

2020
April



PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

Promoting Welcoming Communities in Canada

bulletin

In This Issue

- ◆ Updates from the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership ... [Page 1](#)
- ◆ Presentations and Video Recordings From the P2P 2019 Conference Are Now Available ... [Page 2](#)
- ◆ Promising Practices – Sharing Settlement and Integration Practices that Work ... [Page 3](#)
- ◆ New Report – In Search of Welcoming Neighbourhoods and Adequate Housing: The Experiences of Recent Newcomers in North Bay and Timmins, Ontario ... [Page 10](#)
- ◆ Immigration in the News: Top Stories of the Past Month ... [Page 11](#)
- ◆ Student Report – The P2P Student and Postdoctoral Exchange Program 2019-2020: Second-Generation Canadian Muslim Women and their Work Experiences ... [Page 13](#)

Updates from the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership

We hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy in this challenging time. As we work together to build resilience and plan for the future, we would like to give you an update on the status of the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership.

Funding

As many of you know, Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) received its initial base funding from a Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). As that funding is coming to an end, we are pleased to announce that we have received a five-year grant from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to continue the work of the P2P Partnership. Our goal is to continue to conduct and disseminate practical research that supports immigration policy and programs in Canada and promotes welcoming communities for immigrants, building on the strong foundation that has been established and the cross-sectoral connections that have been formed across the country by P2P. The ultimate goal is to build welcoming communities responsive to immigrants' needs and strengths, and to optimize outcomes – for immigrants to Canada; for the communities in which they settle, whether large or small, whether primarily Anglophone or Francophone; and for Canada as one of the leading immigrant-receiving countries in the world. We look forward to continuing to work with our network across the country on the important research that we are conducting and sharing. We are currently revisiting our governance and partnership membership to ensure that we are as efficient and effective as possible.

Research Projects

One project that will be continuing in the coming years is the production of promising practice [videos and briefs](#) in the area of settlement and integration (see page 3). We will be completing the Service Delivery Improvements (SDI) Project shortly and will then initiate new calls for nominations of promising practices in high demand areas of practice. Please be on the lookout for our request for feedback on areas of practice in which you would be particularly interested in learning more, and for the new calls for nominations of promising practices that will follow.

Our plans for the future also include research on (a) understanding and determining how best to address the settlement needs and outcomes of different groups of newcomers, particularly vulnerable and under-served

groups, and b) strategies for improving the measurement of the outcomes of settlement services, and of Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) and Réseaux en immigration francophone (RIFs). Services for Francophone immigrants and support for Northern, rural, and remote communities will be included in the work that we do.

As many of you know, we are also in the process of implementing a survey to examine the drivers of immigration attitudes in smaller communities in Canada, which will be launched shortly, commencing with 10-12 smaller communities across the country. This project has been ongoing for quite some time with a large dedicated team working on its different components.

In addition to the research we are conducting funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, P2P research expertise is often sought by other departments and organizations. As one example, we are currently working on a project funded by the Department of Justice designed to examine serious legal problems faced by immigrants in Canada. As is typical within P2P, this project includes a number of partners, including University of Western Ontario, Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre, COSTI Immigrant Services, and Immigrant Services Society of BC.

P2P Annual National Conference

P2P has a robust strategy for knowledge mobilization used to ensure that research findings are shared widely and well utilized. One important component of our knowledge mobilization is the Pathways to Prosperity Annual National Conference, with the eighth Annual National Conference scheduled to take place on November 23-25, 2020 in Ottawa. This will include conference plenary sessions, workshops and poster presentations on November 23 and 24, and sessions for Local Immigration Partnerships and Réseaux en immigration francophone on November 25. At this time, we anticipate that the conference will be a go, with measures in place to ensure attendees' safety. This may include in-person and online components. The planning for the conference will begin shortly, with wide consultation of our members as to priority themes and topics.

We look forward to working with all of you as the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership contributes to the future of immigration to Canada,

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

Presentations and Video Recordings From the P2P 2019 Conference Are Now Available

On October 31 and November 1, 2019, the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership held its Seventh Annual National Conference – *Immigration at the Crossroads: Renewing Support for Immigration to Canada at the Intersections of Research, Policy, and Practice*. On October 30, Pathways to Prosperity also held a Preconference entitled *Local Immigration Partnerships and Réseaux en immigration francophone: The Nexus of New-comer Settlement and Integration*. The conference attracted over 525 attendees and the preconference over 180. Powerpoint presentations and videos from the preconference and conference are now available in the library section of the [P2P website](#).

Promising Practices

Sharing Settlement and Integration Practices that Work

A P2P Project Funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

Pathways to Prosperity is pleased to announce that new videos and briefs on promising practices in settlement and integration are now available on the [P2P website](#).

Funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), the project highlights promising practices in immigrant settlement and integration with an empirical basis for their effectiveness. Our approach focuses not only on identifying truly promising practices, but on analyzing and sharing key features that can be replicated. The project is co-led by the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA). The Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance (CISSA-ACSEI) and Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) are central partners. Pathways to Prosperity will be publishing more videos and briefs in the coming months.

We are also pleased to announce that the project has been extended for a further five years, and we will announce the next call for submissions shortly.

As part of our yearly evaluation, we are interested in stakeholders' perceptions of the promising practices videos and briefs produced to date. If you have viewed any of these videos and briefs, we ask that you [please complete this 3-minute survey](#) by May 22.

Promising Practices Featured This Year

Academic and Economic Integration of Immigrants

The Refugee Centre

The Economic Integration program is a free coding skills bootcamp for newcomers, taught by industry experts. The program includes courses on web development, mobile development, python, virtual reality, and data sciences. It aims to fill the demand for qualified individuals in Montreal's growing technology sector, and provide newcomers access to jobs in the sector. The Refugee Centre's second program – the Academic Integration program – is a free IELSTS and TOEFL training program that helps newcomers attain Canadian education, which in the long-term will provide them access to better job prospects in Canada. For both programs, the classes have a 70:30 split of newcomers to longer-term residents, creating an opportunity for both groups to get to know each other, build intercultural understanding and trust, and expand their social networks organically.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: The Refugee Centre's Academic and Economic Integration of Immigrants programs offer a free coding skills bootcamp and IELSTS/TOEFL training <https://youtu.be/Edmeq1p1tNA> @P2PConnects @DevBloc @RefugeeMTL

Barista Training for Newcomer Youth with Starbucks Canada

ACCES Employment

The Barista Training for Newcomer Youth with Starbucks Canada program supports newcomer youth to secure competitive entry-level employment as baristas in Starbucks locations across the Greater Toronto Area. The program was a response to Starbucks Canada's goal of hiring 1,000 refugees over a five-year period. Newcomer youth participate in a four-day training session where they learn about Starbucks corporate culture and the barista role, earn a Customer Service Excellence certificate, enhance their language skills, develop their knowledge of Canadian workplace culture, and hone their interviewing skills. The program also includes cross-cultural coaching and cultural sensitivity training for incumbent Starbucks hiring managers, and concludes with a recruitment event.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: Barista Training for Newcomer Youth with Starbucks Canada offers four-day training sessions for immigrant youth, training for hiring managers, and recruitment events <https://youtu.be/Ot7nGq033no> @P2PConnects @ACCSEmployment @StarbucksCanada

Be Back Soon

Connections Early Years Family Centre

The Be Back Soon program was created in 2005 to address the need for short-term, no-cost, occasional, quality childcare for families with low income in Windsor-Essex County. The program provides parents with an opportunity to leave their children 0-6 years of age at the Connections Early Years Family Centre for a short period of time while they attend a range of appointments including medical, legal, social service or counseling appointments, job interviews, driving lessons, English classes or other educational programs and workshops. The childcare program is delivered by Registered Early Childhood Educators and supervised volunteers, who offer a safe and stimulating environment. Approximately 38 per cent of current users are immigrants.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: Be Back Soon program offers short-term, no-cost, occasional, quality childcare for families with low income <https://youtu.be/yLABGVdtrgg> @P2PConnects @ConnectionsEYFC

Bike Host

CultureLink Settlement and Community Services

The Bike Host program is a free cycling mentorship program offered in the summer months to newcomers to Toronto. The goals of the program are to foster relationships between newcomers and established residents, to increase the sense of belonging amongst newcomers, to improve newcomers' knowledge of their local community, events, and amenities, and to promote cycling as a mode of transport. In doing so, the program aims to increase physical and mental well-being of newcomer individuals and families. The program

includes the loan of a bicycle and accessories; training in road rules and biking; and participation in group biking activities led by biking mentors. Participants can also join the Do-it-Yourself Bike Repair program and Earn-a-Bike program.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: Bike Host program offers cycling mentorship for newcomers to help foster their relationships with established residents and increase their sense of belonging <https://youtu.be/boj12-rkv5Y> @P2PConnects @CycleToronto @BikeHost @CultureLinkTO

Community Broker Strategy

Action Dignity Society

The Community Broker Strategy engages members of ethno-cultural communities to work as Community Brokers. Community Brokers are hired based on their lived experience; personal connections, trust and reputation they have built within their ethno-cultural communities; their deep community knowledge; and their ability to engage and mobilize community members. The goal of the program is to facilitate the collective voice and action of ethno-cultural communities toward their full civic participation and integration. Community Brokers support different programs and initiatives that benefit their communities, including anti-racism initiatives, domestic violence prevention, ethno-cultural civic engagement, new workers' occupational health and safety, access to health care, relationships with Indigenous communities, equitable services and policy change, community research, youth leadership, and arts for social change.

Video – Coming Soon

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: Community Brokers working with Action Dignity Society facilitate the collective voice and action of ethno-cultural communities toward full civic participation and integration @P2PConnects @actiondignity

Culturally Responsive Accommodations for Family Violence

Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS)

The Culturally Responsive Accommodations for Family Violence program (also known as Apartment 1310) supports newcomer families involved with Children's Services, where there is a concern relating to family violence that requires a separation. It seeks to reduce family violence within newcomer families, increase child safety, and decrease the need for systems intervention. Male perpetrators are offered temporary stay in a fully furnished apartment called Apartment 1310. Perpetrators are required to work with a male family violence broker to understand the impacts of their actions, learn about expectations in Canada, and develop strategies to avoid violence in the future. The victim(s) also receive support from a female family violence counselor to ensure that the family receives congruent information to support long-term avoidance of violence in their home.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: Culturally Responsive Accommodations for Family Violence program supports newcomer families by offering temporary accommodation & services for male perpetrators of family violence & counselling to their victims <https://youtu.be/bb8W921SQJc> @P2PConnects @CCISAB

Employment First: Workplace Skills for Refugees

Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS)

The Employment First: Workplace Skills for Refugees program takes an alternative approach to employment supports by placing participants in a job at the onset of the program. The program combines job placement with training on life skills, workplace skills, intercultural competencies and understanding of Canadian workplace culture, as well as mentorship support to retain employment on a long-term basis. This approach provides refugees an opportunity to begin generating income earlier in their settlement, to become immersed in Canadian workplace culture, and to establish a sense of belonging. The program focuses on recruiting employers who are not only interested in hiring refugees to address their workforce needs, but who are also willing to learn about the refugee experience and create inclusive, supportive and trauma-informed work environments.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: Employment First –Workplace Skills for Refugees places participants in a job at the onset of the program and provides them with employment supports while they are working <https://youtu.be/wp13ao1Jf9s> @P2PConnects @CCISAB

International Student Retention Program

CAFI

The International Student Retention Program is designed to improve job opportunities for Francophone international students interested in settling permanently in Greater Moncton. The goals of the program are: to address the human resources needs of the large customer service hubs in Greater Moncton that require qualified workers with advanced English language skills – i.e., Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 7 or higher; to increase the English language skills of Francophone international students enrolled in post-secondary studies at the University of Moncton and New Brunswick Community College; and to develop workplace essential skills of Francophone international students so that they are able to find meaningful employment in their fields of study.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: International Student Retention Program aims to improve job opportunities for Francophone international students interested in settling permanently in their receiving community <https://youtu.be/6Pj8mumvQFI> @P2PConnects @Le_CAFI

Knowledge into Action

Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC)

The Knowledge into Action (KiA) program aims to promote human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and sexually transmitted blood borne infections (STBBI) testing, prevention, and treatment, and to work toward reduction of HIV/STBBI-related stigma among African newcomer communities in Winnipeg. Workshop sessions, tools, and resources have been developed for community leaders and newcomers of African heritage to address these goals, as well as for health and social service providers. KiA actively engages local ethno-cultural, religious, settlement and community organizations in all aspects of the program. It provides a safe and culturally appropriate space that values the strengths, knowledge, and experiences of the communities being served. Participants are encouraged and empowered to act for change in their communities.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: Knowledge into Action program promotes HIV and STBBI testing, prevention, and treatment, and works toward reduction of HIV/STBBI-related stigma among African newcomer communities <https://youtu.be/q05qe-Q4HS8> @P2PConnects @SERC_MB

Immigrant and Refugee Communities Neighbours, Friends and Family Campaign

Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)

The Immigrant and Refugee Communities Neighbours, Friends and Family Campaign is an Ontario-wide initiative that aims to raise awareness about domestic violence against women in immigrant and refugee communities, dispel harmful stereotypes, and spark action on women abuse. A vital component of the program is the Peer Champions who act as ambassadors for the campaign in their communities, as well as liaisons between service providers, civic society leaders, and community members. Peer Champions are trained to identify, refer, and support newcomer women experiencing violence. Additionally, they are taught how to hold educational events to raise awareness and promote action. Peer Champions then design and run educational events in their communities on prevention of violence against women.

[Video – Coming Soon](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: The Immigrant and Refugee Communities Neighbours, Friends and Family Campaign raises awareness of domestic violence against women, dispels harmful stereotypes, and sparks action on woman abuse, particularly through Peer Champions @P2PConnects @OCASI_Policy

Newcomer Entrepreneurship Hub

Diversity Institute, Ryerson University and Scadding Court Community Centre

The Newcomer Entrepreneurship Hub (NEH) is a skills-based training program designed to help reduce barriers to entrepreneurship for newcomers. The program offers participants entrepreneurship training led by industry professionals. Participants are matched with

business mentors and provided with real-life hands-on low-risk market testing opportunities. It also provides participants with an opportunity to build social capital through mentorship and networking, and facilitates their access to business financing resources. The program offers wrap-around supports such as settlement services, child minding, literacy and education upgrading, TTC tokens, and health and recreation programs to ensure ease of access to the NEH program and ensure high retention and long-term success.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: Newcomer Entrepreneurship Hub is a skills-based training program designed to help reduce barriers to entrepreneurship for newcomers <https://youtu.be/E3ZKmS-VwMU> @P2PConnects @RyersonDI

Our Selves, Our Daughters

Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC)

The Our Selves, Our Daughters (OSOD) program provides health education and social supports to women affected by female genital cutting (FGC). The goals of the program are to build knowledge and capacity of community members for increased socio-cultural supports, health awareness, and access to services for women affected by FGC; and to prevent FGC in the next generation. The program uses an anti-racist and non-judgmental approach to engage an often stigmatized community and address a taboo subject. Through a series of separate workshops for women, men, girls, and boys, participants receive evidence-based information and are encouraged and empowered to act for change in their communities. SERC also shares its learning with health- and social-service providers to promote culturally-sensitive access to healthcare for women affected by FGC.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: Our Selves, Our Daughters provides health education and social supports to women affected by female genital cutting (FGC) and seeks to prevent FGC in the next generation <https://youtu.be/4I1IV6ie0vs> @P2PConnects @SERC_MB

Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention

Centre for Newcomers to Calgary

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention provides individualized support to high-risk and gang-involved youth from immigrant families. Participants receive culturally-appropriate counselling, mentorship, academic support, family support, employment and life skills support, and learn pro-social activities. The goals of the program are to prevent and reduce first- and second-generation immigrant youth gang involvement and to restore and strengthen positive identities of these youth. The program is supported by a network of more than thirty organizations from a variety of sectors including education, justice, police, probation, ethno-cultural communities and faith groups, mental health service

providers, advocacy groups, immigrant serving agencies, research, social service organizations, and representatives from municipal, provincial and federal government, in order to provide a holistic collaborative response.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention provides individualized support to high-risk and gang-involved youth from immigrant families https://youtu.be/VtOaDeoS_RM @P2PConnects @YYCNewcomers

United Voices: Immigrant Youth Wellness Summit

Immigrant Services Calgary (ISC)

The United Voices: Immigrant Youth Wellness Summit aims to create awareness about mental health among immigrant and refugee youth, counter the stigma of mental illness, and give youth the tools needed to become mental health champions in their schools and communities. The summit was organized in response to the unfortunate death of a 9-year-old Syrian girl who died by suicide after being bullied at school. Twenty organizations from different sectors including immigrant-serving agencies, youth service providers, and mental health service providers worked together to organize the event. The inaugural summit was held in October 2019 in Calgary and it brought together over 200 immigrant and refugee youth from 41 different schools and 7 communities across Southern Alberta.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download Brief](#)

Share on twitter with the following suggested text: Promising Practice: United Voices – Immigrant Youth Wellness Summit creates awareness about mental health among immigrant & refugee youth, counters stigma of mental illness, and gives youth tools to become mental health champions <https://youtu.be/3E0Ib3YRCv0> @P2PConnects @ISCyycc

Survey – Promising Practices: Sharing Settlement and Integration Practices that Work

We are interested in stakeholders' perceptions of the promising practices videos and briefs produced to date. If you have viewed any of these videos and briefs, we ask that you [please complete this 3-minute survey](#) by May 22.

The survey includes perceptions of practices featured in the first round — **Cultural Brokerage Program** (Calgary Catholic Immigration Society); **Entry Program** (Altered Minds Inc.); **IRCOM House** (Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba Inc.); **Welcome Ambassador Program** (Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia); **Welcome Group Program** (Together Project - A Tides Canada Initiative); and **WES Gateway Program** (World Education Services) — and all of the practices above.

NEW REPORT**Pathways to Prosperity Funded Project**

In Search of Welcoming Neighbourhoods and Adequate Housing: The Experiences of Recent Newcomers in North Bay and Timmins, Ontario

By Natalya Brown and Anahit Armenakyan

Newcomers' integration into Canadian society is key to the successful realization of the economic, social, and cultural benefits of immigration. The recently established Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot is a community-driven program specifically designed to spread the benefits of immigration to smaller communities, such as North Bay and Timmins (Ontario) with an understanding that the advantages are mutually beneficial. Access to acceptable housing is considered to be a key characteristic of a welcoming community and neighbourhood characteristics shape opportunities for newcomers.

Our study focused on the housing and neighbourhood experiences of newcomers who moved to Canada since 2010 and moved to Timmins and North Bay since 2013. We also solicited the opinions of key informants - settlement workers, municipal staff members, and community volunteers working with immigrants. Participants contributed via online survey, focus groups, and interviews. We examined the impact of each community's housing characteristics on the newcomers' integration, the newcomers' neighbouring behaviours and interactions, and the marketing efforts of the municipalities to attract and retain newcomers.

Overall, newcomers feel welcomed by the communities and residents. Our study confirmed the importance of affordable housing for building perceptions of welcoming communities. While most participants are able to access suitable housing over time, we identified gaps in rental availability that impacts newcomers particularly. Newcomers reported landlord issues with newcomers' language skills and awareness of rental rights as mediating factors. Job market experiences play a bigger role than housing and neighbouring experiences in creating perceptions of welcoming communities. As for marketing efforts, the two cities target different groups of newcomers with different opportunities while emphasizing the natural environment, affordable housing, and work-life balance.

We recommend targeted investments in a range of housing options (e.g., short-term, single-occupant, family-oriented apartments and rooms). There is a continued need for settlement workshops and courses on job preparedness, rights/responsibilities of tenants and landlords, and entrepreneurship. As newcomers continue to experience discrimination in these communities, continuous enhancement of promotional campaigns and events aimed at locals and newcomers on the benefits of immigration and cultural diversity for the economic development of these communities is essential.

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Immigration in the News: Top Stories of the Past Month

Below are links to top stories that P2P is following. These stories and other material can be accessed through the [Media Corner](#) of P2P's website. The Corner provides links to articles appearing in the national and local media. Some international content is also included. Articles are updated weekly.

- ◆ **CBC – April 27, 2020 – [Refugees Face More Hardship Settling During Lockdown, Advocates Say](#)**: Newer refugee arrivals face even bigger hurdles in accessing accommodation and stable financial assistance because of the pandemic, said Loren Balisky, director of engagement at Kinbrace, a B.C. refugee housing and support service.
- ◆ **Global News – April 25, 2020 – [Canada Is Releasing Immigration Detainees at 'Unprecedented' Rates Amid COVID-19 Fears](#)**: On March 17, there were 353 immigration detainees held in provincial jails and immigration holding centres across Canada. By April 19, that number dropped by more than half to 147 detainees.
- ◆ **National Post – April 23, 2020 – [Doing Good: Refugee Family Pays It Forward with \\$1.6M Donation to Hospitals Fighting COVID-19](#)**: In 1972, Nimi Nanji-Simard and her family got word that they, along with 60 000 other Ugandans of South Asian lineage, had 90 days to leave the country. Their latest donation of \$1.6 million is to be split equally by 16 Canadian hospitals to help combat COVID-19 through research and staff support.
- ◆ **CTV News – April 22, 2020 – [Canada-U.S. Border Cracks Open to Asylum-Seekers Under New Closure Arrangement](#)**: The Canada-U.S. border has opened slightly to asylum seekers under the new framework unveiled this week. New border arrangements says those who arrive at formal land border offices and meet certain criteria will be allowed in.
- ◆ **CBC News – April 17, 2020 – [Early Signs Suggest Race Matters When It Comes to COVID-19. So Why Isn't Canada Collecting Race-Based Data?](#)**: There's a blind spot in this country's approach to combating the virus: race-based data. "Our refugee, immigrant and racialized populations, they're more likely to have chronic diseases," said Dr. Kwame McKenzie of the Toronto-based Wellesley Institute.
- ◆ **Globe and Mail – April 16, 2020 – [Advocacy Group Says Undocumented Migrants Need Access to Canadian Government Benefits](#)**: The Migrant Rights Network called on the federal government Thursday to issue individual tax numbers to undocumented migrant workers, allowing them to access subsidies like the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit.
- ◆ **CTV News – April 15, 2020 – [Does COVID-19 Discriminate? This Is How Some Canadians Are Harder-Hit](#)**: There is no data on Canadian COVID-19 patients' income levels, race, gender identity or physical environments. Semir Bulle, co-president of the Black Medical Students Association and the son of Ethiopian refugees, argues minority communities are hit harder than others because they are already vulnerable.
- ◆ **CBC News – April 15, 2020 – [Housing Uncertainty Adds to COVID-19 Pandemic Stress for International Students in Manitoba](#)**: Hundreds of international students currently living in

residence at the University of Manitoba have been given until April 30 to leave their dorms or seek a residence extension with the school.

- ◆ **Globe and Mail – April 13, 2020** – [*Toronto Refugee Shelter Says 11 Residents, a Dozen Staff Have Tested Positive for Coronavirus*](#): A Toronto shelter for refugees says 11 residents and a dozen of its staff have tested positive for COVID-19, the largest outbreak so far in a type of facility that health experts and activists have warned is an easy place for the virus to spread.
- ◆ **CBC News – April 13, 2020** – [*'I Need to Go Outside': Pandemic Rules Prove Tough for Families in Apartments*](#): Strict new rules for Ottawa's parks are creating a new set of problems for immigrant families who live in apartments with no access to private green spaces.
- ◆ **National Post – April 13, 2020** – [*Farmers, Food Processors Get Federal Funds to Help Foreign Workers Isolate*](#): Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau announced \$50 million in federal funding Monday to provide \$1,500 per worker, which can be used to cover wages while they are in quarantine or the costs of space to isolate for the 14 days required under a law meant to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- ◆ **CTV News – April 10, 2020** – [*Farmers Warning of Supply Issues Due to Delay in Arrival of Migrant Workers*](#): COVID-19 is delaying the arrival of seasonal foreign workers who are critical to planting, tending and harvesting food crops across Canada. That is raising concerns about the ability of the country to keep up with food needs. About 60,000 foreign workers come to Canada each year to work in farm fields, taking on tasks that farmers can't find domestic labour to do.
- ◆ **Montreal Gazette – April 9, 2020** – [*The Coronavirus Pandemic Has Shaken Quebec's Immigration System*](#): Foreign students fear they would be unable to graduate and apply for the province's Programme de l'expérience québécoise (PEQ), a step toward permanent residency.
- ◆ **National Post – April 6, 2020** – [*With COVID-19 Clampdown, Number of Asylum Seekers at Canada-U.S. Border Slows to a Trickle*](#): Six asylum seekers were turned back at Canada's border with the United States under recent COVID-19 restrictions, four of them irregular border crossers, from March 21 to April 2, according to data from Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).
- ◆ **CBC News – April 3, 2020** – [*Some Internationally Trained Doctors Can Apply for 30-Day Ontario Licence to Fight COVID-19*](#): The short-term licence, called a Supervised Short Duration Certificate, allows some foreign-trained physicians and domestic medical school graduates to practise under supervision at public hospitals, psychiatric facilities and Crown agencies.
- ◆ **CBC – April 2, 2020** – [*Any Child In Immigration Detention Is One Too Many, Says Psychiatrist*](#): Dr. Rachel Kronick describes a sense of 'sadness and grief' inside CBSA holding centres.
- ◆ **Chronicle Herald – April 1, 2020** – [*Denying Refugees Entry to Canada During COVID-19 Outbreak Is Illegal and Inhumane, say Advocates*](#): Halifax Refugee Clinic executive director Julie Chamagne said asylum seekers and refugees are "some of the most marginalized and vulnerable people in the world" and that denying their entry to Canada is "inhumane."

Student Report:

The Pathways to Prosperity Student and Postdoctoral Exchange Program 2019-2020

Second-Generation Canadian Muslim Women and their Work Experiences

*By Awish Aslam, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology
(Specialization in Migration and Ethnic Relations), University of Western Ontario*

Supervisor: Dr. Tracey Adams, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario

My doctoral research uses in-depth interviews with second-generation Canadian Muslim women to develop an understanding of their work experiences (including those who are employed in the formal labour market, those who are self-employed, and unpaid domestic workers). The Pathways to Prosperity Student and Postdoctoral Exchange Program supported my recruitment and data collection in the Greater Toronto Area, which is home to a substantial population of second-generation Muslims. The program also enabled a community partnership with the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group (PNSG). PNSG provided invaluable assistance with participant recruitment, by facilitating access to service providers and key opinion leaders in the local Muslim community. Having the opportunity to conduct fieldwork in the GTA and collaborate with PNSG was essential in broadening the socio-demographic profile of my participants. This allowed me to gain deeper insight into the diverse experiences of Muslim women, a population that is often homogenized both in popular discourse and academic literature.

To date, I have conducted interviews with 51 participants. Interview questions covered five broad areas: upbringing in Canada and Muslim identity; pathways from school to work; work experiences, orientations to work, and career goals; challenges to performing work and those faced in the workplace; and strategies and sources of support. I am currently transcribing interviews and analyzing the data. Preliminary findings point to three key contributions. First, interviews uncover in-depth accounts of Muslim women's orientations to work and the labour market, including the extent to which their choices are shaped by discrimination and other structural constraints. Second, accounts of the job search process and daily interactions in the workplace capture contexts of inclusion and exclusion. Third, the results provide insight into the various forms of disadvantage these women face (and how they respond to these challenges), as well as the mechanisms through which some of these women are able to establish successful careers. After completing the analyses, I plan to continue collaborating with Pathways to Prosperity and the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group to engage in knowledge mobilization. Sharing the findings from this study with relevant stakeholders may help to ameliorate the problematic aspects of the work experiences of second-generation Muslim women in Canada.

Contact Information — Email: communications@p2pcanada.ca | Website: www.p2pcanada.ca

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et Citoyenneté Canada