

## Neighbourhood Change Research Partnership Project Update #4, September 2014

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### 1. Updates

- 1.1. **Year Two Board of Directors Meetings.** The governing body of the NCRP has met three times by teleconference since my last update: on 25 September 2013, 6 February 2014, and 26 March 2014. Summaries of the discussion and decisions are posted on the *Team Member Documents* page of our website (under tab *About*). There have been no significant changes or decisions – mainly routine management issues.
- 1.2. **Board Meetings for Year Three.** Board of Directors teleconferences have been scheduled for:
  - 19 September 2014, 2pm EST
  - 18 December 2014, 2pm EST
  - 19 March 2015, noon EST
  - 18 June 2015, noon ESTAn email notice with agenda will be sent out in advance of each meeting. All members of the team are welcome to join the teleconference if they wish.
- 1.3. **Year Two Team Meetings.** Two in-person team meetings were held in year two in Toronto. These meetings were attended by co-investigators, community partners, students, and members of the Research Advisory Committee, from all six CMAs as well as Ottawa and Hamilton. The first, held October 18 & 19 2013, included presentations on the National Household Survey and the neighbourhood typology, updates from the six CMA teams, and discussion of cross-CMA comparative research. The team agreed to define the first NCRP cross-CMA comparative project on the theme of aging rental housing (see below). The second meeting, held May 2 & 3 2014, included a workshop on knowledge mobilization, as well as discussion of a work plan for the rental housing study, and other potential cross-CMA thematic research. Summaries of both meetings are posted on the *Team Member Documents* page of our website.
- 1.4. **Next Team Meeting, October 2014.** The next in-person team meeting will take place in Toronto on October 17 & 18, 2014. Day one will feature presentations and discussion of our completed research projects. Day two will be devoted to further work on the private sector rental housing project and other cross-CMA thematic research.
- 1.5. **NCRP 4 page brochure.** We now have a nice summary of the project for broad public use. It serves as a good introduction to what we are doing and serves as a means of letting people know about our website. The website address is featured on the first and last page. Please email Emily if you want printed copies. The PDF is available on our website (it will soon be featured on the homepage of the website). To download a copy of the brochure, go to either

the *Contact Us* page or the *Team Member Documents* page of our website. Please post on your relevant websites.

- 1.6. **Data Inventory and Design Rationale.** Richard Maaranen, NCRP's data analyst, regularly updates these documents. They are posted in the *Team Member Documents* page. The data inventory lists our available data and the data sources. NCRP researchers should know what we have available. The design rationale document explains design decisions made in preparing the CMA base maps and census tract income maps.
- 1.7. **SSHRC mid-term report.** The NCRP mid-term report to SSHRC will be due in September 2015. It will assess NCRP progress on the milestones and objectives outlined in the proposal and the Milestone Report. Over the 2014-2015 year, Emily Paradis will be compiling information for this report from CMA teams, partners, and co-investigators. SSHRC will provide a template and guidelines for the report in early 2015. It is not yet clear whether a site visit, or an interview of key team members in Ottawa, will be part of the process.

## 2. NCRP Expenditures

- 2.1. **Year 2 Budget.** We spent about \$280,000 below the projected total for Year 2. Most of the under spending is in research activities; expenditures in most other areas were within range of the projected amounts for this year.
- 2.2. **Year 2 Partner Contributions.** In Year 2, the NCRP received cash and in-kind contributions totaling \$188,000 from partners, co-investigators' institutions, and other sources. The annual Partnership Grant Contributions report was submitted to SSHRC at the end of May 2014. All SSHRC Partnership Grants must leverage 35% of the value of their award in cash and in-kind contributions over the life of the grant. The NCRP must secure a minimum of \$875,000; at the end of Year Two, we were more than halfway to that goal: \$443,000.

## 3. Research Funded

- 3.1. **Research funding process.** Our *NCRP Governance Document* explains the process for preparing research proposals internal to our NCRP and the internal peer review (the Research Advisory Committee is given an opportunity to offer advice; then the Board reviews the proposal and makes a decision). The proposal form and instructions are posted on the *Research Team Documents* webpage. *The MS Word (text) template researchers must use is available by email from Emily Paradis (only PDFs can be posted on our website).*
- 3.2. **NCRP Funded research initiatives.**
  - Proposal 1: The Emerging Vancouver Skytrain Poverty Corridor, David Ley, UBC, 2013
  - Proposal 2: Neighbourhood Change in Greater Halifax, 1970-2010, Jill Grant, Dalhousie, 2013
  - Proposal 3: Winnipeg Neighbourhood Change 1970-2010, Jino Distasio, U Winnipeg, 2013

- Proposal 4: The Evolution of Canadian Discourse on Urban Neighbourhoods since 1900, Richard Harris, McMaster U, 2013
- Proposal 5: Neighbourhood Change and the Spatial Distribution of Violent Crime, Rosemary Gartner, UofT, 2013
- Proposal 6: The Temporary Neighbourhoods of Homeless Youth in Shelters and implications of socio-spatial polarization, Kathleen Gallagher, OISE UofT, 2013
- Proposal 7: Metro Vancouver's Shifting Debtscape, David Ley, UBC, 2014
- Proposal 8: How do People Perceive Neighbourhood Change in Halifax, Howard Ramos, Dalhousie, April 2014
- Proposal 9: Rooming Housing Change in Winnipeg, Jino Distasio, April 2014
- Proposal 10: The Working Poor in Montreal CMA: Their Socio-Spatial Characteristics, Xavier Leloup, INRS, July 2014.

The proposals for these projects as well as a September 2014 progress update for each, is of available on our *Research Team Documents* webpage.

#### 4. Other NCRP Research

- 4.1. **2006 Typology of Neighbourhoods.** Last year Bob Murdie, with the assistance of Jennifer Logan and Richard Maaranen, developed a typology of neighbourhoods for eight CMAs. The full report was published and is available on our website, and a summary version with the colour maps was printed and is available for distribution. To receive copies of the summary, contact Emily Paradis.
- Full Report: *Eight Canadian Metropolitan Areas: Who Lived Where in 2006?* by Robert Murdie, Jennifer Logan and Richard Maaranen, UofT Cities Centre Research Paper 229, September 2013, 44 pages.
- 4.2. **Soon: 1980-2006 Trend Typology of Neighbourhoods.** Bob Murdie, with the assistance of Jennifer Logan and Richard Maaranen, has developed a second typology of neighbourhoods for the same eight CMAs. Instead of a typology based on one year (2006), this is a typology of neighbourhood change between 1981 and 2006. In addition a bibliography and review of the literature on neighbourhoods typologies will be published. These will be available in October or November 2014.
- *Eight Canadian Metropolitan Areas: Spatial Patterns of Neighbourhood Change, 1981-2006, A Typology Based on a Combined Statistical Analysis of Census Tract Data*, by Robert Murdie, Richard Maaranen, Jennifer Logan
  - *Bibliography and Review of Neighbourhood Typologies with a Focus on Canada, the United States, and Australia/New Zealand*, by Robert Murdie and Jennifer Logan.
- 4.3. **Statistics Canada Research Data Centres Program of Research.** Last year our NCRP application was approved under the new SSHRC-RDC "Program of Research" designation. This allows a simplified RDC access procedure for NCRP projects. The Program of Research lists CMA coordinators and some community partners as co-investigators, enabling them to act as investigators on project applications for RDC access under the NCRP. *NCRP team members*

*planning to conduct research at any RDC are eligible to have proposals considered under the NCRP Program of Research. Contact Emily Paradis for more information.* Alan Walks (UofT) and Mihaela Dinca-Panaitescu (United Way Toronto) have been working this summer in the RDC with the assistance of a graduate student, Dylan Simone. They are using the raw census data to calculate Gini coefficients and other measures of inequality. As of August they have calculated Ginis for the City of Toronto going back to 1971. This will be published in a joint NCRP/UWT report. They will expand their effort to include other Canadian cities and CMAs, as well as calculating other indices for our NCRP project. The raw census data is much better than the PUMF files that we normally use, as the latter are a small sub-sample, and they cap top incomes (or blank out the incomes), while the raw census data has the actual numbers.

- 4.4. **Private sector rental housing in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.** At the October 2013 Team Meeting, it was agreed that the first major NCRP cross-CMA comparative research project would focus on rental housing. During winter 2014, Richard Maaranen developed and mapped a Rental Housing Disadvantage Index. A small working group based in Toronto produced a framework document. These were reviewed at the May 2014 Team Meeting and a cross-CMA Working Group on Aging Rental Housing held its first meeting by teleconference on 6 August 2014. PhD student Greg Suttor is writing an overview of the Canadian housing system, and working with Richard to define parallel sets of data and maps on rental housing, to be provided to all NCRP CMAs. In September 2014 community partner Social Planning Toronto will conduct a series of community consultations in five areas of Toronto that have concentrations of rental housing stock to identify current issues of the aging rental housing stock and its residents. In mid-October the draft report will be available for review. This is a pilot project to determine what lessons can be learned by such a process and whether it is advisable for teams in our other CMAs to do something similar. Documents relating to our rental housing research theme can be found on the website on the *Rental Housing Documents* page (located under the *About* tab).
- 4.5. **Family Homelessness in Toronto's Inner Suburbs.** This project, funded by HRSDC and led by Emily Paradis, released a report in March 2014: "Nowhere else to go: Inadequate housing and risk of homelessness in Toronto's aging rental buildings." The report's launch garnered significant media attention, and the research team have given invited presentations to a number of community and policy audiences. The report and related media coverage are featured on our website homepage.
- 4.6. **Community-Based Organizations and Collective Efficacy in Neighbourhoods.** A Toronto-based working group led by Rob Howarth (Canadian Association of Neighbourhood Centres) has been meeting regularly since 2012 to frame a project examining how community-based organizations (CBOs) influence neighbourhood collective efficacy. The working group is currently developing three tools that can be used for future research in this area: an inventory of organization types and characteristics; a typology of CBO practices that may enhance or inhibit neighbourhood collective efficacy; and a tool to identify and measure elements of neighbourhood collective efficacy.
- 4.7. **Neighbourhood Change in Chicago.** A team led by Janet Smith (University of Illinois-Chicago) is applying the "Three Cities" method to analyzing neighbourhood change in Chicago. Smith presented the findings in Toronto on 7 January 2014, at a forum titled "A tale of two cities, and

possibly three: Neighbourhood change in Chicago 1970-2010.” Richard Maaranen has been working with the Chicago team preparing maps and graphs that match those we have developed for Canadian CMAs. A report is planned for early 2015.

- 4.8. **EU Divercities Project.** NCRP co-investigator Ronald van Kempen (Utrecht) is leading EU Divercities, a large project funded by the EU Commission to examine how cities benefit from diversity. The study includes teams examining 13 cities, including Toronto as its only non-EU example. David Hulchanski is a member of the project’s advisory board. In October 2013 and March 2014, EU DiverCities investigators Tuna Tasan-Kok and Donya Ahmadi (TU Delft) visited Toronto to conduct key informant interviews and meetings with researchers, policy actors and community organizations. A report on these meetings was released in April 2014. Donya Ahmadi returns to Toronto in late 2014 to conduct interviews in Jane and Finch area, the project’s case-study neighbourhood. The NCRP Toronto team has assisted with the organization of meetings and events in support of this initiative. [www.urbandivercities.eu](http://www.urbandivercities.eu)

## 5. NCRP Key Event Chronology

- 5.1. We are maintaining a chronological list of major NCRP events and publications. The updated chronology is attached (below) and is posted on our website. This chronology will not list activities of our six CMA teams because it would become too large and too difficult to maintain. CMA teams are encouraged to have a similar chronology.