

2020
July



PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

Promoting Welcoming Communities in Canada

bulletin

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Virtual Pathways to Prosperity National Conference:

November 23-25, 2020

We hope you are staying safe and healthy during this challenging time. There is substantial interest in this year's Pathways to Prosperity National Conference as demonstrated by the number of emails and phone calls we have received over the last few months. We are so pleased to see this level of enthusiasm and we thank our members for their continuing support.

We have been closely following the regulations and guidelines set by federal, provincial, and local authorities, as well as monitoring travel restrictions and concerns. In this context, and with the goal of keeping our communities and attendees safe, we have now made the decision to hold this year's Pathways to Prosperity National Conference on a virtual platform. Without the requirement of travel, we will be bringing the Pathways to Prosperity 2020 National Conference to you.

The virtual Pathways to Prosperity National Conference will be held on the same dates as announced for the conference earlier: Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24, 2020, with the P2P Conference for Local Immigration Partnerships and Réseaux en immigration francophone on Wednesday, November 25, 2020. You can expect the same engaging presentations and learning experiences for which Pathways to Prosperity has come to be known, including plenary sessions, workshops, poster sessions, and sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities. Workshop and poster calls for proposals and sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities will be announced shortly, and registration will be opening soon.

We welcome broad representation on our planning committees and invite anyone who is interested in serving on either the main P2P Conference Planning Committee or the Planning Committee for the P2P Conference for Local Immigration Partnerships and Réseaux en immigration francophone to send an email by July 15 to Victoria Esses (vesses@uwo.ca) and Jean McRae (jmcrac@icavictoria.org) indicating their areas of interest and the contributions they can make to the conference(s).

We look forward to your participation in the P2P 2020 National Conference,
The Pathways to Prosperity Conference Team

NEW REPORT**Pathways to Prosperity Funded Project**

Barriers and Facilitators to Accessing Community Mental Health Services for Migrant Youth

*By Jason Brown, Western University and
Mohamed Al-Adeimi, South London Neighborhood Resource Centre*

Barriers and Facilitators to Accessing Community Mental Health Services for Migrant Youth was a collaborative study between researchers from the Faculty of Education at Western University and Settlement Services at the South London Neighborhood Resource Centre.

This study explored the perspectives of migrant youth and service providers on the barriers and facilitators to accessing mental health services for migrant youth. A total of 37 individuals participated. Migrant youth between the ages of 16 and 22 and service providers from six local health or mental health organizations participated. Each participant was asked the following questions:

- 1) What are the mental health stressors that you/immigrant youth face?
- 2) What are the mental health supports that you/immigrant youth have?
- 3) What would stop you from talking to someone about mental health stress?/What are the challenges immigrant youth face obtaining mental health services?
- 4) What would make it easier to talk to someone about mental health stress?/What would help immigrant youth obtain mental health services?

Youth were interviewed in-person; data were analyzed using group concept mapping. The results of the group sorting activity were as follows:

- ◆ For question one, mental health stressors, participants grouped the statements into seven concepts, including: family, isolation, communication, anxiety, overburdened, school difficulties, and working with others.
- ◆ For question two, mental health supports, a total of five concepts were identified, including: external resources, family and friends, internal resources, familiar places/people, and community-based services.
- ◆ For question three, barriers to accessing mental health services, participants grouped the statements into five concepts, including: fear of being misunderstood or ignored, desire for confidentiality, lack of trust and understanding, talking about it is not helpful and/or taboo, and fear of the disclosure process.
- ◆ Lastly, for question four, facilitators to accessing mental health services, six concepts were identified, including: atmosphere during disclosure, language similarities, trust and intensity, intentions of the confidant, personal qualities of the confidant, and similarities and self-disclosure.

A notable finding from the youth data was that the youth reported that a facilitator who modeled self-disclosure would make them feel more comfortable disclosing their own issues.

The service provider data were generated using over-the-phone interviews; the results for each question were examined separately by the two study authors who together identified common issues that appeared.

- ◆ Question one, which examined mental health stressors, identified the following themes: dealing with uncertainty or change, developing their identities, professionals making assumptions about youths' needs, unresolved traumatic experiences, family role changes, academic, social and emotional challenges at school, and limited English language.
- ◆ For question two, mental health supports, the identified themes included: peers are a source of support, school-based services and referrals, other family members, and community organizations and networks.
- ◆ Question three, barriers to accessing mental health services, had the following five themes, including: language barriers, don't feel safe, unfamiliar treatment approaches, lack of culturally experienced professionals, and more pressing family needs.
- ◆ Lastly, in question 4, facilitators to accessing mental health services, five themes were identified, which included: partnerships with community centers, messaging about mental health, building relationships, mental health services outreach, and hiring helpers from the community.

A notable finding from the service provider interviews was that the service providers identified Settlement Workers as essential resources for youth in schools and the community to support youths' mental health.

[Click here for the full report](#)

Evaluating Refugee Programs

The purpose of this national project is to build the evaluation capacity of the refugee sector across Canada. The project is led by the [Centre for Community Based Research](#) (CCBR) and the [Evaluation Capacity Network](#) (ECN) of the University of Alberta. It is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) via the Service Delivery Improvements program. Over 300 participants in 12 communities across Canada attended our community-based evaluation workshops this past year.

What's new in the third year of this project?

- ◆ A series of 5 [webinars](#) that summarize workshop content.
- ◆ A series of live events that go deeper on issues raised by workshop participants. Click here for past webinars: <https://www.eval4refugee.ca/webinars>
- ◆ A new Community of Practice, a place to discuss best practices and challenges in community-based evaluation of refugee-serving programs. Register [here](#) and join "Equipping for Community-Based Evaluation" open group.
- ◆ A list of Mentors ready to support evaluations across Canada. Look for a mentor [here](#). Want to become a mentor? Sign-up [here](#).
- ◆ Ongoing evaluation coaching and training provided by CCBR and ECN. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Want to learn more? Sign-up for Evaluating Refugee Programs [e-News](#).

NEW REPORT

Pathways to Prosperity Funded Project

Belonging and Inclusion: Art Hives With Immigrant Youth in St. John's, Newfoundland

By Leah Lewis, Heather McLeod, and Xuemei Li, Memorial University

We researched applications of the Art Hive framework (Timm-Bottos, 2006) in St. John's, Newfoundland. Between 2015 and 2017 our projects included programming with immigrant and refugee youth in a local high school in weekly pop-up Art Hive sessions. We focused on establishing a sense of belonging and inclusion in a new place and art making in a social context. Our observations of how the Art Hives process affected newcomer students were informed by Adler's notion of the Crucial Cs (young people need courage to connect with others, to feel capable, and to know they count; Bettner & Lew, 1990). The next round of sessions responded to the requests of newcomer youth to invite local students to participate with them; here social engagement increased. Outcomes demonstrated that the Art Hive sessions provided space for exchange, fostered creative competency, and supported social connection. Students experienced a home-like support and felt noticed. A student-curated exhibit and open house was hosted by the young people, who took charge of mini-printmaking workshops and demonstrated a pride in ownership of the Art Hive space and program.



Responding to a call for permanent Art Hive programming, in November 2018 we expanded to a studio located in an Indigenous organization where we host community-embedded programming. We shifted from a pop-up style to a permanent rented space, and our participant focus evolved from a newcomer-only process focusing on inclusion and belonging, to an expanded and integrated culturally diverse engagement including newcomer youth and families, as well as Indigenous youth, families, and elders. (The Art Hive is temporarily shuttered due to the world pandemic).



We have disseminated our findings through presentations and peer-reviewed publications. Our evolving research projects have received funding support from Memorial University's Faculty of Education Research & Development Fund and the Seed, Bridge and Multi-disciplinary Fund. Additionally we were awarded a SSHRC Pathways to Prosperity sub-grant, and more recently a SSHRC Insight Development Grant.

[Download presentation: Newcomer Youth and Belonging: Community-Based Arts Practice](#)

Are Intentions to Immigrate to Canada Changing in the Face of COVID-19?



In April 2020, the global reach of the COVID-19 pandemic became clear. To understand its potential impact on prospective immigrants and their intentions to immigrate, WES Research conducted a survey of applicants for a WES Educational Credential Assessment (ECA). The resulting report is based on the responses of 4,615 individuals who reside outside of Canada.

The report provides insight into how the pandemic is affecting the immigration intentions of prospective immigrants to Canada, including:

- ◆ Expectations about the economic impact of COVID-19
- ◆ Factors impacting interest and intent to immigrate

Key Findings

COVID-19 has not affected the level of interest of the majority of prospective immigrants to Canada

The majority of respondents (57%) say that COVID-19 does not impact their interest in immigrating. Only 5% would be less interested. A plurality (42%) say it is unlikely that they will delay immigration to Canada because of COVID-19.

COVID-19-related economic concerns make many more interested in immigrating to Canada

While prospective immigrants expect COVID-19 to negatively affect economic conditions and the availability of jobs in their occupation or sector both in their home country and in Canada, more expect their home country to be negatively affected. For a significant percentage (38%), a contracting economy at home would make them more interested in immigrating to Canada. Among respondents from several countries (the Philippines, China, and Nigeria), more than half of prospective immigrants are, in fact, more interested in immigrating as a result of the pandemic.

Many others may pause their immigration plans

Thirty-five percent of respondents say they are considering delaying immigration to Canada. Among those considering a delay, the top factors are the risk of contracting COVID-19 during travel (45%), travel restrictions (44%), a potential recession in Canada (43%), and fewer jobs in their occupation or sector in Canada (42%).

To download the full report, [click here](#)

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 News – July 2, 2020** – [How Undocumented Migrant Workers Are Slipping Through Ontario's COVID-19 Net](#): The house where the undocumented workers live isn't hard to find. Located just 100 metres from one of Leamington, Ontario's main intersections, the sprawling structure has clearly seen better days. The paint is peeling, shingles are curling, and some of its filthy windows are cracked. Yet it is home for nearly 20 foreign farm labourers — most of them lacking the proper permits to work in Canada. Men who are now trying to balance concerns about COVID-19 with fears that the act of getting tested might get them deported.
- ◆ **National Post – July 1, 2020** – [Canada CEOs Urged to Hire Black Executives for 3.5 Per Cent of Top Roles](#): A group of business leaders released a seven-point pledge for top executives to commit to for ending systemic racism and increasing the representation of Black Canadians in boardrooms. The 'BlackNorth Initiative CEO Pledge' asks executives to agree that Black leaders will hold a minimum of 3.5% of executive and board roles by 2025, according to a statement Tuesday by the Canadian Council of Business Leaders Against Anti-Black Systemic Racism.
- ◆ **Reuters – June 26, 2020** – [Canadian Visa Program May Lure Tech Workers Blocked by Trump](#): A fast-track visa program that Canada launched in 2017 has attracted a growing number of tech workers, and U.S. President Donald Trump's latest immigration crackdown is set to further boost intake once COVID-19 restrictions ease, lawyers say. The number of successful applicants to Canada's Global Skills Strategy (GSS) program rose five-fold over its first three years, with more than 23,000 workers approved under the top five tech categories.
- ◆ **Toronto Star – June 25, 2020** – ['Yellow Peril': How the Pandemic Is Fuelling Anti-Chinese Racism](#): As the pandemic spread globally, there have been a surge of reports of anti-Chinese and anti-Asian racism in Canada. While the pandemic may have brought anti-Asian sentiments to the surface, they are merely the latest example of so-called "Yellow Peril" and institutionalized racism in Canada — from the Chinese Head Tax, to the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923, to cases of racism in Toronto during the SARS crisis of 2003.
- ◆ **CBC News – June 22, 2020** – [New Poll Reveals Chinese-Canadians' Experiences with Racism](#): A new poll from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute and the University of Alberta suggests a large percentage of people who identify as Chinese-Canadian have experienced some type of racism since the coronavirus pandemic began. Of the more than 500 Canadians of Chinese ethnicity surveyed from across Canada, half reported being called names or insulted as a direct result of COVID-19, and 43 per cent said they had been personally threatened or intimidated.
- ◆ **CTV News – June 20, 2020** – [Canada's Population Growth Halted by COVID-19 Crisis Due to Immigration Restrictions: Study](#): Canada's immigration numbers have dropped in 2020, and a new study shows just how much the population demographics may be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and international travel restrictions. While 3,851 more immigrants came to Canada in the first quarter of 2020 (69,787 total) than did in 2019, the number dropped dramatically in April as international travel restrictions began.

- ◆ **Toronto Star – June 19, 2020 – [East Asian Canadians Face a 'Disproportionate' Mental Health Impact of COVID, Study Says](#)**: Researchers surveyed 2,033 respondents online with questions ranging from demographic status to the impact of COVID-19 on workplaces, personal habits, risk perceptions and discrimination. “While the current COVID-19 pandemic has had deleterious mental health impacts on all Canadians, some groups have been more vulnerable than others,” concluded the joint study by York University and the University of British Columbia.
- ◆ **The Conversation – June 18, 2020 – [Newcomers Are On the Fault Lines of Canada's Social Safety Nets and Food Systems](#)**: The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a spotlight on our fraying social safety nets, fragile domestic and global food systems, and the unacceptable precarity faced by newcomers, front-line workers and those living on the economic margins. Newcomers – recent immigrants, refugees, undocumented workers and international students – are vital to the Canadian economy. We depend on them to provide access to the low-cost foods we have come to expect.
- ◆ **Global News – June 18, 2020 – [International Students Feeling Helpless as COVID-19 Leaves Semester Hanging](#)**: Aydolu Simsek is one of many international students worried about lack of income, increasing tuition or that they could run out of time to complete their studies before their visas expire. Some feel they are being left behind when it comes to government aid and other help during the pandemic.
- ◆ **Globe and Mail – June 16, 2020 – [Essential But Expendable: How Canada Failed Migrant Farm Workers](#)**: In interviews, farm workers detailed the myriad reasons that COVID-19 has infiltrated farms with such success: a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE), an information vacuum and pressure to work, despite symptoms. In one instance, a feverish worker developed chest pains and a nosebleed that dripped on the vegetables he tended; he said his supervisors refused to take him home until the shift was over.
- ◆ **CTV News – June 15, 2020 – [Filling the Gap in Data on Anti-Asian Racism in Canada](#)**: Violent, racist attacks are making headlines across the country. Many of them go viral if they're caught on video and shared on social media. But what about the racist incidents that don't trend online? Project 1907, a community-led, grassroots data project is trying to fill that gap by collecting data on racist experiences that Asians in Canada can experience everyday.
- ◆ **Toronto Star – June 12, 2020 – [Ontario Putting Up Cash to Help Farms Fight the Spread of COVID-19 Among Migrant Workers](#)**: Ontario is putting up another \$15 million in aid to curb increasing outbreaks of COVID-19 among migrant workers, with assistance worth up to \$7,500 per farm. The money to improve workplace and bunkhouse protections from the virus that has killed two temporary foreign workers in Essex County will be announced Friday.
- ◆ **Financial Post – June 12, 2020 – [Protests and a Violent Arrest Expose Canada's Racial Cracks](#)**: The racial turmoil that has gripped the U.S. is causing Canada to publicly confront its own shortcomings in the treatment of minority groups by police and other authorities. Canada's longest-standing racial fault line — the treatment of its indigenous people — burst into view as a video surfaced of the violent arrest of a prominent First Nations leader.
- ◆ **CTV News – June 11, 2020 – ['Systemic Silence': Canada's Ignored History of Slavery](#)**: For 17 years, Charmaine Nelson has asked new students at McGill University if they knew that slavery

occurred in Canada. She can recall just one student who said that they did. Most only knew of the "Underground Railroad," the network of safe houses and secret routes for enslaved people in the U.S. to escape to Canada.

- ◆ **Global News – June 11, 2020** – [*Ottawa to Revamp Immigration Application Processing Ahead of Anticipated Surge*](#): A complete overhaul of how Canada processes immigration applications is in the works as the government braces for post-pandemic demand for migration to Canada. Aging computer systems, paper applications and in-person interviews are among the things that must be adapted for the "new normal" after COVID-19, IRCC said in a tender posted to the government's procurement website and marked "urgent."
- ◆ **CBC News – June 10, 2020** – [*Ottawa Looks to Give Permanent Residency to Asylum Seekers Who Work in Health Care*](#): The federal government is working on a special program that would grant permanent residency to asylum seekers who have worked in health-care roles during the COVID-19 pandemic. The temporary measure is expected to cover all the regions of the country.
- ◆ **Toronto Star – June 10, 2020** – [*Canadian Extremists See Spike in Online Engagement Under COVID-19 Lockdowns*](#): Moonshot CVE, a U.K.-based counter-extremism research firm, observed a significant uptick in Canadians seeking out extremist content online in six Canadian cities during the lockdown, including Toronto and Ottawa.
- ◆ **CTV News – June 8, 2020** – [*Cross-border Families Can Now Reunite Under New Exemption*](#): Immediate family members of Canadian citizens or permanent residents can enter Canada to be reunited, under a new limited exemption to the current border restrictions. This new policy will allow immediate family members from the United States, as well as from other countries, to be able to enter Canada under a series of stipulations.
- ◆ **Toronto Star – June 6, 2020** – [*'The Hurdles I Have to Jump Are Unbelievable:' How Systemic Racism in Banks and Support Networks Is Holding Back Black Entrepreneurs*](#): Before Pauline Thomas started her own business, Comfort Bras, she worked a corporate job at a multibillion-dollar firm and brought home a six-figure salary. But whenever she applied for a bank loan, it wasn't the dollar figure the person on the other side of the counter saw, it was her skin colour.
- ◆ **CBC News – June 2, 2020** – [*As More Migrant Workers Contract COVID-19, Advocates Urge for System to Change*](#): As temporary foreign workers on southwestern Ontario farms mourn the death of a colleague and deal with a spreading coronavirus outbreak, advocates for the workers say COVID-19 has brought long-simmering health and safety issues to the forefront.
- ◆ **Toronto Star – June 1, 2020** – [*'Racism Exists in Canada:' These Are the Stories From People Who Have Lived It As Eyes Turn on U.S. After George Floyd Death in Minneapolis*](#): The Star asked people across Canada to share their experiences with racism and their wishes for the future. The stories are told in their own words.
- ◆ **Globe and Mail – June 1, 2020** – [*Ottawa Urged to Open Its Doors to People Fleeing Hong Kong*](#): Parliamentarians and human-rights groups, including Amnesty International, are urging Canada to open its doors to people fleeing Hong Kong in the wake of Beijing's decision to impose a national security law on the former British colony. Nearly 50 Hong Kong residents, most of them activists, have already applied for refugee status in Canada.

People On the Move

Howard Ramos has moved to the Department of Sociology at Western University, and will serve as Chair of the Department as of July 1st, 2020. He previously worked as a Professor of Sociology at Dalhousie University. New email: howard.ramos@uwo.ca

Yilmaz Ergun Dinc took up the role of Research and Evaluation Manager of Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) on March 1, 2020, having led the research portfolio in the organization for the last two years as the Research and Partnerships Specialist. Dr. Dinc has brought both his extensive experience with the United Nations in Turkey, as well as his lived experience as an immigrant, to bear on TRIEC's research and communications work, authoring reports and op-eds that generate important discussions on the vital contributions of newcomers.

New Grants

Brigham, S. (PI), Ramos, H., & Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS). (March 2020). Refugee Youth and Interrupted Schooling: Economic and Social Implications. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) / Child and Youth Refugee Research Coalition (CYRRC).

Cleveland, M. (April 2020). Blurred Ethnic Boundaries: The Palette of Mixed-Ethnic Identity and the Canvas of Consumer Behavior. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Grant. (July 2020 – June 2024).

Cukier, W. (June 2020). Inclusive Innovation and Entrepreneurship Network (IIE-Net). Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

Esses, V.M., Sutter, A., South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre, & COSTI Immigrant Services. (March 2020). A Look at Serious Legal Problems Facing Immigrants in London and Toronto, Ontario. Department of Justice Canada. (April – December 2020).

Ghahari, S., Pillay, T., Xavier, M. S., Sani, M., Gungo, D., & James, S. (May 2020). Identifying and Mitigating Educational Challenges that Refugee Youth Face During Covid-19 Pandemic. Queen's University – COVID 19 Rapid Response. (May – October 2020).

The Centre for Community Based Research. Guelph-Wellington Newcomer Youth Mental Health Study. Funded by Guelph-Wellington Local Immigration Partnership. (June – December 2020).

Recent and Upcoming Publications

Bauder, H., & Juffs, L. (2020). 'Solidarity' in the migration and refugee literature: Analysis of a concept. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 46(1), 46–65.

Bollman, R.D. (2020). [The impact of COVID-19 on rural employment up to May, 2020](#). *Rural Ontario Institute*.

Brigham, S., & Kharbach, M. (2020). Ethical issues in a participatory photography research project involving youth with refugee experience. In S. Dodd (Ed.) *Ethics and Integrity in Visual Research Methods (Advances in Research Ethics and Integrity, Vol. 5)*. (pp. 153-170). Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing Limited.

- Esses, V.M. (in press). Prejudice and discrimination toward immigrants. *Annual Review of Psychology*.
- Esses, V.M., Medianu, S., & Sutter, A. (in press). The dehumanization and rehumanization of refugees. To appear in M Kronfeldner (Ed.), *Routledge handbook of dehumanization*. Abingdon-on-Thames, UK: Routledge.
- Ghahari, S., Burnett, S., & Alexander L. (2020). [Development and pilot testing of a health education program to improve immigrants' access to Canadian health services](#). *BMC Health Services Research*, 20(321), 1-12.
- Janzen, R. (2019). [Pathways to engaging cultural diversity by Canadian Mennonite congregations](#). *Conrad Grebel Review*, 37(3), 247-266.
- Janzen, R. & Ochocka, J. (2020). [Assessing research with Syrian refugee newcomers through a community-based research excellence tool](#). *Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement*.
- Kaida, L., Ramos, H., Singh, D., & McLay, R. (2020). How to capture neighbourhood change in small cities. *Canadian Studies in Population*.
- Longo, M. E., & Atkin, S. (dir.). (2020). [Jeunesse, migration et emploi](#). *Bulletin d'information de l'Observatoire Jeunes et Société*, 17(1), printemps.
- Longo, M. E., & Atkin, S. (2020). [Les jeunes immigrants au sein d'une étude sur la vulnérabilité et l'emploi](#). Quelles perceptions, quelles différences vis-à-vis d'autres catégories de jeunes? *Bulletin d'information de l'Observatoire Jeunes et Société*, 17(1), 5-7.
- Maehler, D.B., Daikeler, J., Ramos, H., Husson, C., & Nguyen, T.A. (2020). Identity of children and youth affected by migration: Insights from a meta-analysis. *Journal of Self and Identity*.
- Maehler, D.B., Pötzschke, S., Ramos, H., Pritchard, P., & Fleckenstein, J. (2020). Studies on the acculturation of young refugees in the educational domain: A scoping review of research and methods. *Adolescent Research Review*.
- Ramos, H. (April 2020). [Being counted in Canada's coronavirus data](#). *New Canadian Media*.
- Ramos, H. (June 2020). [Immigration to Canada may not return to pre-pandemic levels](#). *New Canadian Media*.
- Valade, M. Y. (2019). [Influence of integrative social capital on the resilience of immigrant families: Accounts of economic-class immigrants in the Toronto area](#). *Journal of International Migration and Integration*.
- World Education Services. (June 2020). [Are intentions to immigrate to Canada changing in the face of COVID-19?](#)

