

NCRP Board of Directors Meeting #5 Summary

6 February 2014

via teleconference, 2pm EST

Participants: David Hulchanski (chair), Jino Distasio, Leslie Evans, Kathleen Gallagher, Leanne Holt, Mamie Hutt-Temoana, Michelynn Laflèche, Sean Lauer (for David Ley), Alexandre Maltais (guest, INRS), Pam McHugh (guest, ANHBC), Emily Paradis (minutes), Tori Prouse (for Jill Grant), Damaris Rose, Paul Shakotko, Greg Suttor (guest, U of T), Ivan Townshend, Alan Walks.

Regrets: Jill Grant, David Ley, Robert Murdie, Valerie Preston.

Updates

1. Review summary and report-back on action items from October meeting. Document: *NCRP October 2013 Team Meeting Report & Update*

- No comments or changes

2. CMA & partner updates

- **Halifax:** The new trend analysis report and student reports on neighbourhood change are housed on the new Halifax NCRP website <http://theoryandpractice.planning.dal.ca/neighbourhood/index.html>. Publication of the report will include a community stakeholder consultation meeting to be held in March to get input on where to go next. The team is looking at the 2006 neighbourhood typology to see where it best fits for Halifax.
- **Montréal:** The NCRP collaborator from lead partner Centraide is now at the City of Montréal; defining new work with Centraide is on hold until she is replaced. Two proposals in development: 1) Examining impact of transit line expansion; and 2) Working Poor (PI: Xavier Leloup), based on Toronto report by Stapleton, but using different geographies and improved variables. If these changes prove beneficial the new dataset can be obtained for the whole NCRP.
- **Toronto:** A new Toronto working group is looking at issues in the “905” region which includes large suburban municipalities like Mississauga and Brampton. A project on housing conditions for families released some findings in November <http://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/nine-out-ten-families-risk-homelessness-toronto%E2%80%99s-aging-rental-highrise-buildings>, to release full report in March. United Way Toronto is partnering with NCRP on a project on income

inequality, building opportunity and social mobility. Two background papers are soon to be released. Research will include a survey and census data analysis.

- **Winnipeg:** The trend analysis report is almost complete and will include ten mini-essays, two case studies, and a photo essay. The team is also planning a forum on rooming houses, and working on a cluster analysis of prairie cities building on Bob Murdie's typology.
- **Calgary:** Ivan Townshend invites comments on a 12-cluster typology sent out in December. The Calgary team met this week with Calgary Homeless Foundation and the Poverty Reduction Strategy to identify nine neighbourhoods as possible case studies for Deteriorating Rental Neighbourhoods.
- **Vancouver:** The team will meet in March to consider a project put forward by SPARC about household debt and debt vulnerabilities. The current project on poverty along transit corridors is progressing. It was not intended to focus on deteriorating rental, but findings show that the location of subsidized housing along transit lines is a major factor in this spatial trend. Mamie Hutt-Temoana will be leaving ANHBC in May. She introduced her colleague Pam McHugh who will stand in until a new person selected to fill her role.
- **Ottawa:** FCM has a campaign to keep the federal government engaged in social housing; learn more at <http://www.fcm.ca/home/issues/housing/fixing-canadas-housing-crunch.htm>. Research on the impact of expiring operating agreements on other aspects of rental will be completed in March. FCM's Quality of Life reporting system includes municipal data from 24 cities on a wide range of indicators. Leanne Holt will get more information on these indicators and consider areas of common interest with NCRP.
- **Project updates:**
 - Website: The website will soon be updated to feature the six CMAs on the home page. New CMA-specific NCRP logos have been sent to all CMAs. The NCRP website consultant is working on a possible tool to enable interactive analyses of individual or multiple CTs using NCRP data.
 - Joint analysis: The 1981-2006 change report soon to be issued. Others are encouraged to carry out specific, local cluster analyses, and NCRP can carry out some custom analyses for partners.

Issues for Discussion

3. Knowledge mobilization

- This will be a major topic for the May meeting. Emily Paradis is compiling useful materials.

- The early years of the project are important for community engagement and bringing information in from the community. In the later years it is important to communicate the knowledge back out in a unified way.
- Winnipeg team plans to host public lectures based on the essays produced for the trends report.

4. Work plan Year 3: Need for leadership on large and thematic projects

- NCRP's Year 3 begins in April. How can we get large, cross-national projects going, alongside local projects and team members' other commitments?
- Alan Walks plans to propose a pan-Canadian and international project on condominiums. Others expressed interest.
- Jino Distasio is framing a project to look at changes since 1970 in Indigenous urban neighbourhoods, including the increase in number of these neighbourhoods, and shifts in Indigenous housing providers. Aboriginal researchers at IUS would lead.
- Kathleen Gallagher raised ideas about "opportunity gap," "opportunity indices" and "colonizing neighbourhoods" that emerged in the October meeting discussions.
- Mamie Hutt-Temoana noted that ANHBC would be interested in cross-Canada work on debt-load and debt vulnerability. ANHBC and Sean Lauer are working on a report to be circulated after the March meeting.
- David Hulchanski raised the current Toronto project examining collective efficacy in neighbourhoods, which could become a cross-CMA project. Sean Lauer and Paul Shakotko expressed interest.
- David Hulchanski notes that NCRP and CMA teams can add co-investigators and partners as needed to support large projects. Paul Shakotko raised the question of how to coordinate and bring together analyses across CMAs.

5. Deteriorating rental neighbourhoods. Document: *Apartment neighbourhoods research – NCRP next steps*

- David H. introduced Greg Suttor who will work on preliminary framing for this cross-CMA comparative project. Board members are invited to contact Greg directly at greg.suttor@utoronto.ca.
- The built form and location of deteriorating rental stock vary across CMAs. The differences between cities, and what factors have led to those differences, are points of interest.
- Clusters E2 and E3 in the neighbourhood typology offer a starting-point, but analysis is not limited to neighbourhoods that fall into these clusters.

- Ivan Townshend produced a probability analysis of housing characteristics to be distributed to the team. The NCRP has a custom dataset on rental housing.
- A starting point will be a descriptive analysis of form, tenure, condition, using census data. Then CMAs will drill down and focus in specific neighbourhoods.

6. May 2-3 meeting planning

- The next in-person meeting is confirmed for May 2 & 3 in Toronto, with an evening public forum on May 1.
- The agenda will include the deteriorating rental neighbourhoods project, other large multi-CMA projects, partnership development, knowledge mobilization, and policy implications.

7. Project update / newsletter: CMA materials

- The group discussed a possible project newsletter. A key question is what audience it would be intended for. It may be more relevant once there are more findings to share.

8. IFS Conference

- Hosted by ANHBC on May 5, 6, 7. Program and registration at <http://inspire2014.ca/>.

Next meeting: **Wednesday March 26, 2pm EST.**

Documents are available under: ABOUT / Documents for Research Team
<http://neighbourhoodchange.ca/about/documents-for-research-team/>