

Neighbourhood Change Research Partnership

Project Update, April 2015

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1. Updates

- 1.1. **Board of Directors meetings.** The governing body of the NCRP has met twice by teleconference since my last update: on 19 September 2014 and 1 April 2015. Summaries of the discussion and decisions are posted on the *Research Team Documents* page of our website (under tab *About*). There have been no significant changes or decisions – mainly routine management issues. The next Board teleconference is scheduled for 18 June 2015 at noon EST. All NCRP team members are welcome to join Board teleconferences.
- 1.2. **October 2014 NCRP Team Meeting.** An in-person NCRP Team Meeting was held in Toronto on October 17 and 18, 2014. It was attended by co-investigators, community partners, students, and members of the Research Advisory Committee, from all six CMAs as well as Hamilton. October 17 was the first NCRP Research Day, with a larger group of stakeholders invited to hear presentations on current and completed NCRP-funded projects. On October 18, a smaller group of NCRP research team members met to discuss the development of a cross-CMA research agenda, including programs of research focused on private sector rental housing, neighbourhood collective efficacy, and aging in the city. The group also reviewed plans for publications and other knowledge mobilization. A summary of both days is available on the *Research Team Documents* page, along with many of the Research Day presentations.
- 1.3. **Upcoming NCRP Team Meeting, May 6 – 8 2015.** The next in-person team meeting will take place in Toronto on May 6, 7, and 8. The event will open with an evening public forum Wednesday May 6, from 6pm to 8pm at George Ignatieff Theatre, University of Toronto. The forum, *Rental Housing: Can We Do Better?* will feature David Hulchanski and NCRP team members Duncan MacLennan (St. Andrews University, Scotland) and Israt Ahmed (Social Planning Toronto). On May 7 we will host the second invitational NCRP Research Day, and on May 8 the NCRP research team will meet to plan research and knowledge mobilization activities for the second half of our project's mandate.
- 1.4. **Website redesign & blog.** The neighbourhoodchange.ca website has recently been redesigned, with a new front page and a blog function. We will soon launch a blog series with entries from NCRP team members linked to new research and reports. Some of you may have noticed that there have been technical problems over the past two months. We want to move from a private sector host to the more secure and permanent University of Toronto system as the host and there were technical compatibility problems.
- 1.5. **NCRP brochure in English and French.** The 4-page project brochure is now available in English and French. Both are featured for download on the upper right side of our home page. Please post our brochures on your relevant websites and share with local stakeholders (they

are both also available in the *Research Team Documents* page of our website). Also: Please email Emily if you want printed copies of the English version (the French has not been printed yet). *We encourage you to have these available at your public events relating to our research.*

- 1.6. **Data Inventory and Design Rationale.** Richard Maaranen, NCRP's data analyst, regularly updates these documents. They are posted in the *Research Team 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. The required report is relatively brief, and includes some tables provided by SSHRC. Over summer 2015, Emily Paradis will be compiling information for this report from CMA teams, partners, and co-investigators. There is no site visit or in-person component of the mid-term review.

2. NCRP Budget

- 2.1. **Revised budget allocation.** As of 31 December 2014, NCRP had spent \$763,000 of its total budget of \$2.6 million. At its 1 April 2015 meeting, the Board reviewed a proposed revised budget allocation for 2015-2019. The reallocation will be further discussed at the upcoming May NCRP meeting. It is posted in *Research Team Documents*. Please note that this is a very general estimate and changes will be made as our decisions about research initiatives and knowledge mobilization initiatives require.
- 2.2. **Funded local CMA research.** At our first meeting, the NCRP Board agreed to an initial allocation of \$100,000 to each CMA for local research initiatives. Total research funded by CMA thus far is:
 - Halifax: \$45,600 (46%)
 - Montréal: \$18,300 (18%)
 - Toronto: \$100,400 (100%)
 - Winnipeg: \$34,500 (35%)
 - Calgary: \$36,600 (37%)
 - Vancouver: \$44,100 (44%)

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. **New NCRP funded research initiatives.**

Since the September 2014 NCRP Project Update, six new research initiatives have been funded through the NCRP internal proposal process. Many of these relate to the NCRP program of research on private market rental housing.

Proposal 11: The New Blockbusting: Global Capital, Tenant Resistance, and the Corporate Gentrification of Affordable Rental Apartment Towers in Toronto, Alan Walks, UofT, approved October 2014.

Proposal 12: Comparative Rental Housing Trends and Policy Contexts in Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver Since the 1970s, David Hulchanski, UofT, approved November 2014.

Proposal 13: Residential Satisfaction and Neighbouring in Toronto's Inner Suburbs: Exploring the Interconnections in Rexdale-Kipling, Sutama Ghosh, Ryerson, approved February 2015.

Proposal 14: The Politics and Policies of Secondary Suites in Calgary, Byron Miller, U Calgary, approved February 2015.

Proposal 15: Neighbourhood-Based Local Economic Development Activities in Toronto: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities, Katharine Rankin, UofT, approved March 2015.

Proposal 16: Experiences and Perceptions of Income Polarization in Calgary, Byron Miller, U Calgary, approved March 2015.

The proposals and budgets for all our funded research initiatives are available on our *Research Team Documents* webpage.

4. Other NCRP Research

- 4.1. **Typologies of Neighbourhood Change, 1981-2006.** Bob Murdie, with the assistance of Jennifer Logan and Richard Maaranen, has published a typology of neighbourhood change -- the trends over the 1981 and 2006 period for eight CMAs (the NCRP "original six" plus Ottawa and Hamilton). The full report, along with a summary report designed by our partners at Spacing Media, and a related literature review, are featured on our homepage.

- ***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.

- 4.2. **Statistics Canada Research Data Centres Program of Research.** A reminder to team members that NCRP has approval under the 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 lead 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.

- 4.3. **Program of research on private sector rental housing.** At the October 2013 Team Meeting, it was agreed that the first major NCRP cross-CMA comparative research project would focus on private sector rental housing. Since that time, Richard Maaranen has developed a Rental Housing Disadvantage Index to assist in identifying neighbourhoods for further study, a number of local CMA projects in this thematic area have been approved, and NCRP Research Associate Greg Suttor has prepared two papers reviewing the Canadian housing system and rental housing policy trends in Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver. A cross-CMA Working Group on Rental Housing met by teleconference in July and September 2014 to define further research in this area. Documents relating to our rental housing research theme, including a description of the Rental Housing Disadvantage Index can be found on the website on the *Rental Housing Documents* page (located under the *About* tab).
- 4.4. **Community-Based Organizations and Collective Efficacy in Neighbourhoods.** This Toronto-based working group led by Rob Howarth (Canadian Association of Neighbourhood Centres) has been meeting regularly since 2012 to examine how community-based organizations (CBOs) influence neighbourhood collective efficacy. In January 2015, Rob Howarth and Jessica Carrière conducted focus groups and key informant interviews with CBOs in three Toronto neighbourhoods. Now, with Emily Paradis, they are drafting a community report to be released in summer 2015 at a forum of Toronto Neighbourhood Centres, along with tools that can be used by researchers and organizations to study and evaluate neighbourhood collective efficacy. A preview of the report will be presented at the May 2015 NCRP team meeting.
- 4.5. **Neighbourhood Change in Chicago.** A team led by professor Janet Smith (co-director of the Voorhees Center for Neighbourhood and Community Improvement at the University of Illinois-Chicago) has applied the NCRP “Three Cities” 1970-2010 income change analysis to Chicago and has begun to release findings. Our data analyst Richard Maaranen has prepared a matching set of maps and charts for Chicago and Toronto. For some of the Chicago analysis see a recent and well received online summary at: <https://voorheescenter.wordpress.com/2015/03/11/a-deepening-divide-income-inequality-grows-spatially-in-chicago/>. A research paper and popular summary comparing the cities of Chicago and Toronto are being drafted for release at NCRP public events in each city. Chicago and Toronto have the same population and are the same size geographically.
1. **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. EU DiverCities investigators professor Tuna Tasan-Kok and doctoral candidate Donya Ahmadi (TU Delft) have visited Toronto in October 2013, March 2014, and October 2014 to conduct key informant

interviews and meetings with researchers, policy actors, and community organizations in the Jane and Finch area, the project's case-study neighbourhood. A report on these meetings was released in April 2014. The NCRP Toronto team has assisted with the organization of meetings and events in support of this initiative. An international forum on the EU DiverCities research is tentatively planned for Toronto in October 2015. www.urbandivercities.eu