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PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

Promoting Welcoming Communities in Canada

ebulletin

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The E-bulletin is Changing

October marks the introduction of our new Pathways to Prosperity e-bulletin. At the same time, the Welcoming Communities Initiative's e-bulletin will be subsumed within the Pathways to Prosperity e-bulletin. These changes are designed to bring the publication in line with more fundamental changes in our organizational structure, geographic span, and partnerships. This entire issue is devoted to elaborating on the developments that are currently underway.

As those of you who have followed our recent announcements already know, the Welcoming Communities Initiative (WCI) will be joining a pan-Canadian research partnership with nodes in Atlantic Canada, Quebec, the Prairies, and British Columbia. The WCI has elected to become the Ontario node of this partnership in order to increase the Initiative's reach and to acquire an ability to participate in comparative research projects that will shed light and bring new ideas to Ontario stakeholders.

Many features of the former e-bulletin will be retained. These include the bulletin's 'look and feel', the media section which has been well received, the explanatory policy reports, and the listing of recent presentations delivered by project members. At the same time, important additions will be introduced. Among the most noteworthy is a section describing key activities and topics of interest from the five regions of the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership. This will significantly improve the bulletin's coverage of regional issues, as well as coverage of minority Francophone concerns outside Quebec, Northern issues, and student developments.

Annual Summer Institute

A training opportunity that will be available to all members of the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership is our annual Summer Institute. Summer Institute courses will offer professional development and learning opportunities for practitioners, policymakers, and academics, including students (providing Continuing Education Credits and course credits where appropriate). The Institute will offer multidisciplinary, practical courses and training modules, ranging from two-day to week-long sessions. Topics may include how to replicate key features of promising practices in your community, methods for assessing community strengths, statistical analysis of community level data, and evaluation strategies for place-based initiatives.

First Meeting of the New Partnership

On September 21st and 22nd, the research leaders – ‘co-investigators’ in the official parlance of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada – met face-to-face in Ottawa for the very first time. Prior to this, during the project development phase, most of the exchanges took place by e-mail, over the telephone, and in the course of regional consultations. The agenda was ambitious. On the table were how to flesh out the Partnership’s regional and national governance structure, the location of the five regional nodes and their responsibilities, budgets, ideas for knowledge dissemination and communications, and, crucially, the project’s initial, pan-Canadian comparative research agenda. Less formally, the goal was to give the co-investigators an opportunity to get to know each other and to build the relationships that will sustain the project through its seven-year, initial existence.

Given the scope of the decisions, the fact that proposed structures, mandates, and processes exist only as broad brush strokes, and the absence of key partners who will need to be brought into the project’s decision-making apparatus, a good part of the meeting focused on planning and assigning responsibilities for various tasks. That said, there was a definite sense of movement and a strong feeling that participants were no longer frozen on the starting grid, simply revving their engines. The research discussion was particularly animated and the topics will almost certainly excite the project’s partners.

Here’s what to expect in the coming months:

- ◆ new national and regional websites with new layouts
- ◆ final decisions regarding the location of the regional nodes, how to contact them, and how responsibilities are apportioned
- ◆ activity timetables detailing recruitment of community and municipal members for decision structures
- ◆ consultations on proposals for a pan-Canadian, comparative research agenda.

These topics are covered below in greater detail.

Regional Nodes

The Pathways to Prosperity Partnership includes five regional nodes across the country that will coordinate local activities and engage local actors, as well as a national office located at The University of Western Ontario. The five regional nodes will be situated as follows: Under an interim agreement, the Atlantic Node – serving Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia – will locate administrative functions at the University of Moncton and St. Mary’s University, and the node’s dissemination centre at Memorial University. The Quebec Node will be situated at the University of Sherbrooke. The Ontario Node, currently the Welcoming Communities Initiative, will continue to be at The University of Western Ontario. Current plans call for the Prairie Node – serving Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan – to be located at the University of Alberta. And, finally, the British Columbia Node will be shared between the University of Victoria and Thompson Rivers University.

Research Agenda and Consultation Process

As part of our mandate to conduct research of value to our stakeholders, our plan is to have a number of research projects up and running this year. These will include pan-Canadian projects involving three or more regional nodes and smaller projects, initiated by the regional nodes, focusing on local issues. In order to ensure that we consult widely on the pan-Canadian projects and respond to our stakeholders' priorities, we will be initiating consultations in October. To do so, we will circulate short descriptions of potential projects and will seek feedback from our partners and collaborators, including expressions of interest in actively participating in a project. The consultation process will utilize the Welcoming Communities Initiative website (pending the launch of the Pathways website), the e-bulletin, and email. In future years, a more formal consultative process will be undertaken using our governing bodies and advisory forums, once established.

Ideas for specific projects that the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership may undertake were discussed at the co-investigator meeting in Ottawa on September 21st and 22nd. These include six projects for which there was strong agreement, as well as several others that will be developed further. Among the topics for which there was strong support are international students as future citizens, sports and recreation as integrative tools, institutional research to support capacity-building and innovation within the settlement sector at both agency and industry levels, and promoting the role of employers and the private sector in newcomer integration. In keeping with our interest in Francophone minority communities and the needs of Northern communities, these issues figure prominently in the proposed projects. The projects will also engage student researchers, as part of our commitment to training and mentoring.

Governance under Fiscal Restraint

There is no question that face-to-face meetings represent the gold standard for essential tasks such as building teams, fostering trust, and stimulating creativity. That said, there is equal surety that fiscal pressures require somewhat baser metals.

Because of its geographic span, commitment to working with communities, and need to draw on both academic and tacit knowledge, the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership requires large governance bodies. Unfortunately, our project budget does not currently allow regular face-to-face meetings of all constituents. To address this issue – without paring down project institutions or community involvement – the Partnership intends to multi-purpose the annual conference. Extra time will be set aside at the conference for face-to-face meetings of the key governance structures. Follow-up meetings will take place by telephone and through webinars. The first conference will likely be held in 2013.

Establishment of the Regional Nodes

Atlantic Node

The Atlantic node of the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership has begun to define its governance structure and to make practical arrangements to support the work of the node in its first year of operation.

The five Atlantic co-applicants will serve as the Management Committee for the node. The five co-applicants are Chedly Belkhodja (Université de Moncton), Michael Haan (University of New Brunswick), Abdie Kazemipur (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Carlo Lavoie (University of Prince Edward Island), and Terry Murphy (Saint Mary's University). On an interim basis, the administration of the node will be based at Saint Mary's University and the Université de Moncton, while Memorial University will take the lead in matters of dissemination, including contributions to the national website of the Partnership.

Steps will be taken in the coming weeks to assemble an inter-sectoral advisory committee with balanced representation across the region and including Francophone and Anglophone members. The Atlantic node will also be responding to the call for nominations to the Partnership's Board of Governors and its standing committees.

The Atlantic node will shortly begin to facilitate consultation among its research collaborators and community partners regarding potential national research projects for the first year of the partnership. Meanwhile, an exploration will begin into opportunities for research and dissemination activities that are specific to the region. Of interest in this regard, a conference is planned for the 28th of November at the University of Moncton. This one-day seminar is entitled: "Partnership between provincial policy-makers and academic researchers: Building together a culture of knowledge". The objective of this seminar is to identify the elements facilitating or preventing the implementation of research partnership projects and to propose potential solutions to overcome all together the main hurdles we face. This one-day seminar intends to present different experiences of research partnerships; to discuss the knowledge produced, the difficulties faced and the benefits of such partnerships in the production of knowledge; as well as to devise potential avenues to build robust research partnerships.

For further information, please contact:

Chedly Belkhodja: chedly.belkhodja@umoncton.ca

Michael Haan: mhaan@unb.ca

Abdie Kazemipur: abdie.kazemipur@mun.ca

Carlo Lavoie: clavoie@upei.ca

Terry Murphy: Terry.Murphy@SMU.CA

Quebec Node

The Quebec Node will be based at the University of Sherbrooke under the coordination of Michèle Vatz Laaroussi in collaboration with Bill Reamer of the University of Concordia. Steps will be taken in the following weeks to organize a meeting among researchers and partners at the University of Sherbrooke. The proposed dates are: November 28, December 4, and December 20. The Quebec Node will continue to gather the researchers and partners already involved in the Quebec Metropolis Centre, domain of the welcoming

initiatives. Furthermore, several research projects pertaining to welcoming communities, international students and secondary migration are already well on track. We will aim at gathering them and at establishing national comparisons. We would also like to go further in the dissemination of these research findings to our local, institutional, political and community partners and we would like to investigate more on the possibility of publishing relevant guides based on the analyzed experiences in Quebec and in other provinces avec even international experiences.

For further information, please contact:

Michèle Vatz Laaroussi: Michele.Vatz-Laaroussi@USherbrooke.ca

Bill Reimer: bill.reimer@concordia.ca

Ontario Node

The Welcoming Communities Initiative will be transitioning to the Ontario node of the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership. For this purpose, the administrative functions will continue to be located at the University of Western Ontario. Although there is already a governance structure in place for the WCI, in the coming months we will be seeking to refresh this structure and to align it fully with the governance structures of the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership. This will include responding to the call for nominations to the Partnership's Board of Governors and its Standing Committees.

The Ontario node will continue to conduct research initiated under the Welcoming Communities Initiative and will maintain its specialization in community-based immigration partnerships, such as the LIPs. Like the other nodes, Ontario will, in addition to its region-specific activities, participate actively in the comparative pan-Canadian research projects. Descriptions of these potential projects will be circulated to Ontario members to obtain their feedback and expressions of interest.

For further information, please contact:

Caroline Andrew: candrew@uottawa.ca

Victoria Esses: vesses@uwo.ca

Prairies Node

Based on the additional clarity achieved at the first national Pathways to Prosperity planning meeting on September 21 and 22, 2012, the Co- investigators from the three Prairie Provinces will now commence the consultation and decision-making processes involving "Prairie P2P" node(s) members. The Co-investigators are Marc Arnal for Alberta (University of Alberta), Harley Dickinson for Saskatchewan (University of Saskatchewan) and Tom Carter for Manitoba (University of Winnipeg). The consultations will include the following matters:

- ♦ The governance, management, administrative, advisory, and budgetary frameworks for the "Prairie P2P" node(s).
- ♦ The preliminary engagement of academic, governmental and non-governmental partners within the "Prairie P2P" region as a whole and each province therein.
- ♦ The national research projects that the "Prairie P2P" node(s) may want to be involved in based on node(s) capacity in terms of infrastructure, researchers, precise nature of research project, etc.

- ♦ The role that various individual members or clusters of members from the “Prairie P2P” node(s) will perform, either on their own or in collaboration with other members of the “National P2P” network, in any of the national projects identified and approved by the “National P2P” Board of Directors and Management Committee.
- ♦ The types of research projects that the “Prairie P2P” node(s) may want to undertake in addition to any projects approved by the “National P2P” Board of Directors and Management Committee.
- ♦ The relationships and partnerships that the “Prairie P2P” node(s) will establish with various organizational entities within the scope of the “P2P” project and other organizational entities outside the scope of the “P2P” project.

The process for undertaking consultations and making decisions on these and other important matters will commence in October. It is anticipated that some consultations and decisions will be completed within two months, but others may take a bit longer because they are contingent on other National and Prairie-level decisions, including the sequencing of pan-Canadian research projects and additional research projects that the Prairie node(s) may undertake. Members affiliated with the “Prairie P2P” node(s) will be contacted in the near future.

For further information, please contact:

Marc Arnal: marc.arnal@ualberta.ca

Harley Dickinson: harley.dickinson@usask.ca

Tom Carter: cra10@mymts.net

British Columbia Node

The node co-leaders, Paul Bramadat (University of Victoria) and Julie Drolet (Thompson Rivers University) are finalizing details related to the structure of the B.C. node. Thompson Rivers University is slated to manage the node’s dissemination and networking activities and University of Victoria is slated to manage the administration of the node and node-national research projects. The node will initiate face-to-face and virtual meetings of researchers, settlement agencies and local and provincial government partners in the next several months to publicize the objectives of the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership and to assess the kinds of node-specific and region-specific projects that are of interest to these three groups of stakeholders. As well, the node leaders will discuss with stakeholders several possible pan-Canadian Pathways to Prosperity projects and solicit suggestions for additional national projects to be undertaken in the future. These discussions will emphasize the capacity of the node and the national secretariat to connect particular research objectives to larger networks of colleagues, collaborators and policy makers, and, as well, to assist applicants with their research. Such initial meetings with researchers, government and agency partners will clarify the benefits they obtain from their involvement with both the regional and national Pathways to Prosperity networks.

The node will be managed by a steering committee consisting of the university co-leaders (who will serve as co-directors) and representatives from service provider organizations, governments, and academia. The steering committee will be involved in the assessment of node-specific projects, the development of the node network, and the relationship between the node and the national project.

For further information, please contact:

Julie Drolet: jdrolet@tru.ca

Paul Bramadat: bramadat@uvic.ca

Network of Pathways to Prosperity Websites

As noted in previous e-bulletins, the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership will be launching a network of five regional websites and one overarching pan-Canadian website. Regional sites will contain specialized material relating to region-specific interests and will highlight regional activities. Material of national interest will be housed on the national website and will also be included on the regional sites. The URLs for the six websites will be as follows:

- ◆ P2PCanada.ca
- ◆ Atlantic.P2PCanada.ca
- ◆ Quebec.P2PCanada.ca
- ◆ Ontario.P2PCanada.ca
- ◆ Prairies.P2PCanada.ca
- ◆ BC.P2PCanada.ca

The new sites will be up and running, albeit in rudimentary form, in November. The sites will retain a similar 'look and feel' to the current Welcoming Communities Initiative website, including aspects of the logo.

The introduction of the new websites will be accompanied by significant improvements, with key areas such as the 'library' and the media corner being shifted for greater prominence and easier access. The media corner will be expanded to include Francophone media. Other improvements such as a better search function and a reorganized, more accessible video section are best experienced rather than explained.

One very significant change will be the manner in which French and English contributions to the website will be handled. In the future, all articles will be published in their original language. Bilingual abstracts or summaries will, however, be provided for all Pathways to Prosperity research studies posted in the research library. The site template will be 'switchable' between French and English, and search terms will automatically search for and return content in both languages.

Francophone Standing Committee

Research bearing on the recruitment and integration of Francophone newcomers into communities outside Quebec is an important priority of the Pathways to Prosperity project. To ensure that this priority is given adequate weight throughout the life of the project, the Partnership has drawn on a 'tool' that is frequently used by government – a Standing Committee on Francophone Minority Communities. [Standing Committees will also be formed to focus attention on Northern issues and student concerns.] The Francophone Standing Committee will be headed by Chedly Belkhodja, a professor of political science at the University of Moncton with a longstanding interest in Francophone migration and inclusion across the country.

The Standing Committee will draw its authority from its members. The Committee will include academic researchers, organizations interested in the sustainability of Francophone communities outside Quebec, Francophone cultural and service representatives, and government officials responsible for developing policy in this area. The Committee's role will centre on advice and promotion. On a regular cycle, it will propose new research to the Partnership's Board of Directors or modifications to research in order to address Francophone concerns. The Standing Committee will also consult and interact with a broader constituency to ensure that pertinent research findings are brought to the attention of the policy and practice communities.

Student Standing Committee

In order to ensure that students are fully integrated into the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership and that their needs are met, the governance structure includes a Student Standing Committee, with representation on the Board of Directors. The Standing Committee will provide advice to the Board on student issues and will be chaired by student representatives, with faculty advisors providing mentorship. The Student Standing Committee will communicate via email, teleconferences, and face-to-face meetings at the Pathways annual conference. Further information on this important committee, including a call for members, will be circulated shortly.

Training and Mentoring Opportunities

In order to take advantage of our combined expertise to provide a variety of educational and training opportunities to the up-and-coming generation of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers, three novel opportunities, discussed with enthusiasm at our proposal consultations, will be provided to students: a) a co-produced, joint Master's program in migration and settlement, offered primarily through distance education, b) student exchange programs across the participating universities, and c) field placements.

The need for a graduate program in migration and settlement that is accessible from numerous locations across Canada was identified by our partners and students. Students, practitioners, and policymakers interested in furthering their education have all expressed interest in such a program, with particular enthusiasm for the distance component that will make participation feasible for those who live and work in smaller centres. This arrangement will capitalize on the fact that our partnership includes many researchers who are at universities that are smaller and do not have the capacity to launch full programs of their own.

The exchange program will provide opportunities for students to spend a semester at another university under the supervision of a team member. International exchanges have become very popular, without sufficient attention to opportunities for student exchanges *within* Canada. We intend to fill this gap, exposing students to the breadth of knowledge and experience held by members of our team.

Finally, centrally organized field placement opportunities will offer practical experience that is essential for developing well-rounded scholars and providing opportunities to explore alternative careers. The field placement course will be developed in collaboration with governments, service providers, and other organizations, and will allow students to gain credit across universities for their participation.

Training and mentoring opportunities will also be provided to junior faculty members in order to create a community of junior scholars in the field. In addition to receiving mentoring from their senior colleagues while participating in team projects, we intend to develop a program of seminars and workshops targeted to junior scholars in order to nurture their development. This will help to launch their careers, promoting the sustainability of the partnership and future research.

P2P Graduate Student Research Assistants at the University of Western Ontario

As part of its commitment to the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership, the University of Western Ontario will be funding three Western graduate student research assistants each year of the seven year grant. During the first year, the research assistants are Annie Gong, Jonathan Osborne, and Stelian Medianu. They will help with data collection and analysis, report writing, dissemination, and administration of the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership.

Annie Gong received her B.A. in Sociology and Human Resources from the University of Toronto in 2011. She is currently studying towards her M.A. in Sociology at Western. Annie is excited to pursue her interest in inequalities in health and aging. She plans to analyze the barriers faced by new immigrants when accessing Canada's health care system and to study the impact of these barriers on immigrants' physical and mental wellbeing.

John Osborne is a third year Ph.D. Candidate in Geography at Western with a specialization in Migration and Ethnic Relations. He completed his undergraduate degree in Geography at the University of Winnipeg, where he also worked as a research assistant for the Canada Research Chair in Urban Change and Adaptation. Much of this research examined refugee and immigrant settlement, with a particular focus on newcomer housing and neighbourhood experiences in Winnipeg and other Manitoba centres. John's current research is shaped by his continued interest in the role that housing plays in newcomers' initial settlement and longer term integration into Canadian society.

Stelian Medianu is a Ph.D. student in the Social Psychology program at Western and the Collaborative Graduate Program in Migration and Ethnic Relations. He completed his B.A. in Psychology at the University of British Columbia in 2008 and his M.Sc. in Social Psychology at the University of Western Ontario in 2010. Stelian's research interests focus on intergroup relations, prejudice, dehumanization, attitude change, and mass media effects, with a particular emphasis on immigrants and refugees. Stelian is also interested in how to best orient and provide information to newcomers to Canada.

Recent and Upcoming Conference Presentations

Akbari, A.H. (2012, July). *Labour market performance of immigrants in smaller provinces: Some evidence from Nova Scotia*. Seminar presentation at Research Group on Economics of Immigration (RGEI), University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada. Report completed for the Province of Nova Scotia (Office of Immigration): Socioeconomic and Demographic Profiles of Immigrants in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Anderson, W. (2012, September). *Where are you from?: Immigration to rural Newfoundland and the paradox of visibility*. Presentation at Atlantic Canada: A Home Away from Home?, Gender and Intersectional Perspectives on Immigration. St. John's, NL, Canada.

Anderson, W. (2012, November). *Home, sweet, home or stepping stone?: Exploring immigration to rural Newfoundland*. Guest speaker at a Harris Centre Synergy Session, St. John's, NL, Canada.

Bollman, R.D. (2012, August). *Problematique and context for rural community development on the Canadian Prairies*. Presentation to the class studying Foundations of Rural Ministry and Community Development, Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada.

Boyd, M. (2012, August). *Destination Canada(?): Gender, race and changing policies for recruiting migrant domestic workers*. Paper presented at the International Sociological Forum. Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Boylan, E., & ElDakiky, M. (2012, May). *Community attractiveness indicators for newcomers tool: Supporting data-driven rural and regional investment in human capital*. Presentation and Research Paper at the Rural Research Workshop "Policy and Research in Community Investment", Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Dodson, B.J. (2012, May). *Applying a gender lens to migration and development discourse: Insights from Southern Africa*. Invited paper presentation, Special Sessions on Geographies of Migration and Development. Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Waterloo, ON, Canada.

Huot, S., & Nayar, S. (2012, October). *'Placing' integration: A critical exploration of immigrants' occupations in London, Ontario, Canada, and Auckland, New Zealand*. Paper presentation for Society for the Study of Occupation. Portland, OR, USA.

Huot, S. & Laliberte Rudman, D. (2012, October). *Occupation as situated: Recognizing the influence of social power relations*. Paper presentation for Society for the Study of Occupation. Portland, OR, USA.

Lalonde, R.N., Cila, J., & Lou, E. (2012, June). *Culture, gender, and intergenerational conflict for second-generation Canadians*. Canadian Psychological Association, Halifax, NS, Canada.

Lou, E., & Lalonde, R.N. (2012, June). *Multicultural experiences and biculturalism do not always guarantee enhanced creativity*. Canadian Psychological Association, Halifax, NS, Canada.

Plaizier, H. & Yeo, S. (2012, October). *Listening circles: Building local relationships*. Workshop. TESL Canada Conference. Kamloops, BC, Canada.

Plaizier, H. & Yeo, S. (2012, November). *Engaging local relationships with listening circles*. Workshop. ATESL Conference. Edmonton, AB, Canada.

Wiginton, L.K. (2012, September). *Canada's decentralised immigration policy through a local lens: How small communities are attracting and welcoming immigrants*. Supervised Research Project submitted in partial fulfillment of the Masters of Urban Planning degree at McGill University School of Urban Planning. Montréal, QC, Canada.

For your conference presentation to be included in the next e-bulletin, please submit a list of your recent (last 4 months) and upcoming presentations (next 2 months) to Sonali Advani at wci@uwo.ca.

Presentations received before the 10th of any particular month will be included in that month's publication. Please send your submissions in the following format:

Last Name of Presenter(s), First Initial. (Year, Month). Title of Presentation. Type of Presentation (e.g., keynote address, presentation, workshop, paper presentation, etc.) [at] Name of Conference. City, Province/State, Country.

Thank You

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