

Neighbourhood Change Research Partnership Project Update, January 2013

David Hulchanski, PI

1. Updates

- 1.1. **Meeting with SSHRC in October.** SSHRC invited the PIs and the project managers of the larger Partnership Grants it funded in 2012 (the millionaires club) to a one time only meeting in Ottawa to talk about practical administrative and financial issues. There was also a good discussion of knowledge mobilization.
- 1.2. **Use of SSHRC Funds.** SSHRC has provided a PowerPoint presentation that reminds us how our grant funds can and cannot be used. A PDF of the presentation is on our website under the About / Documents for Team Members webpage. Title: *Using Your Partnership Grant Funds, SSHRC Presentation 2012*.
- 1.3. **Board Meeting #1.** The project's Board of Directors held its first meeting by teleconference on October 19, 2012. There were no major decisions. Following updates from around the country, there was further discussion of the governance agreement (a few minor changes are being made to it), the budget, and the process for submitting research proposals for NCRP funding.
- 1.4. **Board Meeting #2.** The second Board meeting is scheduled for January 21 at noon ET. An email notice with agenda will be sent out. All members of the team are welcome to join the teleconference if they wish.
- 1.5. **New Partners.** Centraide (Montréal's United Way) and the Halifax Regional Municipality have formally joined the project as partners. Welcome!
- 1.6. **Reporting Partner Contributions to SSHRC.** SSHRC will release its reporting forms in January. CMA leads and partners will receive instructions on how to provide information on partner in-kind and cash contributions. There will be a form and instructions. SSHRC has a webpage describing the eligible contributions, "Guidelines for Cash and In-Kind Contributions." http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/policies-politiques/cash_inkind-especes_en_nature-eng.aspx
- 1.7. **SSHRC Milestone Report.** In January we will also receive more information about the Milestone Report, which establishes project targets and plans for the mid-term report. The Milestone Report will be due in April or May.

2. Core set of CMA income trend maps and graphs -- Update

- 2.1. **The project-wide series of comparable CMA maps and graphs.** A draft set of time series maps, 7 for each of our project's 6 CMAs, has been completed by Richard Maaranen. They are posted on our "Documents for Research Team" password protected webpage.
- 2.2. **More Maps and Graphs.** We will soon have several bar graphs and line graphs for each CMA and that compare trends among the CMAs, in addition to maps of other variables/trends.
- 2.3. **Design Rationale and Data Inventory.** Richard has also produced a Design Rationale document to explain the design decisions in preparing the CMA census tract income maps, as well as an inventory of available data and data sources. Both documents are continually updated and can be found in the "Documents for Research Team" area.

3. Quantitative comparative analysis using combined census data for eight CMAs

- 3.1. Bob Murdie has begun the comparative analysis of neighbourhood level differentiation and trends, a key startup initiative of our NCRP. The purpose is to develop a neighbourhood typology across eight CMAs. This will assist in the design of other cross-CMA research initiatives within our project. The eight CMAs include the original six (Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver) and two others (Ottawa and Hamilton) where researchers are eager to start. Data will be assembled for three other CMAs that might ultimately be added to the analysis (Québec City, Oshawa and Edmonton).
- 3.2. As background for this research, Bob has developed a bibliography of neighbourhood typologies (about 50 items) with a focus on countries where most of this research has been undertaken (Canada, the United States and Australia/New Zealand). Jennifer Logan, who will be helping with the comparative analysis, has begun summarizing in more detail those items that seem most relevant to our study. Bob and Jennifer will write this up as a separate bibliography and literature review.
- 3.3. Bob has prepared an overview of the proposed methodology and a suggested list of about 40 variables for inclusion in the analysis. The intention is to collaborate with a small working group, including members of the data group, a representative from each CMA that is not part of the data group (Halifax, Montréal, Winnipeg, and Vancouver) and from relevant community agencies who share an interest in this quantitative analysis (e.g., United Way Toronto). This document was sent in early December to a small group of colleagues who have knowledge of literature in this area as well as the census data and various classification methodologies. Revisions have been made to the document based on initial feedback and it will be circulated to the working group.
- 3.4. The first task is to organize the database using the Canadian Census Analyzer based at U of T. This will be undertaken at the beginning of January. Initially, a cross-sectional analysis of the 2006 data will be undertaken followed by an analysis of change data, 1981 to 2006. The cross-sectional analysis is relatively straightforward whereas the change analysis is more complex and requires additional thought about a number of important

operational decisions. These are identified in the overview document noted in 1.3 above. The analysis will include descriptive statistics of the variables, a principal components analysis to identify the major interrelated dimensions in the data set, and a cluster analysis of the component scores and/or the original variables. The latter is the basis for the neighbourhood typology.

- 3.5. Initial members of the working group included Larry Bourne, Mihaela Dinca-Panaitescu (United Way Toronto), David Hulchanski, Richard Maaranen, Bob Murdie, Emily Paradis, Ivan Townshend and Alan Walks. Jill Grant, Damaris Rose, Jino Distasio and David Ley will be added as representatives from Halifax, Montréal, Winnipeg and Vancouver respectively. If anyone else wishes to volunteer to be part of this group please let us know. The entire team will have an opportunity at key points to review methods and findings and offer advice.

4. NCRP Policy Brief publication series launched

- 4.1. In August a new publication series was launched to provide a means for team members to offer policy advice based on their research. *Policy Briefs* aim to provide succinct and timely commentary on policy issues based on research carried out by members of the NCRP. The views expressed are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent the views of the research team, the universities associated with our project, or the funder. See: <http://neighbourhoodchange.ca/policy-briefs/>
- 4.2. A simple format ("fill in the template" using Word) was selected so as to minimize costs and allow for quick publication. David Hulchanski and Philippa Campsie are the initial general editors.
- 4.3. The first two *Policy Briefs* feature issues relevant to Toronto and build on research that began with the Toronto CURA that preceded the NCRP. Topics can be focused on issues relevant to one CMA or on broader provincial or national policy issues.
 - Policy Brief #1: *In a State of Good Repair? The City of Toronto's Public Housing*, by Robert Murdie
 - Policy Brief #2: *Anything But Scattered: The Proposed Sale of Toronto Community Housing's Scattered-Site Housing & Implications for Building an Inclusive Toronto*, by Alan Walks

5. HRSDC Project funded; part of the NCRP

- 5.1. An NCRP team has been awarded funding from HRSDC for a project called, "Family Homelessness in Toronto's Inner Suburbs," (\$80,000, Nov 2012 – March 2014). The project is led by Emily Paradis and the team includes David Hulchanski, Bob Murdie, Valerie Preston, and Silvia D'Addario. United Way Toronto is the lead project partner.
- 5.2. Phase One (Nov 2012 – June 2013) of the project will draw upon data from two 2010 surveys of high-rise tenants: United Way Toronto's survey of 2800 tenants in the inner suburbs, and a survey of 400 tenants in Parkdale conducted by the Neighbourhood Change CURA using the UWT questionnaire. This study will examine the data from families with

children in both datasets to determine the prevalence, nature, and geographic distribution of hidden homelessness and risk of homelessness among families. In Phase Two (July 2013 – March 2014), key informant interviews with service providers and participatory focus groups with families, will further deepen the understanding of the needs and strategies of families facing homelessness.

- 5.3. The project will employ a community-based, participatory methodology. United Way Toronto is providing data to the project via a data transfer agreement, and will be actively involved in shaping the project and disseminating the results to its member agencies. Focus groups will be conducted in partnership with neighbourhood agencies. A Community Advisory Board composed of front-line service providers and families facing homelessness will regularly review the project's progress and advise on data gathering, analysis, and dissemination. Community-based researchers with lived experience of precarious housing will be hired and trained to conduct and analyze the family focus groups.
- 5.4. The HRSDC grant budget includes funds to second Emily Paradis part-time from NCRP to guide the project. The NCRP has allocated its annual doctoral research fellow (provided by the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work) to the project for 2012-2013. This year's fellow is Ruth Wilson, a second-year PhD student with extensive experience with CBPR in immigrant and refugee communities, notably as leader of a number of projects with Access Alliance Multicultural Community Health Centre in Toronto.
- 5.5. The \$80,000 HRSDC research grant counts as part of the matching funds that SSHRC requires us to obtain.

6. European Union "DIVERCITIES" project funded; NCRP a partner

- 6.1. Our colleague and co-investigator in our NCRP, Ronald van Kempen, has been successful in obtaining four year EUR 6.5 million funding from a highly competitive EU research fund for a project titled: "Governing Urban Diversity: Creating Social Cohesion, Social Mobility and Economic Performance in Today's Hyper-diversified Cities" (short title: Divercities). Ronald is the PI. I will serve as a link between the two projects, serving on the project's Scientific Steering Committee.
- 6.2. *From the proposal:* "The main research question of this project is: What evidence can we find of the positive aspects of urban diversity for social cohesion, social mobility and economic performance in European cities and how can these positive arrangements be enhanced by participatory policies and governance arrangements?"
- 6.3. The focus of the research will be on 14 cities in 14 countries. Canada is the only non-EU country included. From the proposal: "... we see Canada as a very important case to contrast with European countries, as 'Canada has probably gone further than any other state to institutionalize and celebrate the diversity of its population' (Wood and Landry, 2007, p. 57). Toronto is one of the most hyper-diversified cities in the world and has the highest proportion of immigrant residents (46%) among all OECD metropolitan regions (OECD, 2008, p.15), but that is not seen as a problem in the policy discourse. Toronto's

motto is: 'Diversity is our Strength' (Hulchanski, 2010; Murdie and Ghosh, 2010). The proportion of immigrants is on average much lower in Europe."

- 6.4. A Delft-based team will study Canada and Toronto in particular. That team is directed by Tuna Tasan-Kok, PhD, a Senior Researcher at TU Delft's OTB Research Institute and an Associate Professor of Human Geography at Roosevelt Academy. "She has long standing experience in international research and coordination. She is an expert on neoliberal urban development and multilevel governance issues and recently advised the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU as an invited expert on multilevel urban governance. Tasan-Kok will be accompanied by a post-doc researcher to be recruited either from Canada or from the Netherlands with a knowledge on Canadian context."
- 6.5. No NCRP funds are involved. The EU project, however, provides an opportunity for our research team members to consider comparative Canada-EU research combining our resources and those of the Divercities project. The EU funding can only be used by EU researchers (it cannot finance Canadians to study EU and/or Canadian cities). The EU funds used to study Canada, however, may count as matching funds, because of our partnership with that project.
- 6.6. *From the Abstract:* "The central hypothesis of this project is that socio-economic, socio-demographic, ethnic and cultural diversity can positively affect social cohesion, economic performance and social mobility of individuals and groups. A better social cohesion, higher economic performance and increased chances for social mobility will make European cities more livable and more competitive. In this period of long-term economic downturn ... it is important to find out how and under which circumstances European's urban diversity can be turned into social and economic advantages.... The project thus aims at finding out how urban diversity influences three core issues: social cohesion, economic performance and social mobility and how governance arrangements help to strengthen this."

7. NCRP Chronology

- 7.1. We will keep a chronological list of major project events and eventually of publications. The start on the chronology is attached (below). Eventually this will be on our website.

NCRP Chronology

2013

January **NCRP Board of Directors Meeting #2, January 21**

2012

March **SSHRC awards a 7-year \$2.5 million Partnership Grant**
to the Neighbourhood Change Research Partnership

July **NCRP Public Forum**, Toronto, July 4, Innis Town Hall, 200 participants.
Addressing Urban Injustice: The Growing Gap and What to Do about it.
Panel: David Ley, Damaris Rose, Janet L. Smith, Maarten van Ham. Discussants: Ken
Greenberg, Armine Yalnizyan. Moderator: David Hulchanski

NCRP team meeting in Toronto, July 5-6.

August **NCRP Policy Brief publication series launched**
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carried out by members of the NCRP. The views expressed are those of the individual
authors, and do not necessarily represent the views of the research team, the university, or
the funder. David Hulchanski and Philippa Campsie, General Editors.

- Policy Brief #1: *In a State of Good Repair? The City of Toronto's Public Housing*, by Robert Murdie
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October **NCRP Board of Directors Meeting #1, October 19**
Participants: David Hulchanski (Chair), Caroline Andrews, Jino Distasio, Kathleen Gallagher,
Jill Grant, Leanne Holt, Michelynn Laflèche, Richard Maaranen, Bob Murdie, Emily Paradis,
Damaris Rose, Janet Smith, Ivan Townshend, Alan Walks

2011

April SSHRC approves the Letter of Intent submitted in January for the neighbourhood change
research initiative, allowing submission of a full proposal by Nov. 1, 2011. A \$20,000 grant is
provided to finance the cost of developing the proposal.

June Two-day research team meeting in Toronto discusses and further develops the full proposal

November Full proposal submitted to SSHRC