



Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network (CLSRN) Newsletter

The CLSRN: A leading centre of Canadian Labour Market Research

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Special points of interest:

- CLSRN Advisory Board formed
- CLSRN Launches two new research programs
- Workshop held on “Returns to Adult Learning” program
- CLSRN 7th Annual Conference to be held in Montreal in May 2013
- New Research Dissemination Vehicle to be launched in early 2013

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CLSRN Advisory Board formed

The CLSRN has formed an Advisory Board to advise the network on organizational direction, renewal and strategy. The board had its first meeting on 11 October 2012 in Ottawa. The board is comprised of distinguished individuals from academia, government, journalism, and non-governmental organizations from across Canada and the United States. Members of the Advisory Board are:

- David Card, Professor of Economics, University of California-Berkeley
- Randall Eberts, President, Upjohn Institute for Employment Research
- Andrew Jackson, Senior Policy Advisor, Broadbent Institute
- Peter Kuhn, Professor of Economics, University of California Santa Barbara
- Bruce Little, Economics reporter and columnist, the Globe and Mail (retired)
- France St-Hilaire, Vice-President of Research, Institute for Research on Public Policy
- Ken Norrie, Professor of Economics, McMaster University
- Alan Nymark, Public Policy Consultant
- Garnett Picot, Economist
- Craig Riddell, Professor of Economics, University of British Columbia
- Daphne Taras, Dean of Business, University of Saskatchewan



Members of the CLSRN Advisory Board (L to R): Bruce Little (former economics reporter at the Globe and Mail), Daphne Taras (Dean of Business, University of Saskatchewan), Alan Nymark (Public Policy Consultant), Ken Norrie (Professor of Economics, McMaster University), France St-Hilaire (Vice-President of Research, Institute for Research on Public Policy), Craig Riddell (Director, CLSRN)

CLSRN Launches two new Research Programs

Inequality in Canada: Driving Forces, Outcomes, and Policy

In recent months, inequality has risen to the top of the policy agenda. Issues have arisen that relate to all parts of the income distribution: the potential hollowing out of the middle; varying difficulties at the bottom end; and the much-discussed rise of the share of income going to the top 1%. As so often seems to be the case, there appears to be less direct evidence on inequality in Canada than there is in the US and other economies. The goal of this research program is to bring together researchers to examine key aspects of movements in Canadian inequality. The topics to be covered span the forces driving movements in inequality, new evidence on outcomes, and the impacts of past and potential policies. The emphasis will be on income and consumption inequality. A Conference on this program is expected in Fall 2013.

This project has two components:

- A Symposium of papers coordinated by CLSRN affiliates: Craig Riddell, Nicole Fortin, Thomas Lemieux, David Green, and Kevin Milligan (all of the University of British Columbia) is expected to be published in the Canadian Journal of Economics,
- A Policy-Oriented edited Volume, which will be carried out in partnership with the CLSRN’s network partner: the Institute of Research and Public Policy (IRPP). The volume will be coordinated by David Green (UBC), Craig Riddell (UBC) and France St-Hilaire (IRPP).

New CLSRN Research Programs (con't)

Improving Immigration Outcomes in British Columbia

The Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network (CLSRN) is organizing a research program on immigration 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 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 featured in CLSRN's publication [Labour Market Matters](#). Proposals are due January 31, 2013, with notification of RFP results expected February 28, 2013. Workshop and conference dates will be announced at a later date.

Research Priorities:

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

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?

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?

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?

For more detailed information about this RFP please [click here](#).

Proposals can be sent to Katherine Meredith at: clsrn@mail.ubc.ca

Enquiries about this research project can be directed to:

Chris Worswick
Department of Economics
Carleton University



David Green (University of British Columbia) will be working to coordinate the CLSRN's new "Inequality in Canada: Driving Forces, Outcomes and Policy" research program



Chris Worswick (Carleton University) is co-ordinating the CLSRN's new research program on Immigration: "Improving Immigration Outcomes in British Columbia"

The Returns to Adult Learning Program Workshop held in Ottawa: 12 October 2012

The Returns to Adult Learning Program is a research program organized by the Social Demonstration and Research Corporation (SRDC) and the Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network (CLSRN). The Program was Funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). Karen Myers (SRDC) and Arthur Sweetman (McMaster University/CLSRN) were co-academic directors of the program. A research workshop on the program was held in Ottawa on 12 October 2012 in Ottawa.

The following projects were presented at the workshop:

- “Types of Adult Learning: Testing the Typology against Canadian Participation Patters and International Classification Schemes” Kjell Rubenson (UBC)
- “Adult Learners: Engaging the Disengaged” Gugsu Werkneh and Tracy May Musni (HRSDC)
- “Can Social Finance Foster Innovation and Improve Returns on Adult Learning Programs” Karen Myers (SRDC)
- “Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Community-Based Adult Learning Intervention” David Gray and Louis Philippe Morin (University of Ottawa)
- “Do Human Capital Investment Pay Off for Less Educated Workers?” Jose Galdo, Marcel Voia, Christopher Worswick (Carleton University)
- “Human Capital Theory, Returns to Education and on-the-job Training: Evidence from Canadian Data” Mohsen Bouaissa (HRSDC)
- “Adult Learning Inside Firms: Evidence Using Performance Management Record” Chris Riddell (Cornell University)
- “Determinants of Employer Support for and Employee Participation in Education and Training in Canada” Joe Iacampo and Gugsu Werkneh (HRSDC)
- “Returns to Adult Learning Research Possibilities Using Federal Government Administrative Data Sources: A Data Scoping Exercise” Marc Frenette (Statistics Canada) and Douwre Grekou (SRDC)

The workshop featured a panel on future directions on adult learning research: Data sources and promising directions featuring panellists:

Christian Dea (HRSDC)
Benoit Dostie (HEC, Montreal)
Grant Schellenberg (Statistics Canada)



Benoit Dostie (HEC Montreal) was a panelist for future directions on adult learning research for the “Returns to Adult Learning” Workshop, held in Ottawa, 12 October 2012.

CLSRN 7th Annual Conference, 30 May 2013, Montreal

The Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network (CLSRN) will hold its seventh annual conference at HEC, Montreal on May 30, 2013. The conference will take place on the day before the annual meetings of the Canadian Economics Association (May 31-June 2, 2013).

The keynote speaker at this year’s conference is Shelly Lundberg of the University of California Santa Barbara. The conference will be a broad academic conference covering all aspects of labour market behaviour and skills development and use.

Individuals wishing to present a paper should submit it, or an abstract, by Monday, January 11, 2013. Submissions should be sent to: clsrn@mail.ubc.ca. The announcement of accepted papers will be made around Monday, February 11, 2013. Please note that submitting a paper to the CLSRN conference does not exclude the paper from submission to the CEA conference.

Reasonable travel and accommodation expenses of individuals presenting papers at the conference will be reimbursed by CLSRN. There may be funds available for travel grants to help graduate students to attend the conference. Information on these grants as well as conference registration is forthcoming at the CLSRN website.

The Program Committee for this year’s conference is:

Morley Gunderson, University of Toronto (Chair of Program Committee)
Elizabeth Dhuey, University of Toronto
Guy Lacroix, Université Laval
Fabian Lange, McGill University
René Morrisette, Statistics Canada
Christopher Worswick, Carleton University



Morley Gunderson (University of Toronto) is Chair of the Program Committee for the CLSRN’s 7th Annual Conference, which will take place in Montreal on 30 May 2013



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The CLSRN (www.clsrn.econ.ubc.ca) is a network of academic researchers interested in strengthening the understanding of the Canadian labour market. Based at the University of British Columbia, and national in scope, the CLSRN consists of established scholars and promising new researchers from the fields of economics, industrial relations, political science, sociology, business, history, policy studies and labour studies. The CLSRN was established as a multipartite partnership between academic researchers, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). CLSRN is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) under its Strategic Knowledge Clusters Program. Research activities of CLSRN are carried out with support of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC).



The 7th Annual CLSRN Conference will be held in Montreal on 30 May 2012 dovetailing with the Annual Meetings of the Canadian Economics Association. Paper submissions are being accepted until January 11, 2013. A reminder that paper submissions to the CLSRN Conference does not exclude the paper from also being submitted to the CEA Conference.

Upcoming Events/Call for Papers

The following is a list of upcoming events that may be of interest to CLSRN members:

- Call for Proposals: Improving Immigration Outcomes in British Columbia, Proposals Due: January 31, 2013 ([RFP](#))
- Call For Papers: CLSRN 7th Annual Conference, 30 May 2012, Montreal (Papers/Abstracts Due: January 11, 2013) ([RFP](#))
- Conference: Inequality in Canada: Driving Forces, Outcomes, and Policy. Conference expected Fall 2013

For more information about these events please follow the CLSRN's Twitter Feed (www.twitter.com/CLSRN) or join the CLSRN mailing list.

New CLSRN Research Dissemination Vehicle to be released in 2013

The CLSRN is pleased to announce that a new research dissemination vehicle will be released in 2013. It is hoped that the new vehicle will become a dependable reference tool for new Canadian Labour Market research from all academic disciplines. The new vehicle will complement the CLSRN's current research dissemination vehicles: the [CLSRN Working Paper Series](#), the [CLSRN Newsletter](#) and [Labour Market Matters](#). Watch for the first release in early 2013.

If you are not already on the CLSRN mailing list, please subscribe in order to receive this, and other CLSRN publications, news, event announcements and RFPs: <http://www.clsrn.econ.ubc.ca/subscribe.php>



The CLSRN will release a new Research Dissemination Vehicle in early 2013. It is hoped that the new vehicle will become a dependable reference tool for new Canadian Labour Market research for all academic disciplines.

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