

## **ABSTRACTS**

### **TITLE: SHARING KNOWLEDGE: SETTLEMENT EXPERIENCES IN A SMALL CITY**

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**C.I.:** Jeanette Robertson, Thompson Rivers University

The proposed project aims to disseminate research findings from a Metropolis BC funded project titled “Settlement experiences in a small city” and translate results into policy-research priority implications. The importance of sharing the research findings lies in the settlement challenges faced by smaller communities outside of the major metropolitan areas of Canada. It is imperative to better understand the settlement experience of family-class immigrants in a small city. All immigrant groups rely on health, education and other social services, and social workers play a key role in the delivery of direct and essential services. This study has generated discussion and policy implications for government, practitioners, policy-makers and other stakeholders around issues such as needs and settlement experiences of immigrants, ethno-specific groups, credentials recognition and other labour market issues, and capacity issues for delivering key services in a smaller community. This applied social research project was undertaken by a research team comprised of social work faculty (TRU), community-based partners (Kamloops Immigrant Services), and practitioners (Interior Health Authority) as well as a student research assistant. Qualitative research methods included focused roundtable discussions, interviews, photovoice, and documentation. The research team would like to disseminate the research findings by translating policy-research priority implications, and develop a questionnaire for settlement workers in small cities (Vernon and Prince George).

### **TITLE: ENGAGING AND (RE)FRAMING: CONNECTING METROPOLIS RESEARCH WITH MULTICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS**

**P.I.:** Scott Graham, Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC)

**C.I.:** Robyn Newton and Karli Brotchie, Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC)

This project will contribute to the dissemination and practical application of Metropolis research in the area of Citizenship and Social, Cultural and Civic Integration. The overarching objectives of the project are to:

1. Synthesize relevant Metropolis research into a series of fact sheets;
2. Engage relevant stakeholders in two workshops that are centered on practical questions about the results of Metropolis research;
3. Identify new areas of inquiry for the Metropolis framework for research in the area of Citizenship and Social, Cultural and Civic Integration, especially research that would benefit practitioners in immigrant and multicultural service agencies;
4. Produce a workshop summary report that analyzes participant responses and advances recommendations for new areas of inquiry.

These objectives will be accomplished with the assistance of an advisory group, who will guide the development of the fact sheets and the design of two workshops, which will be delivered in two different Metro Vancouver locations: Richmond and North Vancouver. The target audiences for the workshops are stakeholders in immigrant-serving mainstream social service agencies and multicultural and settlement organizations. The specific objectives of the workshops are to:

1. Engage key stakeholders in examining Metropolis' research findings on citizenship and social, cultural and civic integration;
2. Engage stakeholders in exploring the implications of the research findings for their own work, and how they could improve upon their services in ways that increase the integration of newcomers and immigrants;
3. Identify gaps in the research for further study;
4. Elicit participant feedback on the workshop.

### **TITLE: ON-LINE ACCESS PROJECT - MBC SETTLEMENT RESEARCH OUTCOMES**

**P.I.:** Tim Welsh, Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA)

**C.I.:** Kathy Sherrell, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia

A specialized web-site will be developed with “wiki” interactive elements to ease access to Metropolis BC and related research outcomes relevant for immigrant settlement and government frontline staffs. A senior MBC student will be engaged and a representative group of intended primary users will be consulted to develop the site structure and content. Existing or newly-developed summaries of MBC research of relevance to settlement service provision will form the basis for this project. An original web site (hosted by AMSSA, publicly accessible) will be designed that opens as a “discussion” about general settlement topics (eg: housing, health, employment). For each settlement topic there will be another layer with more in-depth analysis of how MBC research findings interrelate. Summaries of individual MBC working papers will provide a third layer of information, and will include links to where full research reports are hosted on the Metropolis web site. Other sites with relevant research, including other Canadian Metropolis Centres, will be also be identified, though the scope of this project will not permit development and incorporation of research summaries for non-MBC research. AMSSA's provincial membership of immigrant service agencies, as well as our governmental service partners, will guide development of this new online resource, ensuring it is effectively developed for the information needs and time limitation of frontline workers in the public and non-profit sectors. The following link provides a general example of how this project's website will function: <http://forcedmigrationguide.pbwiki.com/>