destination communities.

Victoria's research interests include public attitudes toward immigration and cultural diversity, factors promoting the integration of immigrants in North America, and promising practices in settlement and integration. She has published over 100 articles, chapters, and books in this area, and presented over 70 invited addresses and workshops in Canada and internationally. Victoria has also authored a number of reports for government, including work on characteristics of a welcoming community, the information needs of new immigrants, perceptions of immigration and diversity among opinion leaders in Ontario communities, an assessment of promising practices across the spectrum of settlement services, and a survey of settlement outcomes among immigrants in Alberta. This summer, Victoria will be a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York where she will collaborate with American colleagues on research addressing immigration and cultural contact. In 2010, Dr. Esses was awarded the Harold Crabtree Foundation Award in Public Policy Research and the Faculty Scholar Award for her research achievements.

At the local level, Victoria serves as the university research representative on the Central Council of the London and Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership, as well as chairing its Outcomes Measurement Committee. To promote linkages between the university and community, she has also established a local community-university advisory committee that meets regularly to exchange information and share research ideas.

Co-investigators – *Pathways to Prosperity*:

Atlantic Node



Michael Haan, Department of Sociology and Economics, and Canada Research Chair in Population and Social Policy, University of New Brunswick; Co-Director, New Brunswick Institute for Data, Research and Training (to open in Summer 2012).

Michael Haan studies why immigrants make the location choices they do, and what impact these choices have on both their well-being and that of the communities they join. This research is critical to understanding the relationship between location choice and socio-economic well-being, and to preventing over-urbanization in some parts of Canada and population decline in others. Haan's earlier work focused on housing, immigration, and residential crowding, although the focus on inequality and stratification was evident there as well. Dr. Haan is a quantitative researcher, and has extensive knowledge and experience working with Canadian and international data sources.

In terms of recent projects, Dr. Haan is currently working on several projects alongside Pathways to Prosperity. First, he is helping the New Brunswick's Population Growth Division identify New Brunswick's success rates at recruiting and retaining immigrants. He is also studying the extent to which New Brunswick's post-secondary education institutions can be used to attract and retain new immigrants.

Dr. Haan is excited to work with the Pathways to Prosperity team in the coming years, and hopes to be able to help facilitate a nationwide dialog on the ongoing importance of immigration for Canadians and the country they live in.

Abdie Kazemipur, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Lethbridge (current) and, as of July 2012, Professor in the Department of Sociology, and Stephen Jarislowsky Chair in Culture Change and Immigration at Memorial University. Current Academic Director, Statistics Canada's Research Data Center, University of Lethbridge Branch

As an affiliate of the Metropolis Project, for the past 15 years, Abdie Kazemipur has been involved in teaching and research on a wide range of issues related to immigration in Canada. His initial focus was on the factors that influence the economic experiences of immigrants in Canada, with a heavier focus on the poverty experiences of immigrants and also on the role of social capital for their economic performance. Later, he focused on studying the consequences of those economic experiences



for the strength and the nature of the social attachments that immigrants develop towards Canada. Most recently, he has been studying the issue of Muslim immigrants in Canada, and the differences between their experiences and those of Muslims in other immigrant-receiving countries in Europe and also in the United States. Beginning in July of 2012, he will take on a new position at Memorial University, as the Stephen Jarislowsky research chair in culture change and immigration, with a mandate to study immigration issues in Newfoundland and Labrador and to contribute in the public and policy debates on this issue. The findings of his research are reported in many different formats, including in the following books: *The New Poverty in Canada: Ethnic Groups and Ghetto Neighbourhoods* (2000); *An Economic Sociology of Immigrant Life in Canada* (2004); *Social Capital and Diversity: Some Lessons from Canada* (2009); *The Crescent and the Maple Leaf: On the 'Muslim Question' in Canada* (2012, under review with UBC Press), and *The Sacred Mosaic in Motion* (currently in-preparation).



Carlo Lavoie is associate professor of French as a second language, Acadian and Québécois culture and literature at the University of Prince Edward Island. He is also Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Coordinator of the Program in Acadian Studies.

Carlo's research and publications go beyond literary analysis, extending to interdisciplinary studies. In his work, Carlo begins by examining the treatment of migratory hunters in novels, from which he evolves ideas for a study of identity. The historical, geographic, structural and memorial identity links which bind the individual to his or her community are put to use in developing new possibilities for inhabiting any given territory.

Besides his academic research, Carlo Lavoie has, over the years, been very much involved in collaborative undertakings with various Acadian organizations in Prince Edward Island, such as the Saint-Thomas-D'Aquin Society, the Carrefour de l'Isle-Saint-Jean, the Network of Economic Development and Employability (NEDE), and the Cooperative of Francophone Integration (CIF Î.-P.-É.). This work has allowed him to connect his research with the priorities of the comprehensive plan developed by the province's Acadian and francophone community. These include the development of French and Acadian culture in a minority setting, as well as capitalizing on opportunities offered up by the economic and entrepreneurial development of the island's insular Anglophone community. Carlo's practical and theoretical knowledge will be essential for developing and managing research examining new directions in matters of policy and local practice aimed at attracting and integrating newcomers.



Terry Murphy, Department of Religious Studies, former Vice President Academic and Research, St. Mary's University, and former Chair of the Atlantic Metropolis Centre

Terry Murphy's areas of specialization include religion and ethnicity in British North American/Canadian history and the immigration history of Atlantic Canada. He is also an experienced academic and research administrator, having served as Dean of Arts at Memorial University of Newfoundland (1993-2001) and Vice-President Academic and Research at Saint Mary's University (2001-2010). Since its inception in 2004, he has served as Chair of the Atlantic Metropolis Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration, Integration, and Diversity.

Quebec Node

Bill Reimer, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Concordia University, board member of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, and member of the Roundtable for the Canadian Rural Research Network

Board member of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

Editorial Board member of the Journal of Rural and Community Development

Canadian Representative of the International Rural Network

Bill Reimer has been conducting research and education on rural issues in Canada for over 40 years. From 1997 to 2008 he directed a Canadian national research project on the New Rural Economy which included 13 universities, 35 partners, and 32 rural communities from all parts of Canada. In 2007 he edited a Metropolis Project volume on rural immigration ("Our Diverse Cities: Rural Communities"). He is often invited to speak to researchers, policy-makers, and community leaders regarding the conditions and dynamics of rural change. His publications deal with rural immigration, community capacity-building, social support networks, social capital, social cohesion, municipal finances, the economy and the household, and the informal economy. His current research examines changes in rural communities, rural immigration, rural-urban interdependence, comparative regional policy, and the impacts of wildfires on communities.



Michèle Vatz-Laaroussi, Department of Social Work, Université de Sherbrooke, and founding member of Le réseau international de recherche sur l'immigration en dehors des grands centres

Michèle Vatz-Laaroussi holds a PhD in intercultural psychology and a Master's degree in sociology. She is a full professor of social work at the University of Sherbrooke. For more than 20 years, she has been researching immigration and social action involving immigrants. She has a particular interest in family dynamics pertaining to immigration as well as local dynamics associated with cultural diversity outside large metropolitan centres. She is responsible for the International Research Network on Immigration Outside Large Centres, where she has developed comparative approaches based on models of welcoming and integrating immigrants outside large metropolises in Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Australia and Spain. She has also developed an analysis of the trajectories of immigrant and refugee students outside large centres, as well as an assessment of the welcoming strategies by schools located in regions where immigrants and refugees form a new school clientele.



Her most recent research focuses on the social and geographic mobility of immigrant and refugee families in Quebec and in Canada. At the same time, in collaboration with the Quebec Metropolis Centre and Citizenship and Immigration Canada, she has designed several projects focusing on the attraction and retention capacities of various regions in Quebec and the role that Anglophone communities could play in this regard. Michèle is the author of *Le familial au coeur de l'immigration : les stratégies de citoyenneté des familles immigrantes au Québec et en France* (L'Harmattan, 2001) and *Mobilités, réseaux et résilience: le cas des familles immigrantes et réfugiées au Québec* (Presses de l'Université du Québec, 2009).

With Chedly Belkhodja of the University of Moncton, she co-edited an international book entitled *Immigration hors des grands centres: enjeux, politiques et pratiques dans cinq états fédéraux*, published in 2012. Michele has developed many partnerships throughout the years, at both regional and provincial levels, with academics, practitioners, NGOs, and policymakers (municipalities and provincial and federal governments). She organizes numerous research and knowledge transfer activities, as well as training sessions by the University of Sherbrooke, in collaboration with her partners from the economic, social and municipal sectors. She plans to continue this work with the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership. Michele has been a pioneer in this field of research within Quebec and will continue to develop the area, together with colleagues in the University of Sherbrooke, the Eastern Townships, and Quebec, in order to advance theory and practice so as to better support innovation in policies and local practices, assigning an important role to community, institutional and policy partners.

Ontario Node

Caroline Andrew, School of Political Studies and Director of the Centre on Governance, University of Ottawa

My interests in the areas relevant to the Partnership and to the stakeholders in the Partnership can be situated in terms of a number of levels; the first of which are interests that relate specifically to the context of Ottawa and research work I do with the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership (OLIP) and the partners who are also connected to the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership. I am involved in the Ottawa Multicultural Media Initiative (OMMI), a SSHRC funded Partnership Development grant which brings together a group of researchers from the University of Ottawa (Rukhsana Ahmed, Department of Communication is the PI), the City of Ottawa and four community groups in a study of the production and use of media in languages other than French and English. We are in contact with researchers doing similar work out of Simon Fraser University. I am also involved in another SSHRC funded partnership grant with two colleagues from Carleton (Fran Klodawsky – PI – and Janet Siltanen) in partnership with the City of Ottawa which examines the implementation of the Equity and Inclusion Lens –the lens looks both at immigrants and visible minorities and looks at these in an intersectional analysis and has been very important to the work of the City of Ottawa in the whole area of immigration and diversity. And finally in relation to the work of OLIP I do action research in relation to Youth Futures, a partnership with the City of Ottawa, Ottawa Community Housing and many community groups to improve access to, and success in, post-secondary education on the part of low-income youth from families with little or no post-secondary experience. The large majority of the participants are from recent immigrant families.



Another level of research interest has been the work, done mainly with Neil Bradford, looking at the LIPs as structures of governance and innovation.

Furthermore, my research also focuses on francophone immigration, particularly in minority settings. I have just completed a study on the networks to support francophone immigration in Ontario, and have also studied policies concerning francophone immigration. I am also working on the development of a “francophone perspective” for the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership (OLIP), in an effort to facilitate the integration of the francophone dimension into all activities of the OLIP.

Victoria Esses, Professor, Department of Psychology and Director, Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations, Western University

Description and photo appear under Principal Investigator (page 3)

Prairies Node

Marc Arnal, Dean and Executive Offer of the Saint-Jean Campus, University of Alberta

Substantive posts/other positions

President, Association des Universités de la Francophonie canadienne (Elected 2011-)

Chair, Association of Alberta Deans of Education (Elected 2011 -)

Founding member and President of the *Fondation canadienne pour le dialogue des cultures* responsible for *Les rendez-vous de la francophonie* and francophone participation in the 2010 Olympics (September 2002 to 2012)

Community Co-Chair, Advisory Committee to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada on Immigration and Minority Francophone Communities (2002 to 2012).

Board Member: Centre canadien de leadership en évaluation (2004 to 2011), a non-profit consulting group whose mission is the evaluation of pedagogical resources, programs and organizational development for the benefit of francophone institutions and organizations.

Secretary to the *Consortium national des organismes de formation en santé* (2003 to 2011) The consortium provides French-language programming through partner Universities and Colleges in health-related disciplines.

I served for 10 years as co-president (Community) of the Comité directeur Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada – communautés francophones en situation minoritaire, from 2002 to 2012. During that period important changes took place in the capacity of communities to successfully include immigrants and refugees, a new phenomenon for many of them. These changes occurred at both the community and the institutional level, as colleges and universities among others welcomed many newcomers to Canada as students, instructors and administrative staff. In 2012, the Groupe de Recherche sur l'interculturalité, la transculturalité et l'immigration (GRITI) of Campus Saint-Jean with several invited experts proposed a recruitment strategy to offset the negative impact of current immigration trends and practices on the demographic reality of francophone communities in a minority context.

The recruitment and inclusion of francophone immigrants is a significant challenge, one that our project will be addressing under the leadership nationally of Dr. Chedly Belkoudja of the Université de Moncton. My contributions will be largely in the area of citizenship, an area of interest and focus for over 30 years, 20 of which were in the federal Department of the Secretary of State.





Tom Carter, Senior Scholar and former Canada Research Chair in Urban Change and Adaptation, University of Winnipeg

Tom Carter recently retired as Professor in the Geography Department at the University of Winnipeg and as Canada Research Chair in Urban Change and Adaptation. Tom continues his affiliation with the University as a Senior Fellow in Geography. Tom is also a Research Affiliate with the Rural Development Institute at the University of Brandon and an Adjunct Professor both in the Department of City Planning at the University of Manitoba and at the Northern Institute of Charles Darwin University in Darwin, Australia. Tom is also President of Carter Research Associates Inc. Tom was involved with the Metropolis Project from its inception and served as the University of Winnipeg's representative on the Board of the Prairie Metropolis. Tom was also Chair of the Board for several years.

Prior to his various roles as an academic at the University of Winnipeg, Tom worked in government as Director of Research and Policy with the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and as Executive Director of Urban Economic Research with the National Capital Commission in Canberra, Australia.

Tom's areas of research specialization and expertise, as they relate to the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership include: housing, immigration policy and programs, rural, and urban development. Tom has undertaken a number of studies focusing on the housing experiences and trajectories of immigrants and refugees. He has also completed a number of program and policy evaluations of such immigration programs as the Manitoba Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program and the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program. He has also completed work on the state of mental health services for refugees and the need for a more culturally sensitive approach to service provision. A common theme throughout his work is a focus on the integration success of immigrants and refugees in not only Winnipeg but in the many rural and small town communities in Manitoba.

Tom's most recent work focuses to a greater extent on the impact of newcomer arrivals in communities. How the communities manage growth, growth development strategies they do, or do not, put in place; and initiatives they take to become welcoming communities. This work clearly indicates that building welcoming and sustainable communities requires more than good immigration policy. It requires the involvement of many policy sectors and an integrated approach by government, community, and the private sector.

Harley D. Dickinson, Professor of Sociology & Vice-Dean, Social Sciences, College of Arts & Science, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK

Administrative Authority for the Social Sciences Research Laboratories (SSRL)

Harley Dickinson was recently President of the Canadian Sociological Association. He also served for several years as the Managing Editor, *Canadian Review of Sociology* (formerly the *Canadian Review of Sociology & Anthropology*). His research interests include the general processes of public policy formation and implementation, with a particular focus on the relationship between public policy processes and social science research. Specifically, he examines how the creation, translation and use of social science knowledge influences policymaking processes and outcomes. In addition to academic research and publication, he has provided consultation and advice to both the Federal and provincial governments, as well as to not-for-profit organizations.



He was a Co-Principal Investigator on a research project entitled Knowledge Utilization and Policy Implementation (KUPI) funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. He was also one of the Principal Investigators for the Centre for Knowledge Transfer, a national training initiative funded by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.

His books include *The Two Psychiatries* (1989), *Health, Illness and Health Care in Canada, Fourth Edition* (with B. Singh Bolaria, 2004), *The Politics of Work in the West* (co-edited with B. Russell, 1988). He has also published in numerous articles in journals such as *Social Science and Medicine*, *Studies in Political Economy*, and *The International Journal of Contemporary Sociology*.

British Columbia Node



Paul Bramadat, Director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society and Associate Professor of Religious Studies and History at the University of Victoria

Dr. Bramadat has published broadly on issues related to religion and public policy as well as religious and ethnic diversity in Canada and globally. He is the author of *The Church on the World's Turf: An Evangelical Christian Group at a Secular University* (Oxford, 2000) and numerous academic articles in journals such as the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Studies in Religion and Ethnicities*. He is co-editor with Mathias Koenig of *International Migration and the Governance of Religious Diversity* (MQUP, 2009) and (with David Sel-

jak) *Religion and Ethnicity in Canada* (Pearson, 2005) and *Christianity and Ethnicity in Canada* (UTP, 2008).

Dr. Bramadat's work is devoted to two main concerns: 1) the role of religion in the ways individuals and communities integrate into Canadian society as a whole and into the particular locales in which they reside; and 2) the way states and societies respond to the religious claims, practices, and identities of their constituents. He has experience in reflecting on these two issues in international and Canadian (national, regional and urban) settings.

Dr. Bramadat is currently co-investigator with Lorne Dawson of a federal government-sponsored study on religious radicalization and security responses, the results of which will be published in an edited volume from University of Toronto Press in 2013. In addition, he is co-investigator in a major multinational research project on religion and diversity directed by Lori Beaman at the University of Ottawa. Other current research includes a study of religiously affiliated immigrant settlement agencies in BC, supported by Metropolis British Columbia; a project on post-colonialism in West Indian Canadian communities supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; an edited volume on perceptions of spirituality in hospice palliative care supported by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research; and a project examining religious and cultural roots of vaccine refusal, supported by the Réseau de recherche en santé des populations du Québec.



Julie Drolet, Associate Professor (as of July 1, 2012) in the School of Social Work and Human Service at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia.

Julie has over 15 years of international experience in social work projects and programs. She maintains a particular interest in international social work, international social development and community development, and has practice, training and research experience in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, Mexico, France, India, and Nigeria as well as with Canadian Indigenous communities and immigrant and refugee communities in Canada.

Julie Drolet conducts research in the field of immigrant settlement, integration, and welcoming communities in small cities and rural communities. She has served as a Domain Leader for Metropolis BC. As a social worker and inaugural Director of the Centre for International Social Work and Research at Thompson Rivers University, she has a stellar record of promoting collaborative research and education. She also has extensive experience in managing community-university collaborations. She is the principal investigator of four international social work research projects funded by SSHRC: 1) Post-tsunami reconstruction in India (2008-10); 2) Climate change, disasters and sustainable development in BC, Canada (2009-11); 3) Community level adaptation to climate risk (2011-13); and 4) Rebuilding lives post-disaster (2012-15). Dr. Drolet is co-investigator in the Community University Research Alliance (CURA) on small cities funded by SSHRC at Thompson Rivers University. In 2009 she was awarded a Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Leaders Opportunity Fund research infrastructure award to support her research program.

Julie is a member of the international exchanges and research committee of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), which is the principal international organization for social work education. With its affiliated regional organizations, it serves about 1,600 educational programs around the world (Garber 1997:164). The association sponsors a biennial international congress and represents social work education at the United Nations and other international organizations; it also works with the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) on cooperative projects, including co-sponsorship of the journal *International Social Work*. She is an active member of the international committee of the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE).

In August 2007 Julie was elected Secretary and founding member of the Centre for International Social Work in Chennai, South India. The Centre for International Social Work (CISW) aims "to promote cross-cultural learning that enhances knowledge, skills and research ensuring professional social work theories are relevant to major global events and local practice through multilateral, collaborative international partnerships.

Chair of the Standing Committee on the Sustainability of Francophone Minority Communities

Chedly Belkhodja, Full Professor, Department of Political Science, Université de Moncton, and Director of the Atlantic Metropolis Centre (until March 2013)

My research focuses on immigration in medium-sized cities and in regions with low immigration rates. I am also interested in policies and practices of regionalisation in Canada and other advanced democratic societies. More particularly, I have developed a strong interest in the realities of new migratory destinations outside of the "big metropolis" frame, but also in the processes around these migrations for the migrating individuals as well as the locals. It deals with the increasing human mobility, the growth of regional economic development, national policies of regionalisation, but also practices of citizenship and migrant participation in the local, the connexions between local and transnational networks, as well as the place of migrants in the linguistic and education systems in minority settings. Furthermore, I have developed a research agenda around the analysis of the discourses and representations of cultural, religious and ethnic diversity in more homogenous places.



My work reflects the research priorities of the Partnership project, and responds to the needs expressed by many practitioners in the field of immigration. My recent works on international students in the Atlantic Provinces, on the Korean immigration in New Brunswick, and on the francophone immigration in Canada, illustrate very well the new issues of immigration outside of large cities. Several results of my research also address the needs of policy formulation: the ways in which provinces and cities develop a capacity to attract immigrants; the importance of the message conveyed during promotional and recruitment campaigns; and the role of universities in the retention and employability of international students.

Head of the Pathways to Prosperity Secretariat

Meyer Burstein, Senior Fellow and Director of Policy and Planning for the Welcoming Communities Initiative; International Consultant; Chair Emeritus of the International Metropolis Steering Committee

Meyer Burstein has an extensive background conducting strategic assessments, policy and program analyses, evaluations, and operational studies in the area of immigration and diversity. He also has a great deal of experience, much of it hands-on, connecting academic and community-based research with government policy and practice. Meyer served as the Director-General responsible for strategic planning, research and analysis at the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for 10 years. This included responsibility for the design and management of the points system used to select skilled immigrant workers. Meyer was also the co-founder and Executive Head of Metropolis, the pre-eminent, international policy-research project in the area of migration. For his work, he and his team received the Head of the Public Service Award for Excellence in Policy Development.



Since leaving CIC, in his capacity as a consultant, Meyer has provided analyses and advice to several provinces, including British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec. He has also been retained by numerous federal ministries and agencies on matters relating to immigration, diversity, multiculturalism and policy-research. These include Human Resources and Skills Development, the Department of the Secretary of State, the Department of Justice Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the RCMP, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The studies for SSHRC, reporting directly to the President, focused on enhancing the Council's policy relevance and knowledge transfer capacities.

Internationally, Meyer has worked in an expert advisory capacity for the International Organization for Migration, as well as the Global Commission on International Migration, which reported directly to the UN Secretary General. He has also conducted analyses for the World Bank, UNCTAD, and the Intergovernmental Consultative Group – a multi-government body composed of Western European countries, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Meyer has served as editor for numerous books on Canadian immigration and integration. He has also written extensively on the subject and has made presentations throughout Europe, North America and Australia. Most recently, as a member of the WCI, Meyer has led or partnered in studies examining promising settlement practices across Canada; he conducted a major study of the capacity of the national settlement sector on behalf of the national settlement sector alliance; and he has examined important aspects of the Local Immigration Partnership initiative, including organizational best practices and methods for analyzing and guiding program directions. Locally, he played an important role in shaping Ottawa's LIP strategic plan.

Thank You

We would like to thank the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for their continued financial support.