

and the differential effects of policies, programs and legislation on women and men;

- Whenever possible, domestic and international best practices should be identified;
- Wherever possible, an interdisciplinary perspective should be adopted;
- Wherever possible, an exploration of the impact of immigrant category or refugee status should be included in the analysis;
- For the research to be useful to federal policy and program developers, a balance must be struck between aggregated, small-scale qualitative studies and large-scale quantitative work;
- Improving receptor capacity (Annex L) within the federal partnership is crucial to realizing the value of the Metropolis Project, especially where quantitative work is concerned.

Major Statistics Canada data sources for each Federal Policy-Research Priority will be provided in the data guide referred to in Annex K. Researchers are expected to make use of these data wherever possible.

Federal Policy-Research Priorities (in alphabetical order)

1) Citizenship and Social, Cultural and Civic Integration

Canada's immigration program, like its multicultural approach to inclusion, is designed to bring benefits to Canadian society as well as an offer of a better life to immigrants, refugees, and their immediate families. It is not only the Canadian economy that feels the effects of immigration. Accordingly, this policy-research priority will look at the social and cultural effects of immigration and diversity on Canada and will determine the extent to which there are risks to societal well-being, to full participation of the members of these groups as citizens, and to the cohesion of Canadian society overall and in its regions.

Policy-research questions could include:

- What are the major social, cultural and civic components of the two-way street approach to integration and multicultural inclusion? What should be considered successful outcomes on each side of the street and what

indicators and benchmarks should be used to measure these? Are these outcomes uniform across all elements of society, or are they differentiated?

- How do various factors affect immigrants' language acquisition? Potential factors may include mother tongue, gender, age at immigration, level of education, occupation, length of time in Canada, immigrant class or refugee status and availability and type of language instruction. Is there a social or economic "return" to language acquisition? What can be done to encourage language acquisition?
- How does the presence or absence of social capital contribute to the integration or inclusion of newcomers and minorities? Are there critical junctures in the life course of newcomers and minorities where they are most at risk of exclusion? What role do adult citizenship courses play in helping newcomers to integrate?
- What is the relationship between attachment and belonging and Canada's broad shared citizenship approach? What indicators can we use to better understand sense of attachment, belonging and citizenship? What factors are important to increasing attachment, belonging and citizenship? Does civic or political participation play a role? What role should Canadian "values" play and what are the ramifications of religious pluralism on "values" discourse? How do immigration-related enforcement activities affect attachment and belonging? What factors lead immigrant youth to develop either positive or negative attitudes towards the host society?
- What is the relationship between naturalization, dual or multiple citizenships, and one's sense of attachment and belonging to Canada? To what extent does official multiculturalism influence the feelings of attachment and belonging for newcomers and minorities? What role can the Government of Canada play in fostering a broad citizenship approach?
- What are the most effective means for delivering services to newcomers and minorities (government, immigrant service provider organizations, ethnospecific organizations, "universal" organizations, or religiously affiliated organizations? How can

this efficacy be measured? How effective are settlement agencies' homework clubs, educational brokers, counseling for survivors of trauma, parenting programs, and so on? Should settlement agencies be offering programming that is available elsewhere (ESL/FSL)? Are ethnocultural specific agencies preferable to multicultural agencies or vice versa? Who, among immigrant groups, uses settlement agencies? Who isn't being served?

- What are the major health-related issues facing immigrants to Canada in the short, medium and longer term? What are the differential health outcomes related to: immigrant status; age; gender; education; language fluency; length of residence in Canada; availability of like-ethnic or other community supports? What are the major challenges and stresses that coincide with migration to Canada, taking into account the heterogeneity of immigrants, that have or are likely to have negative impacts on health? What are the protective factors and their effects?
- What evidence exists on the key determinants of immigrant health, and to what extent do they help elucidate the convergence in health status between Canadian-born and foreign-born populations over time? How does the health status of first- and second- generation immigrants change over time considering such factors as language, gender, age and health status at immigration, level of education, occupation, length of time in Canada, nature of family environment, immigrant class and sense of attachment and belonging to Canada? What are the consequences of mandatory waiting periods for immigrants to qualify for health care, and what are their effects on decisions regarding preventive health care?
- What are the current and potential implications for the public health "system" given the planned expected growth in the number of immigrants Canada? What policy and program interventions might most effectively address/reduce these issues and/or mitigate the health impacts? How can they take into account temporal influences on risk and resilience? How can policy, program and/or community interventions strengthen personal and social resources of immigrants, especially those not attached to like-ethnic

communities (e.g., those not in the large metropolitan centres)?

- How does the assimilation of language and culture influence access to and use of public health services in Canada, especially prevention and health promotion services and activities? How are prevention and promotion programs planned and delivered for new arrivals, and how long does it take immigrants, especially older persons, to become engaged in prevention or health promotion activity? Related as well to language and integration, how well attuned are occupational health services and information to the needs of immigrants, and what are the implications for food services and other key areas? What are the long-term effects of acculturation on immigrants and refugees and their levels of social support?
- How does Canada compare with other similar countries in terms of the health status of immigrants over time? What are the key differences? Are there societal factors, policy approaches or other practices that could account for these differences? What could Canada learn from and potentially adapt from successful experiences in other countries or regions?
- How are immigrants and minorities participating in Canada's cultural life? How are these groups reflected in our cultural products? What cultural products are newcomers and minorities consuming and what impact is this having on their own identity or Canadian identity? What public policy tools are being used or could be used to ensure that cultural products and performances contribute to building an inclusive and cohesive society?

2) Economic and Labour Market Integration

At least since the early 1990s, the economic well-being of recent immigrants to Canada has declined and we have seen evidence of a continuation of comparative economic disadvantage for members of minorities. This policy-research priority will continue the examination of these phenomena with special attention to the economic impact of immigration and to the changes that a larger and more structured immigrant and minority population has made to the economic consequences of immigration and diversity in their destination