



Partnership aims to attract immigrants to smaller communities

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A new community-university research partnership founded by a Western University professor will work towards finding homes for immigrants in smaller communities across Canada.

The Pathways to Prosperity Partnership will bring together researchers, community partners and government departments from coast to coast to improve policies and practices that help attract, settle and integrate newcomers in communities across the country.

The project will focus on medium-sized and small cities and towns.

It was announced Monday (May 28) the partnership is receiving a \$2.5 million grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to support the project.

“We plan to equip community organizations and governments, including municipal governments, with the tools they need to devise and implement evidence-based strategies that promote inclusion, local development and economic and social sustainability,” said project founder Victoria Esses, a professor of psychology at Western University and the director of the school’s Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations.

According to a media release, the partnership has obtained solid commitments of support from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and partnering provincial immigration ministries.

“Its work will complement the efforts of federal, provincial and territorial governments working to improve the settlement and integration outcomes of newcomers to Canada,” the release states. “As part of this effort, the network will contribute research expertise to the development of Local Immigration Partnerships as they are established across the country.”

More than 100 partners and 180 collaborators from more than 50 universities will provide additional financial, research and policy development support for the partnership for immigrant settlement and integration efforts in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Atlantic Canada and the Prairies.

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