

# Pathways to Prosperity 2014 National Conference

## AGENDA

November 24 & 25, 2014

Delta Hotel Montréal, 475 President-Kennedy Avenue, Montréal

### Monday, November 24

8:30 to 9:00 AM

#### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Conference Chairs: Victoria Esses and Jean McRae, Pathways to Prosperity Co-Chairs

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

#### **Regionalization and Immigration to Communities Outside of Metropolises**

Chairs: Michèle Vatz-Laaroussi, Université de Sherbrooke, and Michael Haan, University of New Brunswick

Regionalization policies for immigration have been present in Quebec for almost 20 years and have more recently been promoted throughout Canada. What can we learn from past experiences and the research to date? This session will discuss efforts to promote the socio-economic integration and social participation of immigrants and refugees outside the major centres in Canada, and research on the effectiveness of relevant policies and strategies.

10:30 to 10:45 AM

#### **Refreshment Break**

10:45 AM to 12:15 PM

#### **Evaluation Strategies for Local Immigration Partnerships, Réseaux en immigration francophone, and Other Networks Designed to Support the Settlement and Integration of Newcomers**

Chairs: Ümit Kiziltan, Research and Evaluation, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and Victoria Esses, Western University

This session will explore strategies for evaluating the work of place-based networks designed to promote welcoming communities and the coordination of services to support the settlement and integration of immigrants, including Local Immigration Partnerships and Réseaux en immigration francophone. Given their nature as primarily planning and coordination bodies, rather than direct service deliverers, developing a set of reliable and valid performance measures for these networks is challenging, with a need to consider what processes and outcomes should be assessed.

12:15 to 1:30 PM

#### **Lunch**

1:30 to 3:00 PM

**Workshops:**

♦ **Research Priorities for Immigration to Northern, Smaller, and Remote Communities**

Chairs: Cathy Woodbeck, Thunder Bay Multicultural Association, and Anne Robineau, Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities

This is a discussion forum on recent and continuing research in northern, remote and small communities, as well as a discussion on what the needs are with respect to research relevant to these communities. Examples of research on employment, economic growth, the economic integration of immigrants from linguistic minorities, and labour market needs will be featured. A Northern, Smaller and Remote Community open conversation about research priorities and use of statistics will be part of the workshop.

♦ **Availability and Use of Large Scale Datasets Related to Immigrants and Immigration**

Chairs: Michael Haan, University of New Brunswick, and Zoua Vang, McGill University

With recent changes in the federal data landscape, it becomes increasingly important for immigration researchers and policymakers to leverage existing data sources to the fullest extent possible. This workshop will feature both recent examples of research that relies on administrative data sources and government representatives who will talk about some of the data that are currently under development.

♦ **Funding Opportunities**

Chairs: Audrey Andrews, Region of Durham, and Victoria Esses, Western University

This session is intended to achieve two goals. First, it will provide a how-to guide for connecting people and organizations with resources through Funders Forums. An example will be provided of how these forums can leverage funds and grow community capacity. Second, the session will provide a Funders Forum for those who are interested in current research funding programs, including a chance to ask questions of the funders.

♦ **Research Priorities for Francophone Immigration**

Chairs: Gerry Clement, GLC Consulting & Services, and Marjie Brown, Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada (FCFA)

In the summer of 2014, the P2P Standing Committee on Francophone Immigration began to consider research priorities for Francophone immigration. This interactive workshop will present the first results of this work and, in particular, will continue the discussion with all participants, taking into account the views of community, university and government stakeholders.

♦ **Agency of the Future: Taking Stock of Progress and Feedback on Survey Instrument**

Chairs: Meyer Burstein, Pathways to Prosperity, and Carl Nicholson, Catholic Centre for Immigrants

Workshop participants will be brought up to date on the Agency of the Future project. The workshop will primarily revolve around a presentation on a proposed pan-Canadian survey of existing and planned commercial services offered by settlement agencies. The survey will also explore the use of information and communications technology to deliver immigration-related services, to communicate with clients and stakeholders, and to gather and analyze data on client needs and outcomes. Participant feedback will be actively sought.

3:00 to 3:15 PM

**Refreshment Break**

3:15 to 4:45 PM

**Roundtable Discussions**

The five regional roundtables will begin with brief presentations on regional research priorities, followed by open discussions and input from participants.

♦ **Research Priorities for Immigration to the Atlantic**

Chairs: Yoko Yoshida, Dalhousie University, Carlo Lavoie, University of Prince Edward Island, and TBA

♦ **Research Priorities for Immigration to Quebec**

Chairs: Michèle Vatz-Laaroussi, Université de Sherbrooke, Chedly Belkhodja, Concordia University, and TBA

♦ **Research Priorities for Immigration to Ontario**

Chairs: Caroline Andrew, University of Ottawa, Audrey Kobayashi, Queen's University, and Reza Shahbazi, New Canadians' Centre of Excellence

♦ **Research Priorities for Immigration to the Prairies**

Chairs: Julie Drolet, University of Calgary, Sheila Petty, University of Regina, and TBA

♦ **Research Priorities for Immigration to British Columbia**

Chairs: Herbert Schuetze, University of Victoria, Carlos Teixeira, University of British Columbia – Okanagan, and Jean McRae, Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria

6:00 to 7:30 PM

**Evening Cocktail Reception and Poster Session**

A reception for delegates attending the conference along with a poster session featuring recent work by members of Pathways to Prosperity. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

7:30 to 9:00 PM

**Discussion of the CIC Jurisdictional Summits**

Chairs: Jean McRae, Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance (CISSA-ACSEI), and Fariborz Birjandian, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society

Citizenship and Immigration Canada has held Jurisdictional Summits across the country this Fall. The summits brought together settlement service providers and stakeholders to discuss capacity and future directions in immigration. The outcomes of the summits will inform the 2015 National Call for Proposals for services. This session will provide an opportunity to reflect on what came out of the summits and to better understand the concerns and shifting directions across the country.

**Tuesday, November 25**

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

**Pre-arrival Services and Information for Immigrants**

Chairs: Queenie Choo, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., and Julie Drolet, University of Calgary

Pre-arrival strategies for providing settlement services and information have become an increasing focus in recent years, with the goal of facilitating faster and more efficient economic and social integration of newcomers by addressing their needs, where possible, prior to their arrival in Canada. This session will discuss research and promising practices in pre-arrival services and information for immigrants, and the bridge between pre-arrival and in-Canada settlement support.

10:30 to 10:45 AM

**Refreshment Break**

10:45 AM to 12:15 PM

**Overview of the 2014-2015 Co-investigator Led Projects**

Chairs: Jean McRae, Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance (CISSA-ACSEI), and Victoria Esses, Western University

This session will provide snapshots of the P2P co-investigator led projects to be conducted this year. These projects fall under four priority themes: Warmth of the Welcome: Economic and Social Integration of Immigrants in Canada; International Students as Future Citizens; The Role of Employers and the Private Sector in Newcomer Integration; and Regionalization and Immigration to Smaller, Non-metropolitan Communities. This is an opportunity to find out about some of the projects being conducted by the P2P this coming year, to provide feedback and suggestions, and to get involved.

12:15 to 1:30 PM

**Lunch**

1:30 to 3:00 PM

**Official Language Minority Immigrants**

Chairs: Chedly Beklhodja, Concordia University, and Cédric de Chardon, Research and Evaluation, Citizenship and Immigration Canada

This session will explore recent research and initiatives on immigration to official language minority communities. By considering both Francophone newcomers outside of Quebec and Anglophone newcomers in Quebec, both of whom are considered official language minority immigrants, participants will learn more about the importance and nuances of immigration to official language minority communities in Canada.

3:00 to 3:15 PM

**Refreshment Break**

3:15 to 4:45 PM

**Changing Entry Pathways, Including Students, Temporary Workers, and Transition Classes**

Chairs: Meyer Burstein, Pathways to Prosperity, and Herbert Schuetze, University of Victoria

This session will explore themes related to the growing use and interest by newcomers to Canada in entering via pathways that accord temporary status, followed, increasingly, by a transition to permanent residence. These new entry modalities are frequently welcomed because of their salutary effect on regional migration but they also raise issues around integration and accommodation pathways, including service eligibility and availability, and impacts on local communities.

4:45 to 5:00 PM

**Summing Up and Closing Remarks**

Conference Chairs: Jean McRae and Victoria Esses, Pathways to Prosperity Co-Chairs