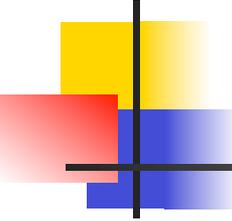


*WCI Action-Research on Local  
Immigration Partnership Councils  
(LIPs)*

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Caroline Andrew and Neil Bradford  
June 2010



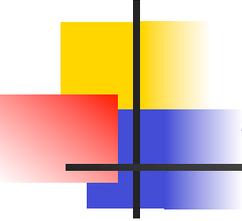
# What are LIPs?

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**Local Immigration Partnership Councils: Created under the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (2005); Call for proposals issued by CIC in 2008, in partnership with MCI**

- **CIC funding for LIPs in cities and communities across the province for a “collaborative framework to facilitate the development and implementation of sustainable local and regional solutions for successful integration of immigrants to Ontario”**
- **Improve access and coordination of services; better immigrant access to the labour market; greater local and regional awareness and capacity to integrate immigrants; enhanced partnerships and multiple stakeholder involvement in service planning, coordinating, delivery**
- **Two LIP phases: establishment of partnership council, development of settlement strategic plan**

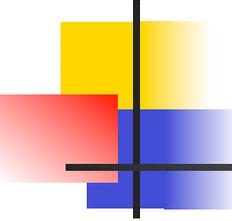
**“LIPS represent a new approach to planning and policy in the sector” (collaborative, locally driven, place-based)**



## *Project Overview*

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***“WCI research team (Andrew, Bradford, Casagrande, Ratcliffe) will partner with LIP members in analysis of local collaboration and province-wide coordination, exploring strategies/opportunities/challenges in positioning the LIPs as key mechanisms for ensuring successful settlement and integration of all newcomers in Ontario”***

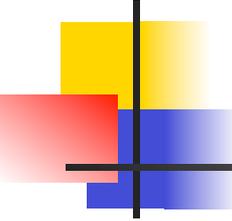


# *Context and Rationale (1): A Changing Policy Environment*

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**LIPs emerge in a period of considerable challenge and change for immigration policy:**

- ***Evidence of low incomes/poverty for immigrants and risks of social exclusion***
- ***Recognition of more complex, specialized newcomer needs amidst economic recession and restructuring***
- ***Recognition of need to connect short term immigrant settlement with longer term societal integration and civic engagement***
- ***Growing interest in attracting and retaining newcomers in smaller cities, towns and rural communities***
- ***Concern about effectiveness of existing settlement and integration programming in new conditions***

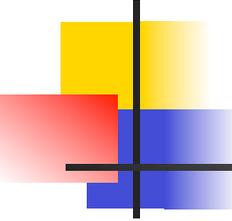


## *Context and Rationale (2): Recent Academic Research*

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**LIPs emerge as scholars recognize that while multiculturalism is a national project, the real diversity work happens locally in our cities and communities (Sandercock *Learning from the Local*).**

- **Studying intercultural programs and facilities that engage newcomers *and* host communities (Sandercock, Kymlicka)**
- **Studying “municipal readiness” for diversity through urban planning and policy for welcoming communities (Ley, Good)**
- **Studying multi-level governance (federal-provincial-municipal collaboration) in immigration policy (Andrew, Bradford)**
- **Studying community capacity-building and institutional innovations that involve citizens in policy making (Siemiatycki, Stren)**
- **Studying the “diversity advantage” for local economies and societies that include everyone (Jacobs, Florida)**



## *LIPs Study: Timely Action-Research*

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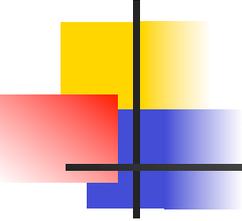
**In sum, both the changing policy environment and evolving scholarly research make our study of the LIPs timely and relevant**

**And policy communities have taken note:**

**2010 Parliamentary Committee: *“The Committee believes the LIPs have great potential. They could bring together diverse parties who might otherwise not collaborate on immigrant settlement initiatives”.***

**Our study involves a “community of learning and practice” that joins researchers and practitioners**

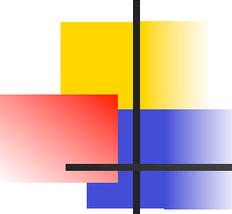
**Kick-off event: LIPs dialogue/research workshop to identify key issues (Workshop Report available)**



# *LIPs Study: Core Questions*

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- 1. How are local partnership institutions built, operated, and sustained?**
- 2. Is there variation in the partnership structures and processes across the province, and if so, why?**
- 3. What are the challenges and opportunities encountered by LIPs?**
- 4. Do the LIPs represent a promising social innovation in Canadian public policy and community development?**



# *LIPs Study: Research Plan*

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## **1. Institution Building**

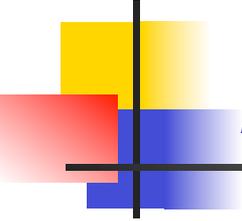
- ***Starting Conditions***
- ***Partnership Council Structure***
- ***Partnership Council Process***
- ***Leadership Dynamics***

## **2. Challenges and Opportunities**

- ***Engagement of Immigrants***
- ***Engagement of Employers***
- ***Inter-governmental Relations***
- ***From Planning to Action (Implementation/Evaluation)***

## **3. Social Innovation**

- ***New Partnerships and Holistic Services***
- ***New Problem-solving Capacities and Resources***
- ***Knowledge transfer across LIPs***
- ***Policy Learning from Local to Federal/Provincial Levels***



# *LIPS Study: Research Method*

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**Collect data in a variety of ways: LIPs document analysis, key informant interviews, monthly dialogues, participant observation, literature reviews**

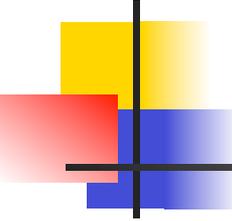
**Two initial projects: (April 30/May 1 Workshop; Bradford/Andrew discussion paper on LIPs as social innovation)**

**Case study method: 6 LIPs in focus to capture variation across regions, urban-rural, partnership leads, presence of university.**

**Preliminary case study list:**

- 1. Toronto: West Downtown Toronto Settlement Coordination Project**
- 2. GTA: Peel Newcomer Strategy Group**
- 3. East: Kingston Local Immigration Partnership**
- 4. West: Kitchener-Waterloo Local Immigration Partnership Council**
- 5. North: Thunder Bay Local Immigration Partnership**
- 6. Rural: County of Huron Local Immigration Partnership**

***Note: Andrew and Bradford also involved through participant-observation in Ottawa and London LIPs and these insights will inform the study***



# LIPs Study: Timelines/Deliverables

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- **May/June 2010: convene LIPs Workshop, finalize research design and team assignments, complete revisions on Bradford/Andrew paper “LIPs: A Promising Canadian Innovation”.**
- **June-December 2010: conduct case study field work, document analysis and literature reviews**
- **October 2010: complete spin-off scholarly article for edited volume *How Ottawa Spends* (Oxford University Press)**
- **January-February 2011: data analysis, case study write-ups**
- **March 2011: report delivery to CIC**