NCRP TEAM MEETING AGENDA  DRAFT for discussion
246 Bloor St West, 7th Floor, Toronto, 2-3 May 2014

Thursday May 1, 7pm, Public Forum, Sanford Fleming Building [an option to be confirmed]
topic to be confirmed; relating to deteriorating rental neighbourhoods?

Friday May 2, 246 Bloor St West, 7th Floor

9am Introductions; general project update

9:30 6 CMA Team updates
(note 5 minutes each = 30 minutes, plus some additional Q&A time; discussion of rental housing & future research initiatives by each CMA is already on the agenda as the next items)

10:15 Rental neighbourhoods: Defining a research agenda
• go-round on issues with rental in each CMA
• Planning NCRP project - local interests, local investigators and partners, next steps

Noon Lunch

1pm NCRP research agenda & objectives for coming years
• evaluative discussion: what is going well, what is not
• briefly review what we proposed
• discuss options for focus and priorities for the next 2-3 years
• publications agenda
• partnership & research team development; for the NCRP in general; for each CMA

?? Dinner, L’Espresso, Bloor & St George St. SE corner)

Saturday May 3, 246 Bloor St West, 7th Floor

9am NCRP administration, budget, other issues (e.g., SSHRC reporting & mid-term report)

11am Knowledge Mobilization Workshop (with lunch): building a knowledge mobilization strategy for NCRP

2pm Wrap-up and next steps (end by 3pm)

The option for joining in by teleconference and/or Skype is being investigated for those who cannot be in Toronto.

Attached pages for reference: key parts of our research proposal (research questions & themes)
Project title
Neighbourhood Inequality, Diversity, and Change:
Trends, Processes, Consequences, and Policy Options
for Canada’s Large Metropolitan Areas

Selections from PROPOSAL for discussion of Questions 2 & 3 and Themes

The core of this project is in the divided cities literature
Neighbourhoods are becoming the new fault line of social isolation and spatial separation. Can neighbourhood interventions help achieve greater social inclusion?

Marcuse & van Kempen (2000a) warn that we can expect to see: “strengthened structural spatial divisions among the quarters of the city, with increased inequality and sharper lines of division among them; wealthy quarters, housing those directly benefiting from increased globalization, and the quarters of the professionals, managers, and technicians that serve them, growing in size; ... quarters of those excluded from the globalizing economy, with their residents more and more isolated and walled in; ... continuing formation of immigrant enclaves of lower-paid workers; ... ghettoization of the excluded” (p. 272).

This project takes up the challenge of
• analyzing neighbourhood restructuring trends and processes in large Canadian cities,
• analyzing and evaluating explanations for the trends, and
• proposing programs and policies that can address growing socio-spatial inequalities among urban neighbourhood

Figure 2 identifies the three major questions that will guide the research.

Hypothesis: Drawing on the conceptual framework in Figure 1, research hypotheses might include: Neighbourhood socio-spatial inequality and polarization (Box 6) is a function of (a) macro-level factors (Box 1) + (b) micro-level forces (Box 2) + (c) neighbourhood effects (Box 4) + (d) local
Research Partnership

Research Questions

Q #1: Neighbourhood Restructuring Trends and Processes: What changes have occurred in Canadian urban neighbourhoods in the last 40 years. What are the differences between neighbourhoods within specific cities and between cities? How do we explain neighbourhood changes and trends, and the similarities and differences within and between CMAs?

Q #2: Consequences of Socio-spatial Inequality and Polarization:

a) How do neighbourhood changes in Canada’s large cities affect people’s life chances, educational outcomes, employment opportunities, mobility, access to resources, and social attitudes?
b) What are the consequences of neighbourhood trends for issues such as immigrant settlement, urban schooling, youth involvement in the criminal justice system, the well-being of Aboriginal people, and the development of age-friendly neighbourhoods?
c) What impacts have interventions at the neighbourhood level had on these trends?
d) What factors promote resilience among residents and neighbourhoods? What examples of community intervention have yielded positive results?

e) What impacts have interventions at the neighbourhood level had on these trends?

Q #3 Policies and Programs:

a) What neighbourhood-level interventions are most effective in mitigating the effects of socio-spatial inequalities?
b) How can we ensure that youth, newcomers, low-income households, ethno-cultural minorities, Aboriginal people, and the elderly are successfully included in the mainstream of society?
c) How do policies and programs in housing, education, immigration, criminal justice, and income security moderate or exacerbate the impacts of socio-spatial inequality?
d) What roles can different levels of government, NGOs, and the private sector play in reducing inequalities?
e) How can we develop support for public policy measures to reduce inequality?

Research Activities

Our approach & methods. Figure 3 shows the three major activities of our proposed research. For Activity A (collaborative neighbour-hood change studies), we draw upon a longitudinal analysis of census tract data, including variables such as age, household structure, immigration, ethnicity, income, employment, and housing, to map cross-sectional patterns for each CMA at each
Research Partnership

For Activity B (comparative analysis of neighbourhood trends among CMAs, both Canadian and international), we will bring together the quantitative and qualitative data gathered in Activity A to draw comparisons between the six CMAs. Using local analyses as well as international examples, we will place the different forms and consequences of neighbourhood change in their local and provincial policy contexts. In collaboration with our international co-investigators, we will compare neighbourhood inequality in Canadian CMAs with comparator cities in the US and Europe.

For Activity C (mobilizing knowledge to address neighbourhood inequality), we will work closely with our partners and relevant community organizations and agencies to evaluate policies and programs in education, immigration, youth, aging, criminal justice, housing, employment, and income security that influence trends, positively or negatively, at both the macro and local levels. In dialogue with partners, policy-makers, and other stakeholders, we will work to define options, large and small, that can make a difference. While social change is a slow process, our contribution will be to better inform residents and stakeholders, leading to enhanced debate and decision-making.

General Research Themes

While the Activities bring structure to our task, the purpose is to better understand what is happening in key policy areas. The themes are distinct, yet intersect. They not only emerge from a close reading of the existing literature, but also represent the interests and expertise of our research team. Their exact specifications will be defined as we learn more about socio-spatial trends. New themes may be added. All will be examined through multidisciplinary perspectives with guidance from and the participation of our partners.

Youth, criminal justice, urban schooling: We will investigate the relationships between neighbourhood safety and educational outcomes, particularly in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, given well-documented evidence of achievement gaps in education based on socio-economic disparity and ethnic affiliation, and growing concerns over school safety. The research will then examine the implications for policy to address these issues for ever-more-diverse populations of students in communities often subject to increased forms of school surveillance and security.

Age-friendly neighbourhoods: We will study the social service and social isolation issues that emerge as the population of a neighbourhood ages, and the issues of diverse neighbourhoods that

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Coordinators</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Activity A</strong></td>
<td>COLLABORATIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHANGE STUDIES: local teams using similar mixed-methods approaches, with partners guiding the issues to be explored and informing the analysis of the data; a designated team manager: Vancouver (Ley), Calgary (Townshend), Winnipeg (Distasio), Toronto (Walks), Montreal (Rose), Halifax (Grant).</td>
<td>Grant Walks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Activity B</strong></td>
<td>COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD TRENDS (Canada &amp; selected international): collaborative groups focused on specific research questions comparing similarities and differences among the CMAs and international comparators; evaluating physical and social processes that may explain similarities/differences.</td>
<td>Hiebert Murdie</td>
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<td><strong>Activity C</strong></td>
<td>MOBILIZING KNOWLEDGE TO ADDRESS NEIGHBOURHOOD INEQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND CHANGE: team members mobilize knowledge on key themes across different disciplines to bring an improved understanding of the issues and to evaluate policies and programs.</td>
<td>Gallagher Preston</td>
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include many older persons. These themes intersect with the changing ethno-cultural profile of older persons as either established residents or recent immigrants and with transportation problems in neighbourhoods built since the 1950s. These questions, common to all Canadian cities, are important for governments and social agencies. This work will be linked to that of the World Health Organization’s Age Friendly Cities movement.

**Immigrant settlement, immigration status, and integration/marginalization:**
We will investigate the increased vulnerability of new immigrants and refugees, including those with precarious status (refugee claimants, temporary foreign workers, non-status immigrants), as they locate in large numbers in neighbourhoods that have few social and ethno-specific services and poor access to transit. The research will identify housing- and neighbourhood-level policies and programs to enhance immigrants’ prospects for successful integration.

**Adequate housing and highrise neighbourhoods:** We will investigate the increasing concentration of low-income households in highrise apartments built in the 1960s and 1970s, and assess programs developed in some locations to address the deteriorating housing stock, geographical isolation, and limited access to social and other services that typify many highrise developments (Smith and Ley 2008).

**Urban Aboriginal issues:** Despite the migration of Aboriginal peoples to major urban centres from First Nation communities, barriers prevent them from participating in and contributing to their neighbourhoods. We will investigate housing, homelessness, access to services, employment, and discrimination, with a view to developing neighbourhood-level interventions.

**Income and access to jobs:** We will investigate how changes in the location of employment and the mix of occupations in Canadian metropolitan areas affect the incomes of vulnerable workers, particularly women, immigrants, youth, and people with disabilities. The research will evaluate how the relocation of jobs has contributed to an uneven landscape of geographical access to employment for people with various occupations and educational attainments. Where possible, the studies will also investigate how transit initiatives and place-based policies designed to attract employers affect the employment and income prospects of different social groups.

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<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Initial Team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth, Criminal Justice, &amp; Urban Schooling</td>
<td>K. Gallagher, Education; S. Wortley, Criminology; D. Cowen, Geography; C. Fusco, Physical Education &amp; Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Friendly Neighbourhoods</td>
<td>S. Neysmith, Social Work; J. Grant, Planning; V. Preston, Geography; I. Townshend, Geography; C. Fusco, Physical Education &amp; Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Settlement &amp; Integration / Marginalization</td>
<td>R. Bhuyan, Social Work; A. Germain, Sociology; S. Ghosh, Geography; D. Hiebert, Geography; D. Ley, Geography; R. Murdie, Geography; V. Preston, Geography; D. Rose, Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate Housing &amp; Highrise Neighbourhoods</td>
<td>L. Bourne, Geography/Planning; D. Hulchanski, Social Work; D. Ley, Geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban Aboriginal Issues</td>
<td>J. Distasio, Urban Studies; C. Leo, Political Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income &amp; Access to Jobs</td>
<td>L. Bourne, Geography/Planning; A. Walks, Geography; P. Hess, Geography; J. Myles, Sociology; B. Miller, Social Sciences</td>
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