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**Update on the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership
Grant Application**

Our previous newsletters announced that the WCI and its partners have been successful at the first stage of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada's (SSHRC) Partnership Grant competition. In this newsletter, we report on our preparations for the full application which is to be submitted by November.

Perhaps the most newsworthy announcement concerns two important strategic changes that have been made in the configuration of the partnership. In the original proposal, the partnership had been limited to jurisdictions in which the federal government retained responsibility for settlement. We have now expanded to include all provinces in the project, and we are in the process of recruiting additional collaborators and partners, particularly in Quebec, British Columbia, and Manitoba. The second change concerns an expansion in the number of co-investigators from each of our proposed regional nodes, to allow at least one co-investigator per province. This is designed to increase provincial and university involvement, and the inclusiveness of the project. We are in the process of recruiting additional co-investigators for this purpose.

As signalled by these changes, the consultation process has begun in earnest. A series of planning meetings with the current co-investigators have taken place, two via teleconference and a third, face-to-face meeting in Toronto on August 20th. Regional consultations are scheduled to begin on September 21st in Halifax, generously hosted by the Atlantic Region Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (ARAISA). This will be followed by a consultation on September 22nd in St. John's, generously hosted by the International Centre at Memorial University. These consultations will be attended by Atlantic and Quebec service providers, academic researchers, and provincial representatives. The Prairie and British Columbia consultation will take place in Regina on September 26th, organized by the Prairie and BC co-investigators. The Ontario consultations will take place in early October by teleconference because the majority of stakeholders are already acquainted and have been working together for more than two years.

The consultations will focus on several key points. Foremost among these are the Partnership's proposed goals and philosophy and what they signify for local engagement and for working with provincial, federal and municipal governments. Considerable emphasis is also being placed on how best to merge tacit and academic knowledge and what strategies to adopt with regard to knowledge transfer and the promotion of educational opportunities. Finally, the consultations will discuss project governance as well as integrative features such as a unified website, pan-Canadian project governance, and suggestions for initial projects at the national and provincial or regional levels. We look forward to working with all of you on the planning of this project.

Additions to the WCI Governing Council

We are pleased to announce that we have three new members joining our Governing Council in an ex officio capacity. The WCI welcomes Petra Wolfbeiss who is a senior policy advisor with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Mary Barr who is the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs in Citizenship and Immigration Canada's Ontario Region, and Alice Young who is the Director of the Immigration Policy Branch in Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. The addition of these three members to the Governing Council will strengthen the WCI's policy and program focus and will further promote the exchange of program, policy and research knowledge among the Initiative's partners and stakeholders. An invitation has also been extended to the policy and research departments within Citizenship and Immigration Canada's National Headquarters, and we expect another new member to be added shortly.

Staff Changes at the WCI

In September, Tasha Williamson left the position as project manager of the WCI. Many of you will know Tasha from your many interactions with her as the human presence behind wci@uwo.ca. Tasha has decided to pursue further education and the Project's Executive Committee wishes to thank her for her assistance over the past three years and to wish her luck in her new pursuits.

The rapid expansion of the WCI has produced an equally rapid expansion in the need for secretariat services. These include communications, coordination, support for committees, producing reports, developing databases, helping with conferences, and serving as the project's institutional memory. To address these needs and to support the WCI's expansion, two new persons joined the WCI's Secretariat in September: Sonali Advani, a relatively recent immigrant to Canada, brings to the project a strong background and extensive experience in both journalism (print, on-line and video production) and education. She has worked internationally in her native India as well as in the UK and Canada. Sonali will be focusing on overall coordination of project activities, including meetings, workshops, and conferences, calls for proposals, research activities, and support for the network. Sonali will also be responsible for addressing and coordinating responses to queries directed to WCI's contact email address and phonenumber.

The second person to join the WCI team is Robin Saliba. Robin is fluently bilingual and has experience in several of the sectors that interest the WCI. She has served as a program coordinator in the not-for-profit sector and has worked in the academic sector, coordinating research services and helping to develop research and institutional grant proposals. She also has experience in communications and in editing reports. Robin's primary focus will be on the WCI's new website and the e-bulletin, though she will assist in various other projects as time permits.

We are optimistic about the added expertise and skills of the WCI secretariat, and are looking forward to further strengthening our network.

Progress by the Kingston LIP

The Kingston Immigration Partnership (KIP) has been working over the past two years to improve supports and services for new immigrants, by drawing the broader community into thinking about, planning, and making a welcoming community. The KIP Strategy, delivered November 2010, capped off a year-long community consultation and planning process, through which over 350 community members, and over 75 local organizations, institutions, and businesses directed the creation of a community plan for immigration and settlement. The plan is available at www.kipcouncil.ca.

Since delivering its strategy, the Kingston LIP has drawn its community partners into the implementation of their shared plan. Early successes include the creation of KIP action groups, including the Multicultural Roundtable; the KIP Employers' Working Group; and the KIP Women's Network. For fall 2011, the KIP looks forward to piloting a "welcome gift" from the City of Kingston which will provide free initial-use of municipal services (transit, cultural, recreational) to recently-landed immigrants. We are also looking forward to an upcoming partnership with local cable television to produce original programming on immigration and diversity in Kingston.

Under the strategy implementation framework, the Kingston Immigration Partnership Council establishes an annual priority area. In 2011, the priority issue is Employment. This decision lead KIP staff to pursue the action items listed under Employment (goal #1) in the Strategic Action Plan. For example, the KIP partnered with a local employment services provider (KEYS Job Centre) to create a Professional Mentorship program modelled on the ALLIES programs that operate across the country. As well, the KIP has supported the organization of training sessions for HR professionals on hiring immigrants and will co-host an IEP (Internationally Educated Professionals) seminar in November 2011. The seminar will provide educational and networking opportunities to both immigrants and local employers.

As the KIP enters its third year, it looks to take full advantage of both the momentum it has generated in Kingston and of the promising practices and lessons that are being shared by LIP, WCI, and other settlement networks.

Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Observatory

We are pleased to announce that the anti-discrimination and anti-racism observatory, funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Ontario Region, is available on the new WCI website. The goal of the observatory is to equip policy-makers, researchers, and organizations in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors with a set of diagnostics for assessing levels of racism and discrimination, and with practical tools that can be used to promote harmony and inclusion.

The observatory contains over 1000 English language entries and over 200 French language entries, providing summaries of and links to both diagnostics and tools. These materials, carefully catalogued for ease of use, include sources from local, provincial/territorial, and federal government departments; national and international bodies; local organizations; think tanks; businesses; research groups; and academic work.

The observatory will allow practitioners, policy-makers, businesses, educators, and researchers to learn from the experiences of others. We anticipate that this resource will be of particular benefit to smaller communities that are only now beginning to experience increased diversity.

Spotlight on Student Research

This month's spotlight on student research within the WCI is on Blair Cullen. Blair is a Master's candidate in the Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies program at Trent University. Blair can be reached at blaircullen@trentu.ca.

In response to growing suburbanization and diversifying suburbs, in 2008, Blair completed an honours BA thesis on immigrant integration services in Durham Region, a suburb 50km east of Toronto. Findings revealed the consequences of a lack of a regional approach to immigration. Results from the WCI Inventory Study for Durham painted a similar picture, highlighting governance related problems such as lack of coordination and collaboration among sectors involved in the immigrant integration process. Through its Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) program, the federal government has attempted to address these concerns. Given their recency, little academic research exists on the effectiveness of LIPs.

Using the concepts of suburban governance and regionalization, Blair's research will feature a qualitative case study of Durham Region. The project's objectives are: 1) to identify the nature and number of links both within and between the sectors involved in the immigrant integration process, 2) to analyze the regional nature of these links and the inter-municipal interaction within each sector, 3) to identify and assess entities such as the Local Diversity and Immigration Partnership Council (LDIPC, Durham's LIP) as regional initiatives and as potential opportunities for innovations in governance, 4) to determine the regional roots of the LDIPC, and 5) to document the evolution of the LDIPC as a specific regional initiative.

The research includes a formal policy analysis of Durham's immigration and diversity initiatives, as well as in depth semi-structured key informant interviews with representatives of municipal governments, ethno-cultural organizations, settlement service agencies, school boards, libraries, and employment services. Funding for the project has generously been provided by The Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies, CERIS – The Ontario Metropolis Centre, and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Recent and Upcoming Conference Presentations

Lund, D. E. (2011, September). Fostering Welcoming Communities by Resisting Backlash: Learning from Student Leaders. Proposal accepted for a paper in the workshop, "Exploring Youth Experiences of Migration and Integration," at the 16th International Metropolis Conference, Ponta Delgada, Azores Islands.

Lund, D. E. (2011, October). Why Social Justice Matters. Invited keynote presentation at the Annual Conference of the Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (AAISA), Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Marshall, A. R. (2011, October). Women and Labourers beyond the Frame: The Chinese Elders Who Created Networks to Reduce Racism and Used Power to Create Difference. University of Manitoba, October 28, 2011. Beyond Chinatown: A Full-day Symposium on Rural Chinese Canadian Culture, History and Labour. Invited speaker at University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Mata, F. (2011, September). Lone Parent Status among Ethnic Groups in Canada: Census Data Explorations on its Prevalence, Compositional and Generational Persistence Aspects. Paper presentation at the 2011 CESA National Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Satzewich, V. (2011, May). Informal Support within an Informal Settlement Sector: Broadening the Lens to Understand Newcomer Settlement and Integration in Hamilton. Invited presentation at Integration and Diversity in Multicultural Societies Conference, School of Ethnology and Sociology, Northwest University for Nationalities, Lanzhou, China.

Tolley, E. (2011, August). Racial Mediation and the Framing of Candidates' Viability in Canadian Politics. Paper presentation at the 6th General Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research, Reykjavik, Iceland.

If you have any recent or upcoming presentations that you would like to have included in future issues of the WCI E-bulletin, please email the information to wci@uwo.ca. For the next issue you may submit any presentations between June 1st and November 30th 2011.

Thank You

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