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News and Updates. June 15, 2018- issue # 16

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 +1 (416) 736-2100
Ext 20544

Migration and resilience in urban Canada-Immigration et résilience en milieu urbain



The partnership meeting on June 5 and 6, 2018 in Toronto was a true knowledge exchange with a large and diverse audience, exciting presentations, and provocative conversations. Presenters discussed the lessons learned from settling privately-sponsored and government-assisted Syrian refugees, different local models for coordinating settlement services, and sanctuary cities. With humour and grace, newcomers themselves outlined how

they overcame settlement challenges. I want to congratulate all the participants for their thoughtful contributions and everyone responsible for the planning and logistics. We are especially grateful to John Campey, Executive Director of the Ralph Thornton Community Centre and all his staff who graciously hosted the partnership and its guests.

Many of you have already met Sabrina Rajpaul, the new Work Study Office Assistant and Adriana Espinosa de Los Monteros Romo who joined us in May on a placement. Diane Dyson has taken a leave to run for municipal office in the November elections. I know everyone joins me in wishing her the best of luck. I want to thank Jelena Zikic for her contributions as co-Chair of the York Region network and as interviewer and recruiter for the closing panel on Tuesday.

Valerie Preston, BMRC Principal Investigator

Knowledge Mobilization News



Thank you to all the members of the planning committee and the speakers who made the June 2018 partnership meeting a success. We have put together a [2 pager report](#) that compares the results against the targets of the meeting. Stay tuned for more informative reports, pictures and next steps.

Steering Committee News-Nouvelles du comité de pilotage



The Steering Committee has approved a process for the expansion of the City Networks and formal addition of new members to the BMRC-IMRU partnership grant. In consultation with the Principal Investigator, City Network Co-Chairs can present their network needs and expansion plans, as well as associated nomination packages for new co-investigators and collaborators, before the Steering Committee for discussion and decision. Formal membership in the Partnership Grant itself then goes into effect

upon receipt of formal approval from SSHRC. [Policy – BMRC - IMRU Partnership Network Expansion](#)

Executive Committee News-Nouvelles du comité exécutif



A study of sanctuary cities led by Mireille Paquet, an investigation of the role of churches in settling Syrian refugees and Haitian refugee claimants proposed by Frédéric Dejean, and an examination of policymakers' understandings of resilience that involves Luisa Veronis, John Shields, Margaret Walton-Roberts, Rupaleem Bhuyan, Virginie Mesana, Enrico del Castillo, Hindia Mohammed, and Tara Bedard have all been allocated funding. Watch for the announcement of additional funding allocations in the near future.

This is a gentle reminder that requests for travel funds need to be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Please note that in July and August, the committee is not planning to meet so decisions may be delayed. We appreciate your patience.

City Networks Updates on the BMRC conference



Le réseau des villes de Montréal

The Montreal city network was represented by Damaris Rose, Chedly Belkhodja, Stephan Reichhold and Gabrielle Désilets.

Damaris Rose moderated the June 5 conference during the morning while Chedly Belkhodja, Stephan Reichhold and Gabrielle Désilets presented in different panels.

Thank you to all of them!



You can read the Montreal May city network updates [here](#)



The Ottawa–Gatineau City Network

The Ottawa-Gatineau city network was represented by Luisa Veronis and Virginie Mesana. Luisa Veronis moderated the June 5 conference in the afternoon and replaced Margaret Walton-Roberts in one of the panels. She also joined Virginie Mesana in a presentation about the transversal project on the second day of the partnership meeting. Virginie Mesana also animated a poster presentation on June 5.

Thank you to all of them!



Read the full May Ottawa-Gatineau City network update [here](#).

The York Region City Network

The York City network was represented by Jelena Zikic and Marshia Akbar. Jelena Zikic facilitated a conversation with Lorelei Silverman, Rosalind Silverman and Maziar Heidari, three recipients of a Canadian Immigrants award invited at this event to tell their stories of immigrating in Canada during the keynote. Marshia Akbar animated one of the

poster presentations.

Thank you to all of them.



The Toronto City Network

The Toronto city network was represented by John Shields and Jessica Praznik. John Shields collaborated with the Ottawa-Gatineau city network on a presentation about the transversal project on the second day of the partnership meeting. Jessica Praznik animated one of the poster presentations on June 5.

Thank you both!



The Kitchener-Waterloo City Network

The Kitchener-Waterloo city network was represented by Jenna Hennebry and David Celis. Jenna Hennebry presented in one of the panels and they both contributed in the KM training on the second day by presenting the objectives of their upcoming infographics.

Thank you both!



The Windsor City Network

The Windsor city network was represented by Duncan Lam who was there on behalf of Francine Schlosser. Thank you, Duncan, for attending and contributing to discussions about studying international students across the partnership.

Call for proposals



Call for Articles- Global Compacts on Refugees and on Migration Special Issue of International Migration

Dear colleagues,

The Global Compacts on Refugees and on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration are direct outcomes of the September 2016 High Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (HLP), held in New York City. Both compacts aim to improve international cooperation in addressing population movements, but the modalities and more specific purposes of the compacts differed in essential ways. You can learn more about this [here](#).

Network News-Nouvelles du réseau



Understanding and Promoting Transformative Resilience among Immigrant Communities

This community-based research project was recently funded by BMRC/IRMU partnership to better understand how immigrant communities engage in “transformative resilience” by challenging and overcoming systemic inequalities and barriers they face in Canada. The project is led by an interdisciplinary team made up of university and community agency researchers including University of Toronto Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, OCASI, United Way and Access Alliance.

Specifically, this study will (i) investigate how and why immigrant communities mobilize collectively against root causes associated with challenges and adversities they face (e.g. barriers to permanent residence and decent work; racism); (ii) document impacts from these collective actions on immigrant communities (in terms of resilience and wellbeing) and on the host society; and (iii) build knowledge about institutional supports and resources that can strengthen collective civic action among immigrant communities. The initial phase of the study will focus on Filipino community and Tibetan community in Toronto; additional communities may be included based on partner feedback.

We are in the process of hiring a graduate research assistant to coordinate this project. The Coordinator will be co-hosted by the University of Toronto, Faculty of Social Work and Access Alliance, as part of their Immigrant Insight Scholar initiative, a mentored fellowship program to build research/scholarly opportunities and career pathways for under-represented and equity-seeking groups. [Read more here.](#)

Other Important Information-Autre Information Importante

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For more information about this newsletter:

Naolo Charles
Knowledge Mobilization Officer
Building Migration Resilience in Cities Partnership

Hours: Monday afternoon, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday afternoon

York University
4700 Keele St.
Kaneff Tower, 803
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3
416-736-2100 Ext 20544
naolo@yorku.ca

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4700 Keele St, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

<http://bmrc-irmu.info.yorku.ca> | bmrcirmu@yorku.ca | +1 (416) 736-2100

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