

The Immigration Learning and Research Network

Presentation to the PMC Research Symposium
November 19, 2010

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June 14th Forum

- AEEI organized and sponsored a one-day Forum on Immigration Research in Saskatchewan on June 14, 2010 in Saskatoon.
- The forum was attended by 53 individuals—academic researchers, graduate students, and staff from the University of Regina, and University of Saskatchewan; members of the Government of Saskatchewan’s Interministerial Table on Immigration; and staff from the Immigration Services Division.



June 14th Forum- con't.

- First step towards articulating a SK specific immigration research agenda.
- Objectives included:
 - building of networks and sharing of knowledge among researchers and government;
 - discussing current immigration initiatives and research in Saskatchewan;
 - identifying gaps in immigration research in Saskatchewan; and
 - identifying existing funding sources to undertake research.



Results of the Forum

- Evaluation forms: the forum allowed for a productive exchange of information and views; a good first step toward working together more effectively.
- Research priorities: program evaluation, community programming, infrastructure, immigrants in the workplace, international students, health and nutrition, and better connections to First Nations and Métis communities.
- Creating an immigration learning network in Saskatchewan emerged during discussion on next steps.
- A network would allow researchers to form partnerships, be informed of current immigration research in the province, and share data.
- A network could also increase dialogue and collaboration between the academic community, government, employers, service providers, ethno-cultural groups, and other stakeholders.



The Immigration Learning and Research Network

- Following the Forum, the Immigration Learning and Research Network (ILRN) was formed.
- The ILRN is a joint venture between AEEI, U of S, and U of R.
- The ILRN's Steering Committee will consist of representatives from the universities and AEEI.
- Additional members from other sectors may be added following forums with those sectors.



Immigration Learning and Research Network Objectives

- Facilitate research partnerships between immigrant service providing organizations, governments, businesses, universities, etc.
- Education and training of immigrant service providers.
- Knowledge mobilization on immigration issues and experiences for government and non-government decision-makers.



Mandate

- To find ways to share and promote immigration research and knowledge sharing.

Principles

- Knowledge should be shared among researchers, government, and immigrant service-providers.
- Increased knowledge will benefit those involved with immigration and the community as a whole.



Initial Workplan

- Host forums with other interested communities: NGOs, businesses, municipalities, etc. on a sector-by-sector basis.
- Create a Database of Immigration Research (academic articles, as well as primary data sets, and statistics).
- Apply for a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant.
 - The purpose of the Partnership Development Grant would be to develop:
 - the *Immigration Learning and Research Network*;
 - partnerships with other sectors that serve newcomers, businesses, other Government of Saskatchewan Ministries, and other provinces; and
 - the database project.



Post-Metropolis

- Open to discussion on how the *Immigration Learning and Research Network* could partner with other provinces or regions.

Questions?

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