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Note about the series of reports on the structures of governance

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As part of the Building Migrant Resilience in Cities-*Immigration et résilience en milieu urbain* (BMRC-IRMU) Partnership, research teams across various city-networks developed a series of reports that describe the structures of governance relating to immigration, settlement, integration, and diversity at the three levels of government, including: the federal government (Cockram et al. 2021), the provinces of Ontario (Praznik & Shields 2018a) and Quebec (Bachelerie et al. 2020; Charette 2021a; Charette 2021b), and the cities of Toronto (Praznik & Shields 2018a), Ottawa (Veronis et al. 2024a), Gatineau (Veronis et al. 2024b), and Montreal (Lopes et al. 2024).

Adopting a “social resilience” approach (Preston et al. 2022) requires paying attention to the institutions, structures, policies, and services available to newcomers and immigrants as they aim to rebuild their lives in a new society. Thus, the main purpose of these reports is to provide an overview of the broader policy and institutional context that shapes immigrants’ lives and experiences at different stages of (im)migration (from the time of application to arrival, settlement, etc.) and in different locations, and thus their resilience in the complex process of settlement and integration.

While in Canada the settlement of immigrants is a shared federal and provincial responsibility (Cockram et al. 2021; Praznik & Shields, 2018b), municipalities have also been involved in processes of immigrant settlement and integration in various capacities (Praznik & Shields, 2018a). Each report offers a detailed examination of the main structures of governance for the respective jurisdiction and stakeholders involved in decision-making and managing public policy, initiatives, services, and programming that provide immigrant populations – primarily focusing on permanent residents, including newcomers (i.e., immigrants and sponsored refugees who have settled in Canada for five years or less), refugees (i.e., sponsored refugees, asylum claimants, and those recognized as refugees), and to a lesser extent other groups with varied status (e.g., temporary migrants, international students, and those without status, among others).

In terms of methodology, the reports follow the approach Praznik and Shields (2018a) developed for the City of Toronto report. In each case, a variety of policy documents, reports, and information available on websites produced by each government and other relevant stakeholders – e.g., Immigrant Serving Agencies (ISAs), Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs), community organizations, immigrant associations, etc. – were collected and analyzed. In each case, the reports provide useful visualizations (e.g., tables, graphs, figures.) such as timelines with key events and organigrams to highlight the characteristics and features that distinguish each government/jurisdiction – including most notable actors and stakeholders, significant policies, funding sources, initiatives, and more – along with links to resources for further information. As such, the series of reports provides a broad synthesis of key events and significant institutional and policy changes for the period going from about 2005-2020.

It is important to note that many of the reports were written/prepared before 2020 – in the early stages of the BMRC-IRMU Partnership. As such, they do not necessarily capture more recent policy changes in the post-pandemic period. Nevertheless, the information presented in the reports can serve as a baseline to assess the changes and initiatives put in place with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and more broadly in the post-pandemic context – given the significant societal impacts

related to the implementation of public health measures, along with many other institutional and policy changes. For example, during the brunt of the pandemic lockdowns, service providers rapidly pivoted to online service provision (Preston, Shields & D'Souza 2024). Moreover, the federal and provincial governments increased immigration targets (both for permanent residents and temporary migrants) to adjust for the dip in arrivals due to border closures at the height of the pandemic, with important repercussions for a variety of sectors (e.g., labour market, health care, housing, education).

In addition to and to complement these reports, Praznik and Shields (2018c) wrote a guide describing the structures of settlement services across Canada, entitled *An Anatomy of Settlement Services in Canada*.

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