

## **CANADIAN LABOUR MARKET AND SKILLS RESEARCHER NETWORK**

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON IMMIGRATION IN CANADA**

This is a Request for Proposals (RFP) for research studies in the area of Immigration in Canada. This is one of several areas where papers are being commissioned as part of the Canadian Labour Market and Skills Researcher Network (CLSRN) supported by Human Resources and Social Development Canada. The coordinators of this research program are Charles Beach (Queen's University) and Nicole Fortin (University of British Columbia).

CLSRN plans to provide funding for 5 to 10 research papers in this area. Funded studies will generally provide new empirical evidence to support evidence-based policy decision making. They are to be of the quality of papers submitted to peer-reviewed, refereed journals and authors are encouraged to ultimately submit them to such forums (with appropriate acknowledgement to the funding source). The normal budget for such research studies is \$15,000 (plus GST if applicable).

For the purposes of research support, the product of the research will be a peer-reviewed working paper. Copyright of the research paper remains with the author(s). The working paper will appear in the CLSRN research paper series, and will also be posted at the HRSD web site. The findings may also be reported in HRSD's research newsletter.

Working papers are expected to be 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.

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 budget can be used for any purposes deemed appropriate by the researchers to meet the 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 the author(s); and travel associated with conducting the research. Travel associated with presenting the paper at workshops and conferences organized by CLSRN will be covered separately. Larger amounts could be requested for specific unusual needs (e.g., conducting a survey, extensive data collection or a lab experiment) if justified. In all cases, a brief justification of the budget should be provided.

Payments will normally be scheduled as follows: (i) upon submission of a preliminary outline for the paper, including planned methodology; (ii) upon submission of a satisfactory first draft; and (iii) upon submission of a satisfactory final draft.

All proposals *and* papers will be peer reviewed. Academic reviewers will assess the quality of the proposed research and the potential contribution to knowledge. Representatives of selected Canadian government departments will assess proposals and papers for their policy relevance (broadly defined). Only proposals that meet both criteria -- academic excellence and policy relevance – will be funded.

Proposals can be submitted by any university-based faculty or postdoctoral researchers. Graduate students can participate as co-investigators, but not as principal investigators. Since one of the objectives of CLRSN is to help ensure the emergence of a new generation of researchers with an interest in labour market policy, proposals from new researchers are especially welcome. For established researchers, proposals that involve graduate students or recent graduates in a significant role are also encouraged.

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.

Given the need to have deliverables within the first year of the project, strict timelines will have to be followed. Please do not submit a proposal if you cannot adhere to those timelines since missing them can jeopardize future funding, both individually and collectively to the project.

The timelines are:

November 15, 2006	Proposals due
December 15, 2006	Researchers are informed of decision and given feedback from peer reviews
31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2007	Preliminary outline of paper due
August 15, 2007	First draft of paper due
September 15, 2007	Feedback on first draft provided to authors
September 2007	Conference on immigration
October 2007	Peer review of final draft; revisions to working paper completed

The proposals can be brief (e.g., 3-4 pages) and can take the form of the proposed outline of the research paper. Proposals and final working papers may be written in English or French. The proposal should outline the rationale for the study, situating it in the relevant literature and indicating the gaps in our knowledge that it proposes to fill. The proposal should also explain the relevance of the proposed research for public policy. Finally, the proposal should describe the data to be used and the proposed methodology. The CVs of all co-investigators should be included with the proposal.

If the proposed research is to be carried out in a Research Data Centre (RDC), applicants should note that proposals that are approved for funding by CLSRN will not also be required to go through the SSHRC review process that is normally required for RDC access. Such proposals will, however, still be reviewed by Statistics Canada. The

Statistics Canada review focuses on two issues: (i) demonstrated need for access to confidential micro-data (could the proposed research be carried out with public use data?) and (ii) the viability of the methods to be applied given the data to be analyzed (is the data up to the task?). Researchers wishing to use data housed in a RDC should ensure that their proposal addresses these issues and they should also clearly specify in the proposal that access to a RDC will be required.

More than one paper may be commissioned on a particular topic and none may be commissioned in others. The suggested topics (listed below) may also be combined and researchers may propose alternative topics. Researchers may be involved in more than one topic and in different areas.

Proposals should be sent via e-mail to: Dragana Vojakovic, at [clsrn@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:clsrn@interchange.ubc.ca) (Canadian Labour Market and Skills Researcher Network, Department of Economics, University of British Columbia).

Enquiries about this research project can be directed to:

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## Call for Research Proposals on Immigration

CLSRN is seeking proposals for a program on the topic of immigration. The initial emphasis is on the four main areas listed below, but we are open to related submissions. The proposals may involve entirely new projects or extensions of ongoing research. The completed projects, along with papers from international researchers designed to help expand our knowledge of practices in other countries, will be presented at a conference in September 2007.

The main areas of focus are:

1) **Impact of immigration on the outcomes of the Canadian-born and the Canadian economy.**

*a) Economic outcomes (earnings/wages):* What are the impacts of immigration on average wages, employment levels and housing values across Canada's main metropolitan areas? How have these effects varied by arrival cohorts and time? Does immigration affect wage levels of labour market entrants and the long-term educational outcomes of the Canadian-born? To what extent are these impacts concentrated in particular segments of the broader labour market, perhaps distinguished by skill level or educational attainment or occupational types?

*b) Local costs:* What are the major costs that immigrants may impose on the domestic economy (schooling, health, housing, E.I., social assistance, and social services), and to what extent are they borne locally? How can such costs be better addressed to foster improved economic and social integration of immigrants?

*c) Local economies/regionalization:* How do local economies adjust to changing patterns of immigrant inflows to Canada? How unequal are the gains from immigration across provinces (who wins, who loses in terms of immigrant flows)? Do immigrant inflows lead to outflows of non-immigrants from (or reduced inflows into) local communities? How are immigrant locational patterns related to local patterns of poverty and economic growth?

2) **The process of economic and social integration of immigrants.**

What are the major factors involved in this process such as job availability, job search, language and employment training, and the role of information and social networks and ethnic enclaves in the early years after immigrants arrive? To what extent are recent immigrants footloose, in the sense of more prone to emigrate elsewhere? What factors determine any such emigration tendency? What factors affect the economic and educational mobility of immigrants (within the first generation of arrivals and between first- and second-generation immigrants)? To what extent do second-generation outcomes depend on first-generation outcomes? Are immigrants' fertility patterns converging to Canadian fertility patterns thereby facilitating the labour market integration of female immigrants? Or does this process takes a generation or two? How well have immigrants done since the

mid-1990s and what are causes of these changed patterns of integration outcomes? What are the returns to immigrant language acquisition, job training, and credential recognition? What are the barriers to effective credential recognition and how can they be overcome? What are the returns to foreign vs. Canadian education and work experience? Is there a conflict or trade-off between ethnic identification and economic integration? What are the key channels (such as education) for second-generation immigrant economic integration? How large is the degree of residential polarization in major Canadian metropolitan areas? Has it increased in recent years? To what extent does it overlap with economic polarization? What are the patterns of welfare and social services utilization among immigrants, and how do they differ from those of Canadian-born?

3) **Impact of immigration policies.**

What are the effects of Canadian immigration admission requirements on the characteristics of immigrant inflows? More specifically, how have changes in Canada's point system, immigrant-class weights and total level of immigration affected the skill mix and source-country mix of arriving cohorts of immigrants? And how have these changes affected the post-arrival earnings and employment patterns of immigrants settling in Canada? What could be the effects of alternative models of the point system based, say, on occupational gap-filling or family unit skill evolution or a general human capital emphasis? Is the current point system adequate to deal with Canada's current occupational pressure for workers in skilled trades? Are there policies that would facilitate a role for immigration in dealing with Canada's demographic transition (e.g., an ageing population)? How do the settlement patterns of immigrants affect the foreseen demographic changes across provinces and major metropolitan areas? What does an international perspective of policies prevalent in other countries contribute to Canada developing appropriate policies for attracting temporary foreign workers for the booming natural resources and construction sectors and to cyclical shortages in general? Does the actual use of temporary permits correspond to their intended use, and how could the current temporary permit process be revised to better address Canada's current needs?

4) **The changing global market for skilled immigrants.**

To what extent will there be increasing competition for skilled immigrants from other advanced countries, in the face of ongoing population ageing and slowing workforce growth? What are the kinds of factors that will determine immigrant choice of destination country? To what extent will recent immigrants be more prone to emigrate to other advanced countries? To what extent will the young and rapidly developing parts of the world become increasingly competitive for their own locally developed skilled workers? To what extent might they become competitive for their own diasporas of previously emigrated workers? In all of these areas of research, attention should be paid to the heterogeneity of immigration, to address whether developments and issues observed for averages

broadly characterize immigrants in general or represent more pronounced problems predominantly found in sub-groups.

To further elaborate on the issues that can be addressed in this area, you may wish to consult the following documents: HRSDC Policy Research and Survey Plan (November 2005) and HRSD Medium-Term Policy Research Priorities (March 2006). Both documents are available at the CLSRN website, [www.econ.ubc.ca/ine/clsrn](http://www.econ.ubc.ca/ine/clsrn) under the heading HRSD Research Priorities.