

NCRP Board of Directors Meeting #8: SUMMARY

1 April 2015 via teleconference

Participants: David Hulchanski (chair), Emily Paradis (minutes), Barb Besner, Jino Distasio, Kathleen Gallagher, Dan Godin (for Leslie Evans), Scott Graham, Jill Grant, Richard Harris, David Ley, Bob Murdie, Damaris Rose, Ivan Townshend.

Regrets: Leslie Evans, Leanne Holt, Michelynn Laflèche, Valerie Preston, Paul Shakotko, Alan Walks.

Updates

1. Review summary of October NCRP Team Meeting & PI Update

No changes to the team meeting summary (other than one that Bob Murdie had noted by email).

Updates:

- We now have 15 projects funded. Several are completed, journal articles have been submitted and more are expected, and more proposals are anticipated.
- The major initiative on rental housing is actively moving forward producing documents and framing a strategy.
- A summary report on the neighbourhood change typology (1981-2006) developed by Bob Murdie and team will soon be printed. It will be included as an insert in the forthcoming issue of *Spacing Magazine* (circulation 3,000).
- The website has been improved and updated but document links were broken in the switch to a new server. This is frustrating but it is being addressed. Once these problems are resolved, the new NCRP blog function will be launched.

2. CMA & partner updates

Vancouver: United Way of the Lower Mainland has joined the team as a partner. One project has been completed, one is underway, and a new proposal is expected soon. For the Debtscape project, the team has assembled Equifax and tax-filer data and is analyzing debt-to-income ratio. Preliminary findings will be presented at the May meeting.

Calgary: Ivan Townshend is analyzing residential segregation of older adults. He has produced measures of segregation for all 8 CMAs, and cross-tabs by income and visible minority. Findings will be presented at the May meeting and Ivan will share the data with other CMAs. Byron Miller is leading two recently-funded projects on perceptions of

inequality, and secondary suites; Federation of Calgary Communities is a partner on both. Yale Belanger (Political Science, Lethbridge), an expert on Aboriginal housing issues, has joined the team and is preparing a proposal.

Winnipeg: Winnipeg's Three Cities report will be published in the coming weeks. Jino Distasio noted that a recent Winnipeg project has also analyzed Equifax debt data; he will share a report with the team. The team is working with a large CIHR funded project based led by John Loxley at University of Manitoba <http://povertyaction.ca>. Co-investigator Gina Sylvestre is interested in developing a cross-site initiative on aging.

Toronto: In addition to the specific funded NCRP projects under way,

- United Way Toronto recently released a major report in income inequality in Toronto, based on research carried out in partnership with NCRP team members. <http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/document.doc?id=285>.
- The working group on urban youth, schooling, and criminalization is developing "policy primers," reviewing policies and programs in the areas of schooling, policing, recreation, employment and child welfare and their impacts on youth in low-income, racialized neighbourhoods – a first step in defining specific research projects, including cross-CMA initiatives.
- The working group on neighbourhood "collective efficacy" has completed focus groups and key informant interviews with Toronto community-based organizations. The aim of this exploratory research is to not only report on the contribution of these organizations to neighbourhood efficacy but to develop an improved conceptual framing and research design for such research.
- Both working groups will present their work at the May team meeting.

Hamilton: The draft chapter on neighbourhood discourses is almost complete, and the "three cities" analysis report on Hamilton will be released in the coming weeks. A local team is planning a proposal on the rental sector.

Montréal: The new French version of the NCRP brochure is now published and will be very useful in reaching out to new partners. The team is continuing to work with Centraide (the "United Way" of the Montréal region) to identify priorities and define proposals. Two new proposals are forthcoming from Annick Germain and Ted Rutland. Xavier Leloup will present findings from the Working Poor project at the May meeting.

Halifax: The survey for the Perceptions of Neighbourhood Change project is complete, and Howard Ramos will present findings at the May meeting. The project will continue with interviews. The team is developing a proposal on the disappearing rooming house stock. Several papers based on Halifax projects are being submitted for publication.

Items for Discussion

3. NCRP Revised Budget

As of the end of December, NCRP has spent or allocated \$763,000 of our \$2.6 million. David Hulchanski presented a draft proposed allocation of the remaining funds over four years.

- The Research section includes new lines for the Rental Housing initiative and for international work. A Three Cities report for Chicago and a Toronto-Chicago comparison are being developed.
- Changes to the Project Management line reflect that the position already includes research and that it may equal about 50% research as the NCRP enters its final years (that portion being under the *research* category not *management* category in the budget).
- NCRP has sufficient funds remaining to support new projects. Team members are encouraged to welcome new co-investigators and partners where such expertise helps produce research on our key themes.

4. Agenda for May 7-8 NCRP Team Meeting

The Board reviewed a draft agenda for the upcoming May team meeting. May 7 will be a second research day featuring presentations and discussion of recent research. May 8 will be a smaller meeting with presentations and discussion of projects in development. The Board agreed with both agendas.

5. SSHRC Mid-Term Review, Due in September

Information from SSHRC indicates that the mid-term review is relatively minor, requiring a five to ten page report and the completion of some forms. The scope is not comparable to reviews team members may have undergone in prior major projects such as Metropolis. We will soon receive the report template from SSHRC.

6. Second half of our 7-year grant: What needs to change?

In the second half, we will need to focus more on cross-CMA comparative work, and expand the team to include more co-investigators and partners where we lack the expertise on key themes. This mid-point discussion will continue at the May meeting.

7. Blogging and social media

NCRP Blogging: The new website has an improved blogging function. Team members will soon be encouraged to write blogs about their research. A short guide is being prepared.

NCRP Social Media: David Hulchanski has been on Twitter since November, @hulchanski. He has about 1,000 followers and regularly tweets NCRP materials as well as on topics related to NCRP research themes. Also on Twitter: Kathleen Gallagher @dramaresearch; Jino Distasio @JinoDistasio; and Howard Ramos @somardrawoh . Team members are encouraged to use the various available social media to reach broader audiences.

Other Business

8. Communication

Bob Murdie raised concerns about timely communication. The team has discussed a newsletter in the past. David Hulchanski explained that the problems with the website have delayed development of the newsletter and timely circulation of materials. He agreed we need to do much better regarding internal communications.

9. Forum with EU Divercities project

- David Hulchanski is on the board of advisors for the EU Divercities project www.urbandivercities.eu. They have a team studying Toronto.
- NCRP may host an international forum in October with Divercities researchers from Paris and London. If so, a document containing the proposal will be circulated to the Board to determine how other CMAs or NCRP team members can be involved. Damaris Rose suggested there may be interest in Montréal.

10. Next Board Meeting: 18 June 2015

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 18 June 2015, at noon EDT. We will consult the Board before the call to determine if it is required.