

# **Optimizing Social, Cultural, and Political Integration**

*led by Victoria Esses (Western) and Livianna Tossutti (Brock)*

- Teleconference on October 21, 2009 plus follow-up emails
- 10 participants in the teleconference plus 16 additional individuals interested in the domain, some of whom provided feedback in response to the draft document

## Domain Focus:

- determinants and consequences of local attitudes toward immigrants and minorities in second and third tier cities
- experiences of immigrants and minorities in second and third tier cities
- role of the local media and opinion leaders
- definitions of personal and Canadian identity
- strategies to promote inclusion and sense of belonging

# Research Questions Relating To:

- **Expectations** (e.g., What expectations do immigrants and minorities have about the welcome they will receive and how they will be treated in 2nd and 3rd tier cities in Ontario? What expectations do established members of community have about immigrants and minorities who may come to their communities?)
- **Identity and Values** (e.g., How do immigrants, minorities, and established members of community define their identities, define Canadian identity, and define Canadian values?)
- **Experiences** (e.g., What are the experiences of immigrants and minorities in these cities - perceptions of inclusion versus discrimination?)

- **Attitudes** (e.g., What attitudes do established members of community hold toward immigrants and minorities in these cities? What attitudes do immigrants and minorities hold toward established residents of these communities?)
- **Determinants** (e.g., What role do the local media and local opinion leaders play in determining expectations, identity, perceived values, and attitudes?)
- **Consequences** (e.g., What are the consequences and implications of these effects for patterns of social, economic, cultural, and political participation and engagement?)
- **Strategies for Change** (e.g., Based on knowledge of the key drivers of unfavorable outcomes, what specific policies, programs, and practices should be implemented to promote success – success defined as inclusion and sense of belonging?)

# Initial Research Plans

- Opinion leader interviews
- Focus groups with immigrants and members of established community
- Comprehensive survey: Key drivers of local attitudes, process and outcome analysis, replication to track changes over time
- Analyses of existing datasets: e.g. Ethnic Diversity Survey
- Content analysis of local media sources
- Action-oriented research
- Development and evaluation of program and policy modules