



# **PCERII Funded Research**

## **Progress Report**

The Settlement Renewal Initiative:  
Quo Vadis Immigrant Settlement in Canada?

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## 1. Research and Analysis Proposed

The stated purpose of the project was to produce both a thematic compendium and at least one article on the Settlement Renewal initiative. The objective of the project was to provide governmental and non-governmental officials involved in the settlement sector with an understanding of the changing nature of planning, managing, delivering, and funding settlement services in Canada. More specifically, it was designed to provide an information base that would help them understand what the issues and options related to the renewal of the immigrant and refugee settlement/integration system. Such understanding, it was hoped would help them in their planning and negotiations related to the renewal of the immigrant and refugee settlement/integration system. In short, the objective was to produce a base of information on which governmental and non-governmental officials could make more informed policy, programming, and funding decisions related to immigrant and refugee settlement/integration.

## 2. Research and Analysis Produced

### a) Compendium:

The first major product of this project is a thematic compendium that is approximately 200 pages in length.

#### *Purpose of the Compendium*

The compendium provides governmental and non-governmental stakeholders with a reference manual that highlights the key issues and options discussed by participants during the consultation stage of the Settlement Renewal initiative.

#### *Policy Relevance of the Compendium*

Given that many of those issues are likely to reemerge in the negotiation and implementation stages of that initiative, the compendium is likely to prove useful for all stakeholders who are engaged actively in those stages of the process. For those who are currently actively involved in the (re)designing the immigrant settlement and integration system it should assist them in identifying the key issue and options. For those who will be entering the system in the near future it will serve as a useful orientation manual. This compendium was produced with all stakeholders in mind, but particularly those non-governmental organizations that do not have the human and financial resources to undertake the requisite research on issues and options to engage in discussions regarding the current and future nature of the settlement and integration system.

### b) Conference Paper:

A paper was presented to a special session of the Canadian Association Sociology and Anthropology annual meetings in June 1998 on "Immigration and Nation Building." The paper presented at that session was entitled: "Bicommunalism and the Bifurcation of Immigration Policy: the Case of Canada and Quebec.

### c) Journal Article:

To date one article has been completed and published. The article entitled "Bicommunalism and the Bifurcation of Immigration Policy in Canada," is to be published in a forth coming special issue of Canadian Ethnic Studies.

*Purpose of the Article*

The article provides some useful insights on the emergence of the Settlement Renewal initiative. It points to the bifurcation that occurred in the settlement services sector when Canada and Quebec signed the 1991 immigration agreement. It also notes that the model for planning, delivering and funding settlement services proffered by Canada in the Settlement Renewal initiative was essentially the same as the one contained in the 1991 Canada-Quebec immigration agreement. The result is that within the Settlement Services sector there is a movement away from bifurcation toward much greater fragmentation as various other provinces begin to opt for that particular model for planning, delivering and funding settlement services.

*Policy Relevance of the Article*

This article, provides policy makers and other members of the policy community with an understanding of the potential effects that the following factors could have on the nation-building and state-building goals of the federal and provincial governments. These factors include: the alignment of roles and responsibilities in planning and managing immigration; the alignment of roles and responsibilities in planning, managing, and funding of settlement and integration services; and the nature of the federal and provincial settlement and integration policies.

**4. Journal Article:**

The working title for another article being produced is: “The Purpose, Processes, and Products of Settlement Renewal: An Analysis.”

*The Purpose of the Article*

The objective of this article is to examine the fundamental purposes of the initiative, the processes that were employed in developing and implementing it, and the products that have emerged to date and those that are likely to appear in the near future.

*Policy Relevance of the Article*

This article will help members of governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in the immigrant settlement sector understand the changing nature of planning, delivering and funding settlement services in Canada.

**3. Dissemination of Research**

The “Thematic Compendium” is available to anyone on the PCERII web-site.

The “Thematic Compendium” was also presented and profiled at in a special panel session at the Prairie Centre’s Regional Workshop held in Regina. Copies of (either in disk or printed format) were also distributed to various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders who attended that session. A printed copy was also displayed at the table of documents available from the PCERII.

Copies of the “Thematic Compendium” have also been sent to official of several governmental and non-governmental agencies who have requested them.

The journal article “Bicommunalism and the Bifurcation of Immigration Policy” being published in CJES will be available to anyone in hard copy and possibly also on-line.

The other article that is being produced will be published and placed on the PCERII web-site.

#### **4. Research Team**

##### *Skill Development of Students*

Almost all of the research funds were devoted to compensate students for their assistance on this project. Three political studies students were involved with the project --one graduate student and two fourth year undergraduate students.

The students learned both about substantive policy issues related to immigration and integration as well as some research and analysis methods. In particular they learned some basic methods of content analysis.

##### *Graduate Student Thesis in Progress*

Based on her participation with this project, one graduate student is working on a Masters of Arts thesis that focuses on the Settlement Renewal initiative. The working title for the proposed thesis is: “*Canadian Settlement Renewal: Response and Politics of Non-Governmental Organizations.*”