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bulletin

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Local Immigration Partnerships Conference 2012

The 2012 Local Immigration Partnerships Conference, co-sponsored by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Ontario Region and the Welcoming Communities Initiative, was held in Toronto on February 8-10, 2012, with over 225 participants in attendance. Participants included representatives of all of the Ontario Local Immigration Partnerships, those considering the establishment of Local Immigration Partnerships in other parts of the country, academic and community members of the Welcoming Communities Initiative, representatives from federal and provincial government departments, and colleagues from the United States interested in the work that we are doing here in Canada. Three major themes were explored: the current immigration environment in Canada and strategic policy directions; the challenges and accomplishments of the LIPs, including promising practices for the LIPs; and strategies for performance measurement and evaluation of the progress made by the LIPs.

Highlights of the conference included lively discussions of optimal evaluation strategies for the LIPs, workshops on promising practices that the LIPs might implement, and presentations by the Welcoming Communities Initiative on current LIP-related research. The discussions of optimal evaluation strategies included presentations by Jean Viel and Caroline Duvieusart-Déry on CIC NHQ's proposed logic model for LIP evaluation, Mark Friedman on results-based accountability and Sanjeev Sridharan on place-based evaluation. As well, a panel of LIP representatives discussed their strategies for measuring the outcomes of their individual LIPs.

The workshops led by members of the Welcoming Communities Initiative focused on promising practices to address the top priorities of the LIPs, as identified through analyses of their strategic plans and a follow-up survey conducted by the WCI. The presentations by the Welcoming Communities Initiative included the preliminary results of a study examining the organizational practices of the LIPs that are most likely to lead to successful outcomes, and a description of the recently completed project that provides baseline indicators for the LIPs on nine important characteristics of a welcoming community – for further information on the latter study, see the article entitled "Baseline Indicators of a Welcoming Community" in this issue.

Baseline Indicators of a Welcoming Community

Over the past 14 months, a team of researchers from the Welcoming Communities Initiative, led by Zenaida Ravanera at the University of Western Ontario, has been working to configure existing and new data that depicts the top characteristics of a welcoming community for each of the Local Immigration Partnerships in Ontario. The purpose of this work is to provide individual LIPs with baseline indicators against which they can measure their progress over time. As well, the study provides portraits of the LIP communities, pointing to areas in need of immediate attention where the LIPs might profitably invest their efforts.

At the outset of the project, the Ontario LIPs were sent a survey asking them to rate the importance of 17 indicators of a welcoming community (see Esses, Hamilton, Bennett-AbuAyyash, & Burstein, [2010](#)) and to clarify the specific geographic boundaries of their LIP. The research team then sought to obtain indicators for the top 10 characteristics as rated by the LIPs. The team was successful in obtaining indicators for 9 characteristics: (1) employment opportunities; (2) affordable and suitable housing; (3) educational opportunities; (4) fostering of social capital; (5) positive attitudes toward immigrants and cultural diversity; (6) municipal features and services sensitive to the needs of newcomers; (7) accessible and suitable healthcare; (8) newcomer-serving agencies that can meet the needs of newcomers; and (9) available and accessible public transit. Tables for these indicators, as well as detailed demographics, were then developed for each of the LIPs using their specific geographic boundaries. To develop these tables, Census, Canadian Community Health Survey, and Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) microdata files were obtained through the Research Data Centre at the University of Western Ontario. The files (from which the indicators were derived) were then analyzed for specific sub-groups within each LIP, including non-immigrants, immigrants, recent immigrants, established immigrants, and temporary entrants (temporary workers and international students). The tables were further supplemented by data specifically collected by the Welcoming Communities Initiative to provide a more complete picture of LIP communities. This included analyses of Ontario 211 data, analyses of city plans and policies, and opinion leader data obtained through interviews with leaders in 17 of the LIP communities (see Tossutti and Esses, [2011](#)).

The report is expected to be released in March 2012. Feedback from the 2012 Local Immigration Partnerships conference indicates that the LIPs are keenly awaiting the release, and anticipate that the report will provide a wealth of useful information for planning, program implementation and evaluation.

New Tools in the Welcoming Communities Toolkit: Dispatch from the U.S. Immigrant Integration Conference

Erin Tolley

The Fourth Annual U.S. Immigrant Integration Conference took place in Seattle, Washington from October 24 to 26, 2011. The conference brought together policy-makers, practitioners, researchers, elected officials, government employees, business representatives, and faith communities for three days of dialogue. Keen to benefit from the discussion, the Welcoming Communities Initiative participated in a number of conference sessions. In an earlier dispatch, we profiled findings from a session on engaging the media. In this, our second instalment, we examine several new tools in the welcoming communities toolkit.

Although integration initiatives tend to target immigrants, this session focussed squarely on the host or receiving communities, and presenters highlighted a number of strategies and practices that communities can implement to improve the welcome that newcomers receive. The session emphasized that welcoming communities typically do not emerge on their own. Rather, as one presenter put it, "Receiving communities are grown It's kind of like planting a garden. For the garden to grow, you can't just throw the seeds in and call it a day. You need to water it. You need to fertilize the soil. You need to nurture it." This includes building alliances, establishing meaningful contacts with newcomer communities, developing effective communication strategies, and engaging community leaders.

Maggie Herzig, of the [Public Conversations Project](#), presented a toolkit for dialogue. She noted that communities can use dialogues to bring together newcomer and host populations and provided several tips for success. Planning is important, and communities must ensure that dialogue initiatives reflect the concerns of potential participants. Dialogues can be organized around hot-button issues, identified problems, or challenges the community is facing. Ideally, the dialogue will bring together participants who have diverse viewpoints, but similar goals and objectives. Herzig noted that the most successful dialogues invite reflection rather than reaction; participants should be invited to share individual experiences and consider "grey areas" in their thinking. There are additional tips in the dialogue toolkit, which you can find [here](#).

Luz Zambrano and Trina Jackson, of the Network of Immigrants and African Americans in Solidarity (NIAAS), argued that while discussion is useful, working together on a shared project can help build trust. They noted that although new immigrants are often seen as competing with established citizens for jobs, healthcare and other community resources, groups can unite around shared experiences. The NIAAS has focused, in particular, on addressing institutional racism, systemic discrimination and oppression. It has emphasized grassroots organizing, leadership development, consciousness-raising initiatives, cultural events, and networking that promotes mutual understanding.

Lee Shainis, of [Intercambio Uniting Communities](#), echoed this message, noting that individuals often need "an excuse" to engage in cross-cultural dialogue. In his community, the "excuse" is a volunteer program that brings together newcomers and the native-born population for conversational English classes. Unlike many language classes, however, the mission is not to teach immigrants English. Rather, it is about creating connections, fostering new relationships, and building understanding; language learning is simply a by-product. In other words, the goal is not so much nouns and gerunds, but friendship and face-to-face interaction.

Finally, Sarah Davis, of [Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services](#), provided an overview of her organization's time bank project. A time bank is a local service exchange that allows participants to bank "time dollars" by performing services for other members; these dollars can then be used to "purchase" other services, including language tutoring, sewing, car repair, job coaching, moving assistance, music lessons, cooking, house cleaning, errands, cultural presentation, and story-telling. Although time banks are not exclusively for newcomers, Davis' organization has worked to increase refugee participation in an existing time bank. Based on the philosophy that every individual is a potential provider, the initiative has reframed the traditional provider-receiver relationship and has generated new connections between immigrants and the host population. To find out more, visit [here](#).

Although presenters emphasized a number of different tools, several common themes emerged.

Ongoing outreach is important. Persistence is required when engaging community members as project volunteers or participants. Volunteers often have to see something several times before they take the plunge. Use multiple outlets, including websites, posters, press releases, and social media. Contact is the key to building connections.

Insist on structure. Dialogues should be planned, with a clear sense of purpose. Volunteers should receive training and tips so that they can perform effectively. Initiatives should be tracked in a database to facilitate reporting, including information on resources expended, the number of volunteer hours contributed, media coverage received, and outcomes realized.

Recognize those who assist you. Thank participants. Send volunteers an annual card of appreciation. Publicly acknowledge individual contributions to your collective success. Let volunteers know that "membership has its privileges."

Be relevant. Figure out what kinds of activities interest your targeted audiences. Is there a need for a service exchange project? Is the market for conversation classes already saturated? Do people want an opportunity to meet up and engage in dialogue? For an initiative to be successful, it must respond to a community need. Don't simply assume it's a good idea; do research and be certain.

Take advantage of "naturally occurring constituencies." Bring together participants who have a natural desire to work together or connect. This might include policy-makers and immigrants, university students and immigrant employees on campus, or immigrant parents and teachers. These are groups who have shared interests, but who may not have an opportunity to interact in a regular and meaningful way. Create an opportunity for this to happen.

Don't expect engagement to be easy. Building a welcoming community means tackling difficult topics or taking risks. Conflict will happen; cross-cultural misunderstanding is likely. This is part of forging a new relationship.

You can read more about the National Immigrant Integration Conference [here](#). For more ideas on fostering welcoming communities, check out the [Receiving Communities Initiative](#).

WCI Pilot Project Seed Funding Recipient

In August 2011, the Welcoming Communities Initiative launched a call for proposals in an effort to assist and encourage WCI members to secure funding for collaborative projects (through grants, contracts, etc) and to expand their research. After careful consideration of all submissions, the WCI awarded \$5,000 each to four recipients to support their pilot projects, which are expected to lead to full research proposals to external sources. Details of these awards have appeared in successive e-bulletins. This is the final in this series highlighting seed funding projects.

Title: Underserved immigrants: Young immigrants with no or little English working in low-skilled occupations in smaller cities in Ontario

Applicant: Ann Chen, Queen's University
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Every year, Ontario receives a sizeable number of young immigrants who do not speak any English. With limited English ability, but needing to help support their family in Canada and in their home countries, they settle for menial jobs in labour intensive industries characterized by long working hours, such as dry cleaner, cook's helper, or sewing machine operator. Due to the long working hours and odd shifts, they are often excluded from participating in government-supported language training programs. As a result, even after years of living in Canada, their ability to speak English remains minimal.

While the majority of immigrants settle in Toronto, Vancouver, and Montréal, an increasing number of recent immigrants have chosen to settle in small or medium-sized cities. Smaller urban centres are less ethnically diverse than the three major immigrant destinations, so newcomers in these locations may not receive much support from established networks of immigrants from similar socio-cultural backgrounds.

These factors work together to make young immigrants with little or no English working in low-skilled occupations in smaller cities more likely to feel socially and culturally isolated. They may also find themselves in precarious employment situations, more exposed to external factors such as economic recession and down-sizing. In these circumstances, the ability to speak English seems paramount for successful social and economic integration into the host community, yet traditional language programs are often inaccessible. Research is needed to learn more about the experiences of these young immigrant workers, and the challenges and barriers they face, in order to develop language programs that meet their needs.

The research team consists of academics with complementary backgrounds in policy and politics, sociology, and education. They will use the WCI seed funding to 1) review existing policies and programs for integrating adult immigrants in small urban centres, and the barriers and challenges that young immigrants face in learning English; 2) form and expand partnerships with local service providers to research a population that has little English and little contact with public services; 3) in collaboration with partners, develop research instruments and identify appropriate methods for survey distribution; and 4) develop a province-wide research project to investigate the needs of underserved young immigrants in other small urban centres, leading to recommendations for policy and programming improvements.

Ideas for Improving Local Immigration Partnership Collaboration and Coordination

The final session of the 2012 conference explored the need for improved collaboration and coordination among LIPs. Mary Barr, the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Multiculturalism for Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Ontario Region, opened the session by announcing the formation of two new LIP committees aimed at establishing a forum for discussion across the LIPs and between the LIPs and key government agencies. Against this background, Meyer Burstein, a senior fellow with the WCI and Director of Policy and Planning, proposed that the key question to be asked is 'what work do we want the collaborative machinery to undertake'. He proposed three possible forms of collaboration:

Horizontal collaborative mechanisms among peers

The goal of horizontal mechanisms is to allow different groups with similar challenges to compare solutions, with a focus on transferring promising practices. This type of collaboration could be promoted through conferences and face-to-face meetings among LIPs as well as on-line discussion groups and websites.

Tasks to support the commons

To be effective, the LIPs require analytic and project support as well as infrastructure that does not need to be replicated in its entirety by individual units. The list of supports includes research to establish outcome measures of community welcome; expertise and analytic support for inventories of promising project and organizational practices; framework analysis to support local media strategies; training material to assist new members and new community entrants; and regular conferences and meetings to facilitate exchanges. These supports could be advanced through partnerships (such as the relationship between the LIPs and the WCI) and LIP work teams.

Bridging collaborative mechanisms

The third form of collaboration is not among peers but across sectors. This collaboration focuses on leveraging changes in the offerings of key actors who play a determinative role in shaping the policy and program opportunities confronting the LIPs. This collaborative form is still at a vestigial stage. To picture why it is necessary, one has only to imagine 31 LIPs individually besieging a provincial or federal ministry, clamouring for change. To avoid this, four collaborative tables were suggested by Meyer:

- ◆ 2 provincial tables enabling a delegation of LIPs to meet with officials from the ministries of health and education, respectively;
- ◆ 1 mixed federal-provincial economic table bringing a delegation of LIPs to gether with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, and federal and provincial economic development ministries; and
- ◆ 1 cross-cutting CIC table aimed at reconciling the modernization policy with CIC's accountability practices, with a view to examining how the LIP initiative generally and the participation of settlement agencies in particular could be better supported.

The final point in Meyer's presentation emphasized the importance of independent research to support these collaborative mechanisms. This derives from the fact that influence and suasion – essential elements of cooperation – are best supported by credible, scientifically verifiable evidence.

Timmins Local Immigration Partnership (TLIP): Partnering. Integrating. Growing.



The Timmins Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) obtained support in late 2009 to develop a Local Immigration Partnership in Timmins. Located in Northern Ontario, Timmins does not see large numbers of newcomers; however, workforce depletion and the fact that employers are often unable to fill vacant jobs has made increasing primary immigration and secondary migration a priority. With no dedicated settlement services in place for immigrants, the need for a LIP was clearly evident.

The initial phase of the project resulted in an advisory committee (comprising 21 representatives including service providers, education, health, police, and government) being formed. A consultant was hired to conduct focus groups with key stakeholders and newcomers, which led to 18 recommendations and the creation of a formal governance structure. The "*Timmins Settlement Strategy Plan to Promote Settlement and Integration of Immigrants in the Community*" was finalized and launched in February 2011.

In Phase 2, the governance structure, which included the Timmins Local Immigration Partnership Council (TLIP), an Employers Council, and an Attraction and Welcoming Committee, was established. This machinery is now engaged in implementing the 18 recommendations identified in the settlement strategy. The following are direct results of the TLIP program:

1. Establishment of a Settlement Office – In June of 2011, Timmins and District Multicultural Centre opened its doors. Prior to this, Timmins was the only larger community in the north that did not have a settlement office. The Centre is a partnership with the North Bay Multicultural Centre, and operates as a satellite office. The response has been positive and annual client targets will be surpassed.
2. English as a Second Language (ESL) / French as a Second Language (FSL) Training - In November 2011, the Timmins & District Multicultural Centre in partnership with the French Public School Board launched an FSL program in Timmins. Fifteen newcomers registered. A second group started in mid-January 2012, again with favourable uptake. ESL was identified as a key recommendation of the Timmins Settlement Strategic Plan developed by TLIP. Proposals for ESL training are being developed in partnership with the local school board, following a visit to the North Bay & District Multicultural Centre (NBDMC) to evaluate, first hand, the requirements for launching an ESL program. Pending support, the Timmins & District Multicultural Centre (TDMC) in partnership with the Timmins Museum commenced English Conversation Circles (ECC) in November 2011.
3. Community Awareness – The Timmins LIP undertook a branding initiative and is now becoming recognized throughout the community as a positive, active force working to address economic and social challenges in regards to immigration and newcomers in the community. The Mayor of Timmins has proclaimed May 19 as Diversity Day in Timmins, to be celebrated annually.
4. Employers Council - An Employers Council has been formed to develop initiatives and strategies to help local employers benefit from immigration. The positive response and solid participation by employers (large to small, resource-based to hospitality and service) attests to the importance of the LIP for promoting business and population growth. Strategies such as the revamped www.jobsintimmins.com website and the development of a community resource tool to help employers attract and retain newcomers are essential for local sustainability.

Partnerships

Partnerships have been key for Timmins. The TLIP worked to include as many partners as possible to ensure that all areas/sectors were represented and participated, in order to prevent future "silos".

Timmins is a fully bilingual community with over 50% of the population speaking both official languages. Partnerships have been formed with the francophone community to ensure that all interests are represented and that TLIP truly works to achieve results that benefit both the English and French communities. As a best practice, TLIP conducts all communications, marketing and events (such as Diversity Day) in both official languages. TLIP is also working to ensure that Diversity Training, originally developed in English only, be made available in French.

The Timmins LIP also plans to associate itself with pan northern partnerships that have been formed to encourage the LIPs and Economic Development Corporations of Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste Marie, and Thunder Bay to work toward common goals in regards to immigration. The northern LIPs meet as required (usually during conferences, networking events, etc) to discuss best practices and future projects that could benefit the North. Currently, the northern LIPs are exploring opportunities to work with post secondary institutions in the North to promote secondary migration with a view to boosting population, addressing labour shortages, and increasing enrollment in colleges and universities. Additional projects involve targeted marketing campaigns in the GTA and Ottawa areas www.immigrationnorthernontario.com, as well as a new HR North tool (a Timmins and North Bay partnership for the initial phase).

Increased networking opportunities have benefitted the Timmins community in regards to promotion and awareness. Invitations to participate and join initiatives such as the Welcoming Communities Initiative (WCI) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Municipal Immigration Committee (MIC) have benefitted the LIP immigration strategy, providing pertinent information and access to best practices.

Looking Forward...

TLIP is looking forward to Phase 3 of the initiative. Anti-racism, diversity training, enhancing the francophone partnership, post secondary education / international students and additional measures by the Employers Council and the Attraction and Welcoming Committee are specific goals set for Phase 3. For more information on the Timmins Local Immigration Partnership (TLIP) please contact John Okonmah, Timmins Local Immigration Partnership coordinator at john.okonmah@timmins.ca.

Recent and Upcoming Conference Presentations

Lund, D. E. (2011, November). *Engaging Youth Leaders in School Activism*. Paper presentation at the National Association for Multicultural Education's 21st Annual International Conference, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Lund, D. E., Lee, L., Schnitzler, E., & Schmitt, C. (2012, February). *Working Together for the Academic Success of Children and Youth of Immigrant Families*. Proposal accepted for presentation at the Calgary City Teachers' Convention, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Lund, D. E. (2012, February). *Having the Courage to Engage in Social Justice*. Invited keynote presentation at the Annual WestCAST Conference, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Lund, D. E. (2012, March). *Balancing Life and Work: Reframing our Commitments*. Invited keynote presentation at the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society's Professional Development Day, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Lund, D. E. (2012, March). *Learning from Youth Leaders in Social Justice Activism*. Paper proposal accepted for the 14th Annual National Metropolis Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Lund, D. E. (2012, March). *Improving the Lives of Immigrant and Refugee Youth: Collaborative community, research, and policy initiatives* [Organizer and Chair]. Workshop proposal accepted for the 14th Annual National Metropolis Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Lund, D. E. (2012, March). *Diversity, Ideology and Dissent in the Classroom: Understanding and Addressing Challenges of Difference*. Roundtable presentation accepted for the 14th Annual National Metropolis Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Lund, D. E. (2012, April). *Following the Lead of a Generation of Activist Youth*. Panel presentation at "Talkin' 'bout their generation: Empowered youth in an era of chaos and indecision," Werklund Foundation Centre for Youth Leadership, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Lund, D. E. (2012, April). *Insights from Former Youth Leaders in Social Justice Activism*. Paper proposal accepted for at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Pero, R. (2012, February). *The New Local Governance of Immigration in Canada: Regulation and Responsibility*. Paper Presentation at the Association of American Geographers 2012 Annual Meeting. New York City, New York, USA.

Reimer, B. (2011, December). *Facilitating Rural Futures: Multi-level Governance under Austerity*. Invited presentation to the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Executive Forum, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

Reimer, B. (2011, December). *Understanding Rural Canada: Context, Challenges, and Opportunities*. Invited presentation to the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Rural Forum, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

Reimer, B. (2011, December). *Social Exclusion and Social Support in Rural Canada*. Invited presentation to *Social Statistics, Poverty and Social Exclusion: perspectives from Québec, Canada and Abroad*, CIQSS-QICSS International Conference, UQAM, Montreal, Québec, Canada.

Reimer, B. (2011, September). *Understanding Rural Canada: Context, Challenges, and Opportunities*. Videoconference presentation to the Rural Development Network of the Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Montreal, Québec, Canada.

Roth, W. (2011, November). *In and Out of the Ethnic Economy: A Longitudinal Analysis of Pathways to Economic Success across Immigrant Categories*. Invited presentation, Sauder School of Business Organizational Behavior and Human Resources Division Distinguished Speaker Series, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Roth, W. (2011, November). *A Single Shade of Negro: Henry Louis Gates's Depictions of Blackness in the Dominican Republic*. Invited panel presentation, Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America conference, Latin American Studies Association, San Diego, California, USA.

Roy, R. (2012, February). *The Types and Forms of Oppression Faced by Francophone Immigrants in Small Cities in Ontario and New Brunswick*. Presentation at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, New York, New York, USA.

Roy, R. (2012, February). *Les dynamiques de l'intégration et l'immigration francophone en milieu minoritaire : Enjeux, opportunités et impacts sur les politiques d'avenir*. Workshop presentation at the 14th Annual National Metropolis Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Spitzer, D. L., & Piper, N. (2012, March). *Retrenched and Returned: Repatriated Workers, Social Protection and the Global Economy*. Paper presentation at Access Denied, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Spitzer, D. L., & Rasouli, M. (2012, March). *Whose Canada? Social Inclusion, Social Exclusion and the Lives of Racialized Immigrants in Ontario*. Workshop. 12th National Metropolis Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Spitzer, D. L. (2012, March). *Engendering Social Inclusion and Exclusion*. Paper presentation. 12th National Metropolis Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Spitzer, D. L. (2011, December). *Re:Visioning Canada's Live-in Caregiver Program*. Invited presentation. Temporary Foreign Workers in Canada—Policy Forum, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Spitzer, D. L. (2011, December). *Transnational Transitions: Filipino Migrant Workers in Canada's Live-In Caregiver Program*. Invited presentation. Southeast Asian Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China.

Spitzer, D. L. (2011, November). *Unpacking the Loss of the Healthy Immigrant Effect: A Contribution from Anthropology*. Invited presentation. Sally Weaver Memorial Lecture in Applied Anthropology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Tremblay, M. (2012, February). *Human Capital and Local Economic Vitality*. Panel presentation at the Economic Developers Council of Ontario Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Tremblay, M. (2012, February). *Stratégies de développement par les municipalités*. Panel presentation at the Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone de l'est de l'Ontario, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Webber, G., Spitzer, D. L., Somrongsong, R., Dat, T., Kounnavongsa, S., & Bunnak, P. (2011, December). *Accessing Reproductive Health Services for Migrant Women in Southeast Asia: A Comparative Study of the Facilitators and Barriers to Sexual and Reproductive Health Care for Beer Promoters in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam*. Poster presentation, Health System Reform in Asia, Hong Kong, China.

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 robin@welcomingcommunities.ca.

For the next issue you may submit any presentation which occurred between February 1st and April 30th, 2012.

Spotlight on Student Research

This month's spotlight on student research is on Krysten Connelly, a first year master's student in the joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture offered through Ryerson and York universities. Krysten can be reached at krysten.connely@ryerson.ca.

In light of the upward trend in the regionalization of immigration to non-metropolitan areas, Krysten's research addresses the relatively untapped discourse on issues of diversity, multiculturalism, and racism in communities of low-density immigration. She will examine the role that educational institutions play in shaping youth's understanding and appreciation of diversity, as well as discriminatory attitudes, stereotypes, and prejudice in regards to minorities and members of other cultures. Her intention is to draw from the current scholarship on critical pedagogy, multicultural theory, and the recent post-multiculturalism discourse on multicultural education to investigate how knowledge and attitudes towards diversity are being communicated to primary-level students; how teachers are portraying minority cultures; and what language patterns, communication strategies and new media technologies are being utilized to enhance multiethnic literacy and reduce prejudice.

Krysten will be collecting data by means of individual interviews with both students and teachers in order to more fully understand the underlying factors that account for racial and ethnic discrimination in non-diverse classroom environments. Her research will enable policy-makers to improve curriculum that enhances learning about different cultures, races, and ethnicities. It will also assist in developing school mission statements that include a multicultural component in an effort to create school cultures that recognize, promote, and respect diversity. This is vital for non-diverse communities, many of which are small- to medium sized centres for whom attracting and retaining visible minority newcomers is essential for prosperity and survival.

Thank You

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