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WELCOMING COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

bulletin

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Partnership Grant Submitted to SSHRC – “Pathways to Prosperity: New Policy Directions and Innovative Local Practices for Newcomer Integration and Attraction”

As many of you know, last spring we were successful in our Partnership Grant Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and were invited to submit a full application. At that time, we had proposed forming a partnership with regional nodes in the Atlantic, Ontario, and the Prairies, with the goal of conducting research to equip mid-sized and small cities and towns with the analytic capacity and evidence-base to formulate plans focusing on critical challenges related to migration, integration, local development, and economic and social sustainability. Following our successful Letter of Intent, government officials, researchers and settlement service organizations in British Columbia and Quebec expressed interest in expanding the partnership to include their provinces. British Columbia and Quebec (as well as Manitoba) offer interesting and important alternative models of service delivery and policy, a function of responsibility for settlement services having been devolved to these provinces. The resulting mix of commonalities and differences provides fertile ground for study and lessons that can be shared across

regions. Agreement to include these additional provinces means that the partnership now has national coverage and includes five nodes located in the Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies, and British Columbia. The nodes will be bound together by integrative structures and activities, most notably, a directed program of comparative cross-regional research, common communication and dissemination mechanisms, and common education and training opportunities. In addition to these common features, the nodes will also engage in local and regional activities.

Following the success of the LOI, we embarked on an extensive consultation process in order to allow team members and potential partners to provide direct input into the evolving partnership proposal. Workshops were held in conjunction with provincial settlement and municipal social service conferences; in person meetings were convened with federal policymakers, senior provincial officials, and various networks; and dedicated one-day sessions were held with partners, co-investigators, collaborators, and students in Halifax, St. John's, Toronto, and Regina. In addition to conveying information about the goals and structures of the partnership, the sessions focused on three main topics: priority themes and issues requiring research attention, optimal dissemination strategies, and innovative education and training opportunities for students. The

meetings were followed by additional teleconferences and solicitations of written comments. In total, close to 200 individuals participated in our meetings and discussions. As a result, the final proposal reflects the priorities and views of our partners and participants, and we are in an excellent position to launch quickly once the partnership funding is announced.

Among the topics to be addressed in our initial projects are: attraction, retention, and integration of newcomers in established and new-destination communities; implications for recruitment and integration of federal and provincial policy shifts on temporary foreign workers, international students, and provincial nominees; labour market and business development issues, including entrepreneurship, skills utilization, training, and support for employers; and the capacity of service provider organizations, ethno-cultural and religious groups, mainstream not-for-profit agencies, and public and quasi-public institutions (e.g. schools and libraries) to promote settlement, integration, and receptivity. Recurring themes to be addressed across projects are the sustainability of Francophone minority communities, the particular challenges of Northern and remote sites, and the need for measures of performance and evaluation to drive innovation and improvement.

A range of dissemination tools will target knowledge users across the academic, policy, and practice spectrum. These include the website, monthly e-bulletin, a Summer Institute and targeted methods and communications aimed at specialized audiences (e.g. policy briefings and fact sheets). A variety of education and training opportunities will be available, including a proposed joint Master's program in migration and settlement, student exchange programs across participating Canadian universities, and field placements to expand experience and career options.

We would like to thank all of our co-investigators, collaborators, and partners who contributed to the proposal and have committed to participating in the partnership. The results of the competition will be announced by April 2012.

November 17 WCI Governing Council and Research Conference

The recent Governing Council and Research Conference, held in Ottawa at the Chateau Laurier Hotel, was designed to meet the WCI's commitment to bring the Project's community, university and government representatives



together for a face-to-face meeting at least once each year. Ottawa was chosen as the site because of the WCI's interest in exposing Council members to CIC National Headquarter initiatives involving research, evaluation and performance measurement. Four themes were explored: (i) achievements midway through the Project's life, along with plans for extending Project horizons; (ii) cross-cutting research that would assist the LIPs; how best to consult communities without overburdening them; how research is used in the field; and how research and data should be presented in order to maximize their utility and uptake; (iii) CIC's research and evaluation activities with a particular focus on the Department's LIP 'logic model' (as the name implies, a description linking program inputs to results); and (iv) a sampling of WCI research that has implications for the design and implementation of LIP strategic plans.

The conference produced immediate pay-offs in the form of advice on how to conduct the consultations that WCI research domains are about to launch to identify and analyze promising practices by the LIPs in their

respective areas of responsibility. The discussions also confirmed interest in how LIPs are to be evaluated and assessed, a theme that will now be elaborated in the WCI-LIP conference that will take place in early to mid-February, 2012.

Request for "Grey" Literature on Immigration and Maternity Services

Dr. Gina Higginbottom, Canada Research Chair in Ethnicity and Health, and her team at the University of Alberta are conducting a CIHR funded systematic literature review on immigration and maternity services in Canada, and are interested in receiving literature from those who are knowledgeable in the field.

They are seeking to identify 'grey' literature (in English or French), including book chapters, theses, unpublished reports, power-point presentations, policies and procedures, and other literature and materials that have been produced since 1995. To assist you in understanding the focus of their work, please find a brief summary below.

Summary of Immigration and Maternity Services Project:

Canada is a popular destination for immigrants. They include childbearing families who arrive from all parts of the world. Further, many more immigrants are now arriving from Africa, the Middle East and

Asia. There is some evidence that immigrant women have difficulty finding the right kind of maternity services and accessing them in ways that are helpful to them. This is truer for anyone who does not understand or only understands a little English. If immigrant women cannot use the maternity services that exist, their health and that of their unborn children or infants may suffer in both the short and long term. We will use established ways of examining existing literature. Our team includes researchers experienced in review methods, with partners from Alberta Health Services, Public Health Agency of Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and an award-winning immigrant support agency, the Multi-cultural Health Brokers Co-operative. This will ensure that the topics are relevant, that the review findings are interpreted from numerous experiential points of view, and that the findings are shared with multiple target audiences in appropriate ways.

Any related references or documents can be sent to Jennifer Pillay at jpillay@ualberta.ca using the subject line Grey Literature.

News from the Canadian Council on Social Development: An Announcement That Will Interest Immigrant Service Provider Organizations

A "PEOPLES' ROYAL COMMISSION"?

The Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD), one of the supporters of the Pathways to Prosperity proposal, is carrying out a nationwide consultation among people and organizations involved in social policy, community health and social services. The CCSD wants to determine the interest for partnering or participating in a *Canadian Commission on the Helping Services*.

Local service delivery organizations have long been strained by chronic funding issues, by demand which exceeds supply, by uncoordinated planning, and by uncoordinated policies of funders and regulators. Now they are facing even greater challenges as increasing costs of institutional health, education and justice programs take up larger shares of government budgets, and governments attempt to implement austerity programs to reduce deficits. A potential response to these and related issues, is a national commission, organized somewhat like a royal commission, but with up to 100 volunteer commissioners. Over a four year period, the commission would:

- Create a common vision and agenda for greater collaboration to achieve common goals
- Identify and recommend solutions to common problems, and initiate preparations for imminent challenges
- Identify and recommend strategies to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the planning and organization of services at the community level
- Recommend appropriate policies to governments for planning, procurement, funding, regulation and evaluation of services and service needs
- Increase public awareness, understanding and support for the role of the helping services in responding to human, community and societal needs, and in preventing greater economic, social and institutional costs
- Work to establish a national helping service research base

The CCSD invites everyone who is interested – organization managers, service professionals, volunteers, researchers, unions, professional associations, funding organizations and government officials – to visit the website (ccsd.ca, click national national commission) or http://ccsd.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=163&Itemid=202&lang=en

Signing up for the "I want to help" will allow interested parties to receive updates and reports from the commission when it goes into operation. For additional information or to ask questions, please contact the CCSD Project Lead, Terrance Hunsley at terryhunsley@rogers.com.

WCI Pilot Project Seed Funding Recipients

In August, the Welcoming Communities Initiative launched a call for proposals in an effort to assist and encourage WCI members to secure funding (through grants, contracts, etc) and to expand their research. After careful consideration of all submissions, the WCI awarded four recipients \$5,000 each to support their pilot projects, which are expected to lead to full research proposals. Over the coming months, the WCI e-bulletin will showcase each of the successful applicants.

Title: Healthy welcoming communities created by immigrant youth

Co-Applicants:

Jason Brown, Ph.D., C.Psych., R.S.W.

Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario

Tel. 519-661-2111 x88617; jbrow97@uwo.ca

Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Ph.D.

Coordinator, Settlement Services, South London Neighborhood Resource Centre

Tel. 519-686-8600 x7029; maladeimi@bellnet.ca

Paul Tarc, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario

Tel. 519-661-2111 x87586; ptarc2@uwo.ca

Summary:

There is relatively little research on the qualities of a welcoming community from the perspective of immigrant youth. Previous research has relied heavily on the experiences of adults and service providers and researcher-defined constructs. This project will involve youth in all phases of the research, provide mentorship through partnerships with university students in a graduate counselling program, and contribute to a strengthened collective of youth in south London who can go public with their expertise to create a local dialogue on youth issues and to inform policy.

London is one of five second-tier or medium-sized Ontario cities that include Hamilton, Kitchener, Ottawa and Windsor. According to Statistics Canada, these cities received 18% of new immigrants to Ontario between 2001 and 2006. Between 2001-2006, new immigrants were responsible for more than half of the population growth of second-tier cities. However, London received the smallest proportion of immigrants to the second-tier Ontario cities at 15%. It is crucial to increase the attractiveness of London as a destination for new immigrants if the city is to grow in size and expand economic opportunities.

Youth, in particular, are among the most valuable assets to cities that need future political and business leaders, as well as professionals, citizens and parents for the next generation. However, current research emphasizes acclimatization and adaptation of youth, characterizing them as a group at risk for costly personal, familial and community problems.

We are not aware of any Canadian research to date that explores the vision of a healthy community that immigrant youth hold. It is important that programs and policies reflect the type of community that youth want to live in, the ways they can achieve it based on the strengths and assets they have. The purpose of the proposed research is to identify what immigrant youth in a second-tier Ontario city envision as a healthy community, one that they want to continue to live in and participate fully in civic life.

The aims of this project are to develop relationships with local immigrant youth, include them as partners in the research process to promote civic engagement, collect pilot data on the characteristics and experience of a healthy welcoming community in south London neighborhoods.

The research will be developed and implemented under the direction of an advisory group consisting of youth and parents, South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre (SLNRC) staff and board members as well as students enrolled in a graduate program on counselling psychology. An interview schedule and participant recruitment plan will be developed collaboratively within the advisory group.

Taking Stock - OLIP's Key Accomplishments



OLIP Council: June 20, 2011

On June 20th, 2011, the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership Council launched the Ottawa Immigration Strategy, at a well-attended, City Hall public event. The launch marked the completion of the planning phase, which focused on developing a comprehensive and collaborative local strategy to promote Ottawa's prosperity and social development, by attracting, settling, and integrating immigrants effectively. The key accomplishments include:

1. Creation of a multi-sectoral partnership that includes the City of Ottawa, local universities and colleges, the four school boards, the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, settlement service providers, health and resource centres, social service agencies, the United Way of Ottawa, Ottawa Community Housing, and regional planning bodies such as the Local Health Integration Network.
2. The establishment of long term directions for six key sectors: Economic Integration; Settlement; Language Training and Services; Health and Wellbeing; Education; and Integration Capacity Development. These are accompanied by detailed implementation plans articulating medium-term priorities and outcomes. The plans chart concrete initial steps and identify institutions or organizations that need to lead or participate in the implementation plans.
3. Agreement for a community-wide governance system to support and promote implementation of the Ottawa Immigration Strategy. The key components of this system are: specialized sector tables to lead the implementation of the sectoral strategies; a multi-sectoral leadership table to steer and coordinate the work of the sectors; a community-wide assembly - the OLIP Council - to bring together key institutional, policy, and business leaders; and an annual immigration forum that convenes policy makers, practitioners, academics, and community members (including immigrants) for learning, reflection and review of progress.

OLIP's intention is that the leadership and planning mechanisms being put into place enhance dialogue and collaboration, increase the exchange of knowledge, promote institutional engagement and generate concerted and coordinated action. Early evidence of OLIP's success includes:

Support from the Community Foundation of Ottawa:

OLIP has obtained \$114,000, over two years, thanks to the Ottawa Community Foundation. The funds were used to hire a communications expert to help develop a communications plan, enhance OLIP's website (www.olip-plio.ca); create new communication instruments; and to improve the flow of information among stakeholders.

Support from the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN):

Government Assisted Refugees arriving in Ottawa will benefit from a medical clinic funded by the Champlain LHIN. The clinic will receive \$100,000 annually from the LHIN to improve the quality of specialized health services for refugees. As an ancillary benefit, the clinic is expected to reduce avoidable emergency room visits thus alleviating stress on the health system as a whole. The program will be operated by the Somerset West Community Health Centre at the Catholic Immigration Centre, an immigrant service provider organization.

According to Jack McCarthy, Executive Director of the Somerset West Health & Resource Centre, and Chair of OLIP's Health and Wellbeing Sector Table, "Timely access to appropriate health services is key to helping newcomers effectively navigate the health system. OLIP has been a catalyst in driving change in the Ottawa community. Real progress has been made with funds leveraged from the Champlain Local Health Integration Network, with staff costs at the new health assessment and wellness centre at the Catholic Immigration Centre covered." Elaine Medline, Communications Coordinator and Advisor at the LHIN and member of OLIP Council agrees. "The clinic's development would not have been possible without the guidance of the Champlain Immigrant Health Network and the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership, two important local networks, which are now integrated."

Support from the City of Ottawa:

The former "Youth University" project has evolved into the "Youth Futures Program" with permanent funding of \$300,000 per year from the City of Ottawa. The initial City-University of Ottawa partnership has now expanded to include the Ottawa Community Housing agency and the Pathways to Education program. Other partners, such as Carleton University, local colleges, and key service providers are being recruited. The program, identified by OLIP as a promising local practice, offers city youth who are not sufficiently exposed to the culture and dynamics of higher learning, courses, exposure to the university during the summer, and a guaranteed job.

Recent and Upcoming Conference Presentations

Bangarth, S. (2011, October). *Bringing China In: F. Andrew Brewin, China, and Multilateralism*. Workshop at Canada-China Relations: Past, Present and Future. University of Regina, Regina, SK.

Bangarth, S. (2011, October). *The New Internationalist: F. Andrew Brewin and the Placing of Canada in the World, 1960-1979*. Paper presentation at Transformation: State, Nation, and Citizenship in a New Environment. York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Bangarth, S. (2011, October). *Canada's Entry into 'The Age of Rights', 1940-1945 and From Rights to Freedoms: Case Studies in Canadian Human Rights History* address to Jornadas 2011, Canada, Estados Unidos y Mexico: Democracia y Derechos Humanos. Universidade Veracruzana, Xalapa, Mexico.

Birtwhistle, R., Drummond, N., Conner Gorber, S., & Pottie, K. (2011, November). *Interpreting the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care's Breast Cancer Guidelines and Evidence Grading System*. Workshop at Family Medicine Forum 2011, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Ferrer, A.M., & Adsera, A. (2011, December). *Age at Migration, Language and Fertility transitions among Migrants to Canada*. Invited seminar at University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Jean-Pierre, J. & Nunes, F. (2011, September). *Multiculturalism Policy Turns 40: Reflections on its Impact on Education*. Paper presented at the joint conference of the Association for Canadian Studies and the Canadian Ethnic Studies Multiculturalism Turns 40: Reflections on Canadian Policy, September 30 to October 1, 2011, at the Ottawa Marriot Hotel. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Nunes, F. (2011, October). *Perspectives and Directions in Portuguese-Canadian Studies*. Keynote Address to the Symposium - Identity, Civic Engagement, Multiculturalism and Transnationalism: Portuguese-Canadian Immigrant Descendants in Canada. October 11-12, Winter's College, York University, Toronto, Canada.

Nunes, F. (2011, October). *Interrogating Ogbu's "Caste Theory": the Case of Portuguese-Canadians and their Academic Underachievement*. Paper presented at the Conference - Generations: Current Findings on the Acculturation and Integration of Portuguese Immigrants and Their Descendants. October 14-15, Institute for Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies, Rhode Island College, Providence, Rhode Island, USA.

Nunes, F. (2011, September). *Cultural Maintenance, Community Involvement and Schooling Amongst Portuguese-Canadian Youth*. Paper presented at the - 16th International Metropolis Conference, Migration Futures: Perspectives on Global Changes, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores, Portugal.

Nunes, F. (2011, September). *Attitudes Towards Schools, Schooling and Post-Secondary Education, Amongst Portuguese-Canadian Youth*. Paper presented at the 16th International Metropolis Conference, Migration Futures: Perspectives on Global Changes, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores, Portugal.

O'Neill, T. (2011, November). *Tamil-Canadian Generations and the Struggle for Eelam*. Presented to the American Anthropological Association Meetings, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Pottie, K., Tonelli, M., Connor Gorber, S., Parkin, P., & Lindsay, P. (2011, August). *Framing for Prevention: Implementing the GRADE Approach to Support the Development of Evidence-Based Clinical Preventive Guidelines*. Paper presentation at GIN Conference 2011. Seoul, Korea.

Pottie, K., Feightner, J., Tugwell, P., & Welch, V. (2011, August). *New "GRADE" Based Methods to Assist in the Development of Evidence-Based Clinical Guidelines for Immigrants and Refugees*. Paper presentation at GIN Conference 2011. Seoul, Korea.

Pottie K. (2011, September). *The Scholar, the Road Less Travelled?* Keynote address at Department of Family Medicine, University of Ottawa Annual Retreat. Montebello, Quebec, Canada.

Pottie K. (2011, September). *Global Health Scholarship and Career Paths*. Invited presentation at Department of Family Medicine Global Health Lecture Series. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Pottie K. (2011, December). *CCIRH Knowledge Exchange Network*. Invited presentation at CHNET-WORKS Fireside Chat. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Pottie, K., Orbinski, J. et al. (2011, November). *Pathways to Global Health: Building Platforms for Scholarship and Career Paths*. Keynote Workshop at Global Health Conference, Advancing Health Equity in the 21st Century, CUGH/GHEC/CCGH. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Pottie, K., Gruner, D., Randhawa, G., & Ferreyra, M. (2011, November). *Integrating Communication Supports into your Practice: Interpreters, Cultural Brokers, and Google Translate*. Workshop at Family Medicine Forum 2011. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Pottie, K., Rashid, M., Lavanya, N., & Greenaway, G. (2011, November). *Screening Newly Arrived Immigrants and Refugees: The Evidence Is In!* Workshop at Family Medicine Forum 2011. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Pottie, K., Tonelli, M., Connor Gorber, S., Parkin, P., & Lindsay, P. (2011, November). *Framing for Prevention: Implementing the GRADE Approach to Support the Development of Canadian Clinical Preventive Guidelines*. Paper presentation at Family Medicine Forum Research Day 2011, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Radice, M. (2011, November). *Microcosmopolitanisms at the Urban Scale*. Paper presentation in the Executive Session 'Mobility and Cosmopolitanism: Complicating the Interaction between Aspiration and Practice', 110th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, *Traces, Tidemarks and Legacies*, Montréal, Quebec, Canada.

Radice, M. (2011, July). *Cosmopolitanism in Commercial Streets in Montréal: Relations of the Market, or just in the Marketplace?* Paper presentation in the panel 'Marketplaces as sites of cosmopolitanism', conference of RC21, the sociology of urban and regional development committee of the International Sociology Association, *The struggle to belong: Dealing with diversity in 21st century urban settings*, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Radice, M., Morgan, K., & Nagler, S. (2011, September). *Tracing the City: Exploring the Private Experience of Public Art through Art and Anthropology*. Paper presentation at the 17th International Symposium on Electronic Art, Istanbul, Turkey.

Redwood-Campbell, L., Pottie, K., Rouleau, K., & Lemire, F. (2011, November). *Global Health Education Toolbox- Key Tools to Support Global Health Education for Family Physicians*. Workshop at Family Medicine Forum 2011, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Sattler, P. and Peters, J., Academica Group. (2011, October 25). *Immigrant and Visible Minority Applicants to Postsecondary Education*. Workshop presentation at Canadian Institutional Research and Planning Association (CIRPA) Annual Conference. Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Stauffer, W., Walker, P., Spiegel, P., & Pottie, K. (2011, November). *Globalization, Global Trade and Movement of Populations as Drivers of Health Inequity*. Keynote Symposium at Global Health Conference, Advancing Health Equity in the 21st Century, CUGH/GHEC/CCGH, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Torres, S., Spitzer, D., Beboso, A., Calzado, A., Bernardino, C., Berkes, N., & Pallard, J.(2011, September). *Filipino Identities in the Canadian Diaspora*. Paper presented at the Metropolis 16th International Conference. Ponta Delgada, Azores Islands.

Torres, S. (2011, June). *Le rôle des interventions menées par des travailleurs communautaires de la santé pour contrer les inégalités de santé chez les populations immigrantes*. Paper presented at the 4E Colloque international des programmes locaux et régionaux de la santé (PLRS), Ottawa-Gatineau.

Torres, S. (2011, June). *Models of collaboration between immigrant community-based organizations and public health units*. Paper presented at the Pre-Conference Session entitled Exploring intersectoral partnerships in working with Community Health Workers/Lay Health Workers in Canada and Internationally: Research and action in improving health equity for underserved populations. Hosted by the Population Health Improvement Research Network at the Canadian Public Health Association Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Torres, S. (2011, June). *Long-term partnerships addressing health equity for immigrant and refugee populations: A case study*. Paper presented at the Canadian Public Health Association Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Tossutti, L., & Esses, V. (2011, November). *Opinion Leader Survey: Contrasting perspectives on immigration and diversity in Northern and other communities*. Presented at Welcoming Communities Initiative Conference. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Stay Abreast of Immigration Developments

As immigration aficionados have already discovered, the Media Corner located on the top bar of the WCI's new website provides readers with a brief extract and links to major national, regional and local (within Ontario) immigration news articles appearing the previous week.

The Media Corner also features modest international coverage, and an archive of earlier news articles so that interesting stories are not lost. Readers will be pleased to know that we are about to extend our coverage to include major provincial newspapers. This will offer a more comprehensive and better balanced picture of issues such as the recent immigration levels announcement or federal-provincial positioning around provincial nominee program targets and temporary foreign workers.

As with other parts of our site, our goal is to offer 'one-stop shopping'. Please let us know how we are doing.

Thank You

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