



CANADIAN LABOUR MARKET AND SKILLS RESEARCH NETWORK

CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON

Improving Immigration Outcomes in British Columbia

This is a request for proposals on improving immigration outcomes in the province of British Columbia. The Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network (CLSRN) is organizing a research program on this topic in partnership with the B.C. Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (JTST). CLSRN is seeking researchers who wish to contribute to this research program, which is being co-ordinated by Chris Worswick (Carleton University).

CLSRN expects to support three or four research papers in this area. The specific topics of interest are detailed at the end of this document. Papers are to be of the quality of papers submitted to peer-reviewed journals and authors are encouraged to ultimately submit to such forums (with appropriate acknowledgement of the funding source). Research studies will generally provide new empirical evidence that supports evidence-based policy decision-making. Case studies are also of interest.

CLSRN is particularly interested in supporting the research of new researchers in this area. For established researchers, proposals that involve graduate students or recent graduates in a significant role are also encouraged. CLSRN is also interested in organizing a multi-disciplinary research team.

For the purposes of research support, the final product of the research will be a peer-reviewed working paper together with policy briefing notes based on the research findings. CLSRN will be organizing two workshops at which researchers will present their research. Copyright of the research paper remains with the author(s). The working paper will appear in the CLSRN Working Paper Series, may be distributed within the provincial and federal governments, and may be reported in CLSRN's publication *Labour Market Matters*. Working papers are normally 20-40 pages in length, although they could be somewhat longer than this standard in order to provide sufficient detail on methods used, results obtained, and discussion of policy implications.

Proposal requirements

Proposals should be brief (e.g. 3-4 pages in length) and can take the form of the proposed outline of the research paper. The proposal should include the following:

- a. A brief description of the proposed research project contextualized within the existing literature and including the conceptual/theoretical framework to be used in the research;
- b. A description of, and rationale for, the data sources and research methods to be utilized as well as a discussion of potential challenges or research limitations;
- c. The names of the researcher(s) involved in the project with the activities to be carried out; proposals should demonstrate how the researcher(s) is/are qualified to carry out the various components of the proposed research;
- d. A breakdown of the level of effort by each research project member.

Researchers must also provide a budget with a brief justification (including a breakdown of all costs). The budget can be used by researchers to meet any legitimate expenses associated with carrying out the research. Such expenses can include: teaching or administrative release (at the relevant local university rates for such release); research assistance; data collection; honorarium for author(s); and travel associated with conducting the research. The maximum budget for a project involving the analysis of secondary data is \$15,000. For projects requiring primary data collection, additional costs may be allowed if clearly justified. Travel associated with presenting the paper at workshops and conferences organized by CLSRN and the B.C. Ministry of JTST will be covered separately. Proposals should also indicate whether access to data at a Research Data Centre (RDC) would be required to carry out the project.

Researchers must also submit a current copy of their CV with their proposal.

General Information

- If researchers plan to use data housed in an RDC, their proposal should (i) demonstrate the need for access to confidential micro-data and (ii) the viability of the methods to be applied given the data to be analyzed.
- Government researchers are also invited to submit proposals, either as principal investigators or as co-investigators. However, government researchers are not eligible for financial support.
- Proposals must involve new research that is not supported by other organizations. However, the proposed research may be related to, or an extension of, research supported elsewhere.
- The B.C. Ministry of JTST can assist researchers in obtaining access to the IMDB if those data are required to carry out the project.

Timelines – Proposals, deliverables, and payments

Proposals are due by January 31, 2013. If the application is successful, payments will be made upon submission of each deliverable as outlined below. The schedule is tentative and specific dates are to be determined.

January 31, 2013	Proposals due
February 28, 2013	Notification of RFP results
April 15, 2013	Detailed outline (20% of budget)
September 15, 2013	Progress report workshop (20% of budget)
December 15, 2013	Draft research report and conference (30% of budget)
January 31, 2014	Final research report (30% of budget)

Final workshop and conference dates will be announced at a later date.

Proposals should be sent to: Katherine Meredith
Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network
Department of Economics
University of British Columbia
#997 – 1873 East Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

Proposals can also be submitted by email to: clsrn@mail.ubc.ca

Enquiries about this research project can be directed to:

Chris Worswick
Department of Economics
Carleton University

To learn more about CLSRN, please visit www.clsrn.econ.ubc.ca.

Research Priorities

The research priorities of the B.C. Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training are listed below.

1. **Economic outcomes for immigrants**

- What are the best indicators of immigrants' economic success and economic benefit to the province? Are these different for skilled immigrants and for immigrant entrepreneurs? Do these vary by region, occupation and industry sector?
- How can government best use indicators to connect investments, programs, and policy to enhance immigrant outcomes and maximize the economic benefit of migration to the province?
- Does pre-arrival information impact outcomes? What information and which means of delivery are most effective?
- What does success look like? What policy and other social, cultural or economic factors determine success? What is the impact and role of ethnic diversity?

2. **Immigrant under-employment, unemployment and retention in BC**

- What are the benefits to immigrants, their families and to BC to reducing under-employment and unemployment and improving retention?
- What works best to improve the skill utilization of immigrants? Training, foreign qualifications/credentials recognition, English language training or other programs?
- Do benefits differ by industry, occupation, geography (urban vs. rural) and/or by region in BC? For example, are economic impacts different in the north compared to the Mainland Southwest Region?

3. **Role of communities in integration and retention of immigrants**

- What are the characteristics of host communities that best contribute to newcomer integration and retention? For example, for cities and communities that are recognized as a success – such as Calgary or Prince George – are there common factors for their immigrant integration and retention success? Can other communities develop these characteristics?
- How can government support the regionalization of the economic benefits of immigration?