



**“Welcoming Communities” Priority Seminar
January 25, 2010
Library and Archives Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario**

How Could Canadian Communities Be More Welcoming?

Background

The extent to which a society is able to receive and integrate immigrants, refugees and minorities depends on a number of societal conditions, some of which can be strongly affected by government policy. The “Welcoming Communities” policy-research priority focuses on determining what public policy instruments can enhance the capacity of Canada, its cities and communities to receive, integrate and retain immigrants, refugees and minorities. It also seeks empirically determined best practices that can be adapted for use in other contexts.

In the years to come, the growth in multiculturalism will have a marked effect on the major urban centres of Vancouver, Montréal and Toronto (where, within the next 10 years, 50% of the population will be visible minorities). The effects will also be felt in the smallest municipalities and in remote areas. Because social integration must be a two-way process, it requires an ongoing willingness on the part of both immigrants and the Canadian-born population to adapt. In order for this process to be successful, and for society to be strengthened as a result, Canada’s communities must be truly welcoming. This welcoming attitude should extend to removing the barriers preventing naturalized citizens from living up to their responsibilities as citizens.

Throughout the course of the day, this collective mission will be borne in mind as we attempt to clarify what “welcoming community” means. The notion of welcoming community will be examined under four themes: 1) the degree to which federal, provincial and municipal governments are proactive; 2) the role of non-governmental organizations; 3) the urban/rural divide; and 4) Francophone and Anglophone minority language communities. We hope that this process of reflection will include an ongoing intercultural dialogue and put us further along the path toward openness and enriching self-discovery.

Seminar is free of cost
RSVP: Projet-Metropolis-Project@cic.gc.ca
By: January 11, 2010

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Registration

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Opening remarks

- Howard Duncan, Executive Head, Metropolis Project Secretariat
- Moderator: Robert **Annis**, Rural Development Institute, Brandon University, Manitoba

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

A proactive approach by federal, provincial and municipal governments

What are the roles of the three levels of Canadian government in promoting, building and maintaining welcoming communities? Is a national project to help integrate newcomers (immigrants or migrants of Canadian origin) into the country's communities feasible? If so, how can we combine our efforts and achieve the desired outcome?

Presenters:

- Richard A. **Wanner**, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary, *The Effects of Immigration Policies on the Economic Integration of Immigrants to 22 More Developed Countries*
- Deborah **Tunis**, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *The Role of the Federal Government*
- Humphrey **Sheehan**, Chief Executive Office / Population Growth Secretariat, Government of New Brunswick, *New Brunswick's Proactive Approach to Creating Welcoming Communities*
- Joshua **Bates**, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, *Immigration and Diversity in Canada's Cities, Towns and Communities*
- Annick **Lenoir-Achdjian**, Department of social work, Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, *Is There Such a Thing As an "Integration-Ready" Immigrant?*

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The role of non-governmental organizations

Integrating immigrants is a lengthy process that often only begins to show results with immigrants' Canadian-born children. In order for the process to be successful and to start early, all local stakeholders must play a role. This requires the combined efforts of settlement assistance organizations, the private sector, foundations and other not-for-profit organizations.

Presenters:

- Nicole **Chaland**, Sustainability Solutions, *Community Achieving Immigrant Integration Goals through Social Enterprise*
- Kim **Shukla**, Prairie Global Management, Steinbach, Manitoba, *The SME's Role in a Welcoming Community*
- Ratna **Omidvar**, Maytree Foundation, *Engaging a Wide Variety of Actors to Promote Integration*

Seminar is free of cost

RSVP: Projet-Metropolis-Project@cic.gc.ca

By: January 11, 2010

- Darren **Lund**, Faculty of Education, University of Calgary, Calgary, *Facing Backlash and Resistance to Creating Welcoming Communities*

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch (not provided)

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The urban and rural contexts

In the competitive globalized world, our communities must constantly find new and innovative ways of to stand out, to develop or, at the very least, to ensure their own survival. They must strive to recruit the most productive and dynamic people. The quality of their environment depends on a multitude of factors related to their surroundings. What are the distinctive characteristics of an urban metropolitan environment, a non-metropolitan urban environment, a rural near-urban environment, and a remote rural environment? What are the social interactions like in each of these settings? What lessons can decision

makers learn when developing public policy that focuses on attracting, integrating and retaining immigrants?

Presenters:

- Bill **Reimer**, Department of Sociology, Concordia University, Montréal, *Immigration in the New Rural Economy*
- Miu Chung **Yan**, School of Social Work, University of British Columbia, *Bridging Newcomers in the Neighbourhood Scale*
- Julie **Drolet**, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, *Settlement Experiences of Immigrants in a Small City*
- Sandeep Kumar **Agrawal**, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Ryerson University, Toronto, *Welcoming Multicultural Neighbourhoods*

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Francophone and Anglophone minority language communities

The steps taken by official language minority communities are an example of best practices in the area of sustainable immigrant reception. The case studies of Anglophone communities in Quebec and Francophone communities outside Quebec reveal the importance of the communicational and cultural aspects of establishing communities that are open to others.

Presenters:

- Jean-Sébastien **Jolin Gignac**, Voice of English-speaking Quebec, Québec City, *Immigrant-Friendly Anglophone Communities in the Province of Quebec*
- Christophe **Traisnel**, Department of political science, Université de Moncton, *The Canadian Francophonie and Francophone immigration: Conceptualizing a distinct approach to diversity*

Seminar is free of cost

RSVP: Projet-Metropolis-Project@cic.gc.ca

By: January 11, 2010

- Michèle **Vatz Laaroussi**, Department of social services, Université de Sherbrooke, *Can Anglophone Communities in the Regions of Quebec be Instrumental in Attracting and Retaining Immigrants in Rural Communities?*

4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Closing remarks

- Moderator: Robert **Annis**, Rural Development Institute, Brandon University, Manitoba
- Howard Duncan, Executive Head, Metropolis Project

Seminar is free of cost
RSVP: Projet-Metropolis-Project@cic.gc.ca
By: January 11, 2010