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CENTRE FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR STUDIES

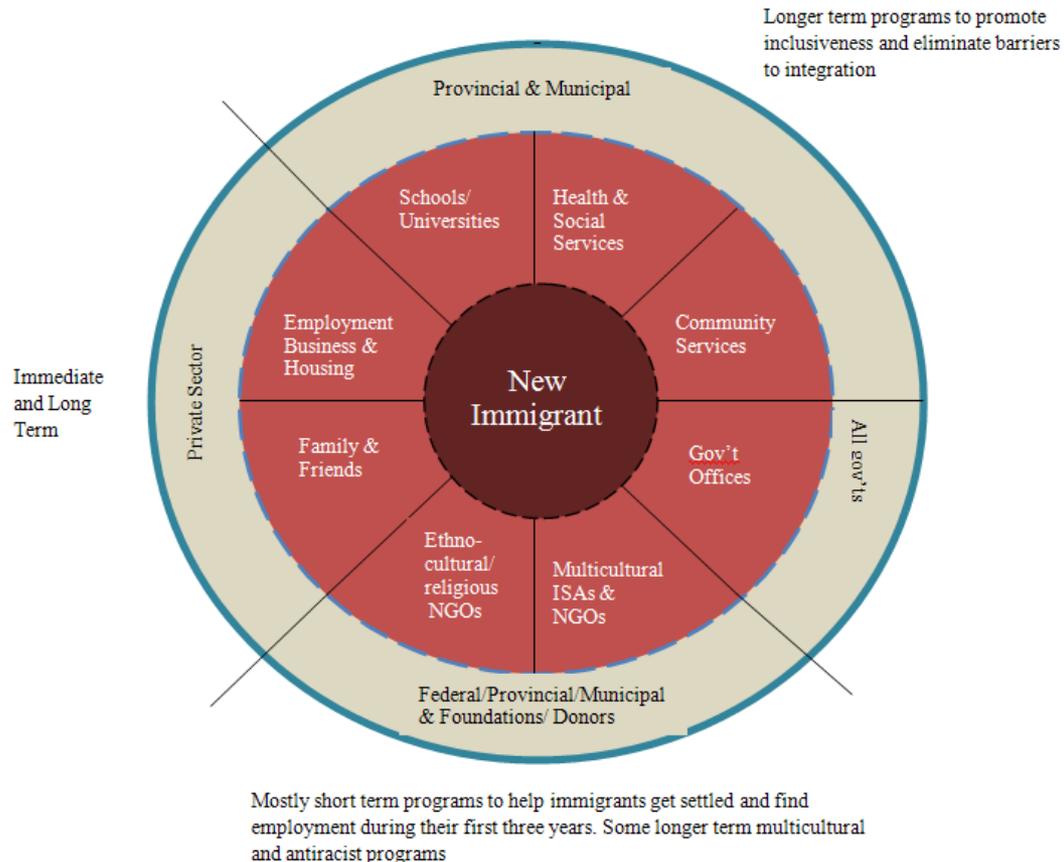
Workshop:

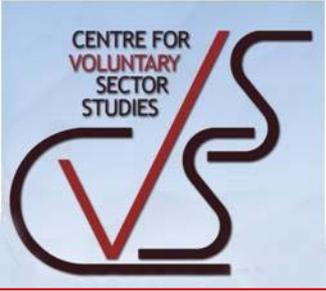
Investigating the Canadian Partnership Model for Immigrant Integration and Inclusion: Preliminary Research Findings

National Metropolis Conference
Vancouver, March 23, 2011

Brief Overview of Current Study

Figure 1. Model of services for integration and inclusion

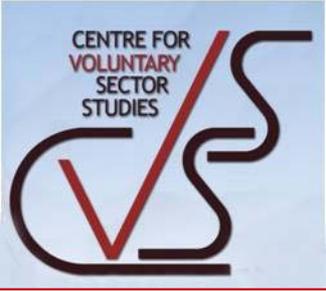




System Complexity

“Science has explored the microcosms and the macrocosms: we have a good sense of the lay of the land. The great unexplored frontier is complexity”

(Heinz R. Pagels, The Dreams of Reason, 1988)



Characteristics of Complex Adaptive Systems

1. Non-linearity

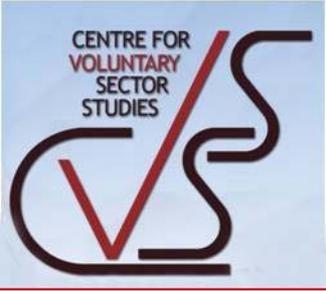
This construct means that small actions can stimulate large reactions (otherwise known as the butterfly effect) in which highly improbable, unpredictable and unexpected events have huge impacts.

2. Emergence

The appearance of patterns occurs due to the collective behavior. What emerges cannot be planned or intended. The whole of the interactions becomes greater than the sum of the separate parts.

3. Dynamical systems change

Interactions within, between and among subsystems and parts are volatile, turbulent, and cascade rapidly and unpredictably.



Characteristics of Complex Adaptive Systems

4. Adaptation

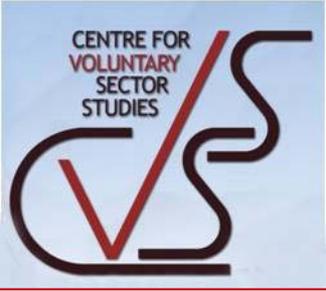
Interacting elements respond and adapt to each other so that what emerges and evolves is a function of ongoing adaptation among both interacting elements and the elements and their environment.

5. Uncertainty

Processes and outcomes are unpredictable, uncontrollable and unknowable in advance. There is no clear idea what might happen or how likely possible outcomes are.

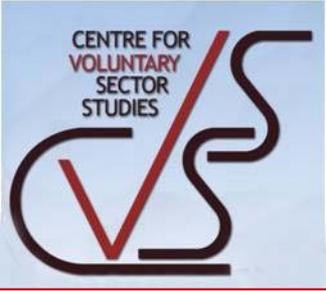
6. Co-evolutionary

As interacting and adaptive agents self organize, ongoing connections emerge that become co-evolutionary as the agents evolve together (co-evolve) within and as part of the whole system over time.



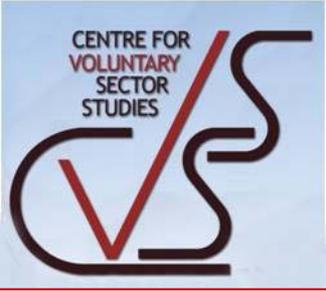
Brief Overview – Pod 1

Pod 1 examines the elusive term “effectiveness” which means different things to different stakeholders. By combining a historical analysis of the evolution of “effective” immigrant services with an investigation of current usages of the term from the perspective of all stakeholders, we will achieve a common understanding of the meaning of ‘effective’ integration policies and practices.



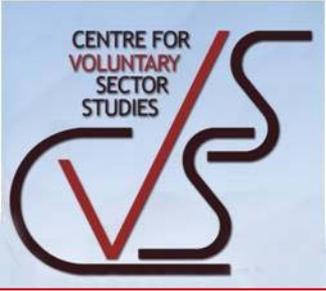
Brief Overview – Pod 2

Pod 2 investigates interprovincial variations in services which may be rooted in the history of different intergovernmental partnerships, different policy decisions taken at the provincial level, different relationships between the province and their service providers, and various exogenous factors. Exemplars of excellence will be presented as part of the outputs from this pod.



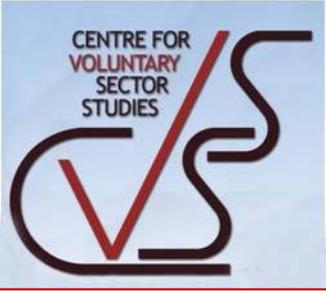
Brief Overview – Pod 3

Pod 3 moves towards a different, less studied aspect of the partnership – the role of municipalities and neighbourhoods in the integration of newcomers. This pod examines some of the issues municipalities contend with, such as the undefined nature of their role in the partnership model. Many innovative partnerships and programs have been initiated by municipalities; some of them will be examined and presented as exemplars.



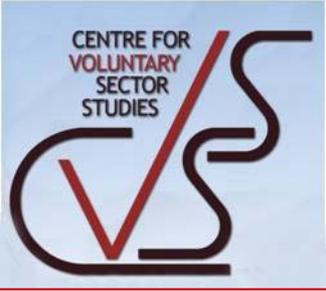
Brief Overview – Pod 4

Pod 4 focuses on one of the most studied aspects of the partnership, the role of the immigrant serving NGOs; however it looks at them in a novel way, examining their role in helping immigrants and racialized communities to bridge to the general community and/or to bond with their own communities.



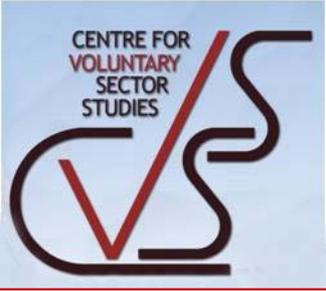
Brief Overview – Pod 5

Pod 5 involves an extensive literature review and critical evaluation of various models of integration and social service provision as practiced in both in Canada and abroad. This literature review will be augmented by an empirical investigation of mixed model services in different parts of Canada.



Brief Overview – Pod 6

Pod 6 looks directly at the impact of policy as the key driver in social changes leading to effective long-term integration and the creation of an inclusive society.



Workshop Agenda

The first topic to be examined, presented by Lucia Lo, is how various stakeholders define “effectiveness” of immigration policies and practices.

Next, Ilene Hyman, Nabiha Atallah, Stephane Reichhold, Jim Frideres and Maria Adamuti –Trache will examine how differences in federal-provincial partnership arrangements affect the delivery and efficacy of integration services in the different provinces,

Finally, John Shields and Julie Drolet will compare settlement and integration policies in a number of countries and evaluate what Canada can learn from them.