

# NEWS AND UPDATES

## MIGRATION AND RESILIENCE IN URBAN CANADA

February 15, 2017

In this second newsletter, I want to begin by expressing my thanks for the hard work of all contributors; Adnan Türegün, Raymond Hyma, and Camila Bonifaz. I also want to welcome the Windsor network, led by Dr. Francine Schlosser who successfully encouraged the University of Windsor to join the partnership. It is also my pleasure to welcome Hindi Mohamoud as a collaborator and representative for the Ontario Local Immigration Partnership that has also joined the partnership.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Montreal at the National Metropolis Conference where the partnership will sponsor a workshop. There is much more news from our partners so please keep reading. I also want to draw your attention to the last item in the newsletter.

### City Network News

The city networks are meeting to initiate their activities. Now is the moment to become involved when each partner can shape the research agenda and research program. Adnan Türegün, the Partnership Liaison, is working with the chairs of the city networks as they begin their activities. Any questions about the city networks should be directed to the chairs or to Adnan, [turegun@yorku.ca](mailto:turegun@yorku.ca).

#### *Montreal*

Chedly Belkhodja, academic co-chair of the network, and Mireille Paquet are co-organizing a Graduate Summer School on the Syrian Refugee Crisis – The Policy and Politics of Refugee Resettlement in Canada – this summer (July 25 – August 4) at Concordia University. Our partnership is exploring ways of sponsoring the summer school.

The [Centre pour l'évaluation des politiques d'immigration](#) (CEPI) at Concordia University will hold a one-day conference (on May 26) on the Syrian Refugee Exodus to Quebec and Canada. Check their website for more information.

The Centraide du Grand Montréal and La table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI) have launched a refugee-welcoming project titled « Vivons nos quartiers » (Welcoming Neighbourhoods). Please see the attached description for more information.

#### *Ottawa-Gatineau*

We are happy to announce that the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership (OLIP) has joined our partnership. Hindia Mohamoud (Director of OLIP) is now a collaborator, adding to the strength of the network.

On November 30, 2016, Luisa Veronis, academic co-chair of the network, helped co-organize a research day on French-speaking immigration in Francophone minority communities. The meeting, a collaborative initiative of P2P and IRCC, brought together over 30 participants, including academic researchers and graduate students, as well as observers from government and the community. A final report summarizing the main ideas discussed at the meeting will be available to the public on the P2P website in March.

#### *York Region*

The network has convened its inaugural meeting on March 3.

#### *Toronto*

Following its inaugural meeting on January 27, the network will meet again on March 3.

Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement, hub of the Toronto City Network, held a workshop titled “Immigration Is a Family Affair” on February 14. The workshop discussed results of the collaborative research project “Integration Trajectories of Immigrant Families.” [Learn more.](#)

#### *Kitchener-Waterloo*

A network meeting is anticipated in the coming two weeks.

#### *Windsor*

We welcome the University of Windsor as a formal partner , with Francine Schlosser’s status changing from collaborator to co-investigator. Francine will continue to serve as academic co-chair of the network and Reza Shahbazi of the New Canadians’ Centre of Excellence will join her as non-academic co-chair. Involving the local government and immigration partnership, the network will meet on March 23 to discuss a research program around the resilience of international students.

#### KM News

The KM Committee consisting of Jane Wedlock from United Way Toronto & York Region, Brian Ray of the University of Ottawa, Valerie Preston and Camila Bonifaz of York University, and former CERIS KM adviser Raymond Hyma met in January and February. The minutes are available in the dropbox.

With a designer, the Committee is developing proposals for a logo and wordmark for the partnership, has sent out a request for recent research by co-investigators that is ready for plain-language summaries and outreach, and is laying out a bilingual website. The committee is also working to outline strategic KM thinking and planning, and the process of recruiting a part-time project knowledge broker. These activities lay the groundwork to establish the partnership's identity and develop the tools to support our commitment to making our work available for research, policy, and practice discussions, as well as reaching out to the general public about migration issues. Please contact Camila Bonifaz, [cbonifaz@yorku.ca](mailto:cbonifaz@yorku.ca) if you have any comments or suggestions for the KM Committee.

### Executive Committee

I am pleased to introduce the Executive Committee that consists of two representatives from Ontario; Clarence Lochhead from Hire Immigrants Ottawa and Sutama Ghosh from Ryerson University and two representatives from Quebec; Damaris Rose of INRS and Chedly Belkhodja from Concordia University. An additional person representing York University will join the committee soon. Due to some technical glitches, the Executive Committee will hold its inaugural meeting shortly.

### Ethics News

At a recent meeting with Ms. Alison Collins-Makri, Senior Manager & Policy Advisor, Research Ethics, we learned that ethics approval will be required at York University to maintain access to the partnership research funds. Currently, we have access to the funds because we are not conducting any research with human subjects, however, the ethics approval needs to be renewed for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

The good news is that the ethics approval can be obtained piecemeal. In other words, as we undertake different activities, we can apply for ethics approval. I also learned that interviews, focus groups and surveys of public officials and policymakers that ask only for factual information do not require ethics approval, however, requesting an opinion on any issue means ethics approval is required.

In 2017-18, I understand that there will be interviews with policymakers and service providers concerning their opinions of a resilience approach to understanding and enhancing international migration and settlement. These interviews will require ethics approval. I am eager to hear from the chairs of the city networks about their research plans so I can submit the ethics forms in March before we lose access to the partnership funds.

## **Nouvelles de Montréal**

### **VIVONS NOS QUARTIERS**

La venue des réfugiés syriens a mis à l'avant-scène la situation précaire et de vulnérabilité dans laquelle se trouvent les personnes réfugiées à leur arrivée dans leur pays d'accueil.

Dans un souci de faire une réelle différence dans le parcours de vie de ces réfugiés, le projet « **Vivons nos quartiers** » cible une intégration réussie des réfugiés en misant sur la qualité d'accueil et la solidarité des communautés dans lesquelles ils vivront.

Il vise à développer les capacités des organisations impliquées dans l'intégration des réfugiés, par le biais de support-conseil et de la formation des intervenants communautaires et institutionnels de première ligne. Également, des actions de formation/sensibilisation sont déployées auprès des citoyens afin de créer des communautés inclusives.

Ce projet, réalisé en partenariat entre Centraide du Grand Montréal et la Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI), s'appuie sur 4 axes de développement :

- Offre de formation pour les intervenants communautaires et institutionnels
- Organisation d'évènements citoyens d'informations et conscientisation
- Mise en place de communautés de pratiques et groupes de supervision
- Animation d'un groupe de réflexion composé de représentants d'organismes d'accueil, de chercheurs et de représentants institutionnels.

Plus particulièrement, le comité de réflexion a comme mandat d'assurer une veille sur les défis et les conditions d'intégration, de modéliser les pratiques les plus porteuses et de partager ses expertises.

### **WELCOMING NEIGHBORHOODS**

The recent arrival of Syrian refugees has brought to the fore the precarious and vulnerable conditions in which many refugees find themselves upon arriving in their host country. In an effort to make a real difference in the life-course of these families, the "Welcoming neighborhood" project, aims at supporting a full integration of refugees by focusing on developing inclusive and welcoming communities.

The project will develop the capacity of organisations involved in refugee settlement and integration, by providing support, council and training for community and institutional front-line workers. Moreover, public awareness initiatives will be carried out to support volunteers in their efforts to build inclusive communities.

The project, initiated through a partnership between the United Way of Greater Montreal and la Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes, the

TCRI, a non-profit umbrella organization representing community-based organizations in Quebec that provide services to immigrants and refugees, targets four axes of development:

- Training and educational services for refugee service providers and their partners.
- Community-based awareness raising activities and events
- The establishment of communities of practise and of supervising entities
- Think-tank/study group facilitation. The group will be comprised of settlement services providers, researchers and institutional representatives. Specifically, the think-tank will be mandated with the task of assessing integration challenges and requirements, set forth best practises and volunteer its expertise.