

# Research Update

September 2009

## Research News



### Youth GAP: The Youth Gang Alternatives Project

Jacalyn Ambler and Kavina Mistry, the ESPC's two youth interns, have been conducting research on youth gangs in Edmonton. Their final report will be published at the end of September—stay tuned! For more information please get in touch by emailing [youthgap at gmail dot com] or by calling 780.690.6416. If you have questions about our internship program contact Jennifer at 780.423.2031x354.



### The early development imperative: A pan-Canadian conference on population level measurement of children's development

November 16-18, 2009, Winnipeg  
Sponsored by the Council for Early Child Development in partnership with the Human Early Learning Partnership, the Offord Centre for Child Studies and Healthy Child Manitoba, this conference will highlight initiatives across the country to better understand and address inequities in our children's development.

[www.councilecd.ca](http://www.councilecd.ca)

### The National Center for Children in Poverty has released **Social and Emotional Development in Early Childhood: What Every Policymaker Should Know.**

This new report makes several recommendations for policymakers with regards to social and emotional development and mental health for young children and their families. [www.nccp.org](http://www.nccp.org)



**Charity Central Essentials** is a new project to help small and rural charities face the unique challenges of income tax reporting. Print and electronic resources, such as the "Office in a Box", will be available. Visit [www.charitycentral.ca](http://www.charitycentral.ca) for more information.

The **Unicef** report "**Aboriginal children's health: leaving no child behind**" contains insight and policy recommendations for improving the lives of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children.



### tracking the TRENDS 2009

Neighbourhood Well-Being in Edmonton



AN **edmonton** SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL PUBLICATION

10<sup>th</sup> Edition

**Tracking the Trends 2009: Neighbourhood Well-Being in Edmonton** is on its way! Stay tuned for the release of the 2009 version of our flagship publication in late September!

**Do you have news, information, or new research to share? Let us know and we'll include it in our next Research Update.**

Most articles listed here are also available in PDF format by searching in the online catalogue.

The catalogue is available 24/7, and can be accessed by going to:

[socialresearchlibrary.ca](http://socialresearchlibrary.ca)

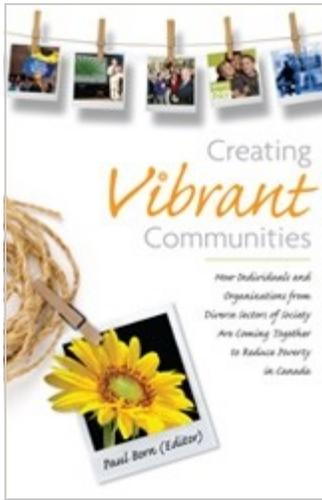
Or, drop by our Library to read materials or make copies during business hours.

### Inside this Update:

<b>RESEARCH NEWS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>REVIEWS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OF INTEREST...</b>	<b>4</b>

Reviews

Creating Vibrant Communities



Book edited by **Paul Born**, Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement. BPS Books 2008.

The percentage of Canadians living on low incomes fell from 29 to 13 percent between 1961 and 1977, but has not substantially decreased in the last three decades. At the core of the Vibrant Communities mindset is the realization that poverty reduction is the means to improve overall quality of life in a community.

Rather than focusing on supports for those living in poverty, the founders envisioned communities in which it would be impossible for poverty to exist. The basic themes of the Vibrant Communities approach are:

- Poverty reduction
- Comprehensive thinking and action
- Multi-sector collaboration
- Community asset building
- Community learning and change (rather than short-term intervention)

Vibrant Communities began as Opportunities 2000 in Waterloo, Ontario. As a four year initiative involving eighty-six community organizations in forty-seven poverty reduction projects, Opportunities 2000 ultimately helped 1600 families. This book includes two background papers on the driving forces behind Vibrant Communities, as well as ten case studies of communities across Canada – including Edmonton - that have followed this path.

**Vibrant Communities Edmonton** has developed a strategy focused on three areas: workforce development, family economic support, and community investment. The Job Bus was designed to provide transportation to work so that employees could find and keep jobs. The Make Tax Time Pay campaign sought to make low-income families aware of services available from the Alberta Child Health Benefit. The Home Program was created to help low-income individuals overcome the obstacles in their path to being homeowners.

The **British Columbia Capital Region** Quality of Life Challenge focuses on sustainable in-

comes, affordable housing, and community connections. As part of the Employer Challenge, *HR Options for Action* educates employers about ways they can improve the lives of their low-income workers. Mentors help those moving towards sustainable incomes make good choices through the Mentorship Challenge. Collaboration between many organizations established the Regional Housing Trust Fund to address housing affordability and availability.

In the **Niagara Region**, Opportunities Niagara offers services such as brokering and coordination, social marketing, technical assistance and coaching, and improved access to resources, while facilitating collaboration between community organizations. Target areas in this region include adequate employment, affordable housing, and accessible transportation.

In New Brunswick, **Vibrant Communities St. John** is examining low-income neighbourhoods and targeting the issues that make it difficult for residents of these areas to move out of poverty. VCSJ has focused on children and youth, providing early childhood development opportunities for low-income families. Other targeted areas are education for employment, safe and affordable housing, and neighbourhood change. VCSJ recently received five-year program funding from the municipal government for the neighbourhoods they have prioritized.

**Vivre Saint-Michel en Santé** is focusing on social exclusion and poverty in this east-end Montréal neighbourhood. They continue to work for more affordable housing and lobby for better access to services in the areas of culture, sports, recreation and commerce. In collaboration with the Cirque du Soleil and the local school board a program for promoting arts and culture among youth has been established. As part of an effort to train residents for employment in local businesses, a development worker is visiting local employers to match up needs with resources.

**This book is useful for** anyone interested in community development; those interested specifically in poverty reduction strategies; fans of Vibrant Communities Canada. Visit [tamarack-community\[dot\]ca](http://tamarack-community[dot]ca) or [vibrantedmonton\[dot\]ca](http://vibrantedmonton[dot]ca).



Immigrant youth and crime: Stakeholder perspectives on risk and protective factors

Report by **Marian J. Rossiter and Katherine R. Rossiter**, 2009. Prairie Metropolis Centre.

Did you know?

- 46 to 74 percent of immigrant youth whose first language is not English fail to finish high school.

- Immigrant youth are recruited into gangs and illegal activity as early as the age of 10, and continuing to the ages of 18-20.
- Immigrant and refugee youth are not perceived to be in conflict with the law more than their Canadian peers, but they are more vulnerable to gang recruitment.

If the basic needs of immigrant youth are not met they will seek alternative means, which may lead to involvement in organized crime.

Continued —>

**Immigrant Youth and Crime continued...**

This report examines key factors at play in the lives of immigrant youths who become involved in crime, gangs, and violence in Edmonton.

Prime risk factors identified are:

- **Family** – poverty, lack of healthy family relationships, mental and physical health
- **Individual** – pre-immigration violence, addiction, health issues
- **Peer** – social exclusion, discrimination, inter-ethnic conflict
- **School** – lack of ESL and curriculum adaptation; bullying; interrupted formal education
- **Community** – lack of role models and leadership opportunities within their ethno-cultural community; lack of safe and affordable housing

Many of these risk factors will compound on each other to create extremely volatile situations.

**4 major policy recommendations** are made by the authors:

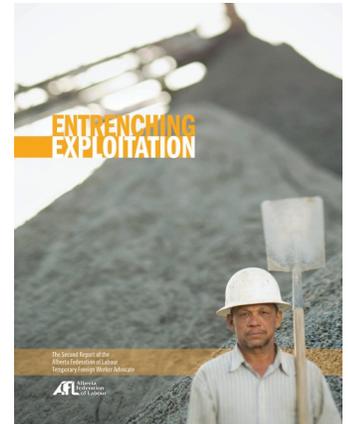
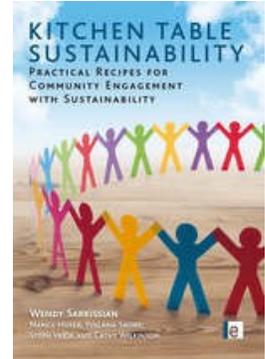
- **Enhance integration** by providing adequate funding for settlement, mental health, and multicultural services to facilitate adaptation.
- **Government** must ensure that the socioeco-

conomic circumstances of immigrant families allow them to meet their basic needs. Programs for safe housing and appropriate employment are necessary.

- **Communities** must have comprehensive support networks for immigrant youth and their families in place to provide youth with information about social and health services, education, employment, and other resources.
- **Schools** are in an ideal place to meet the needs of immigrant youth. A process of needs and risk assessment should be set up, followed by adequate ESL support and necessary curriculum adaptation. Culturally and ethnically diverse staff populations are in a position to act as role models. Zero-tolerance methods for dealing with bullying and other transgressions should be replaced with restorative measures. Immigrant students should be supplied with career counselling, goal-setting guidance, after-school programs aimed at helping them adapt and integrate, and funding for further education.

Coordination between multiple levels of government and diverse sectors of the community is essential for reducing the risk of immigrant youth becoming involved in criminal activity.

**This paper is useful for** anyone working with immigrants or at-risk youth; educators.



**Resources**

**Non-profit organizations**

Canada's non-profit maze: a scan of legislation and regulation impacting revenue generation in the non-profit sector. Report by Lynn Eakin and Heather Graham, The Wellesley Institute, May 2009.

There's more to policy than alignment. Report by Evert Lindquist, Canadian Policy Research Networks, May 2009.

Improving the non-profit, voluntary and charitable sector's effectiveness in influencing decisions of government. Report by Sean Moore, the Muttart Foundation, 2006.

Exploring organizations and advocacy: strategies and finances. Report edited by Elizabeth J. Reid and Maria D. Montilla, The Urban Institute, 2001.

Non-profit space needs survey. City of Edmonton, June 2009.

The current state of non-profit charitable organizations in Western Canada; report on survey results. The Goldie Company, June 2009.

Policy Dialogue. Report by Sherri Torjman, 2005.

**Immigrants**

Building bridges to social inclusion: researching the experiences and challenges of the lost boys and girls of Sudan community in Winnipeg. Dr. Karen Magro, PMC Working Paper Series, 2009.

Fostering acceptance and integration of immigrant students: examining effective school-based approaches in prairie schools. Dr. Darren E. Lund, PMC Working Paper Series, 2008.

Social capital profiles: immigrants and the native-born in Canada. Dr. Abdie Kazempur, PMC Working Paper Series, 2008.

Entrenching exploitation: the second report of the Alberta Federation of Labour Temporary Foreign Worker Advocate. Alberta Federation of Labour, 2009.

**Social inclusion/exclusion**

Everyone belongs: a toolkit for applying intersectionality. Report by Joanna Simpson, CRIAW-ICREF, June 2009.

The house of difference: cultural politics and national identity in Canada. Book by Eva Mackey, 2002.

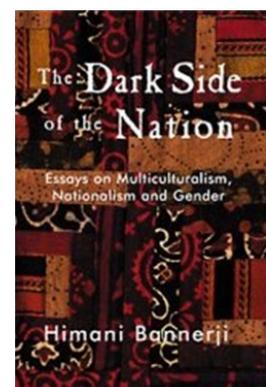
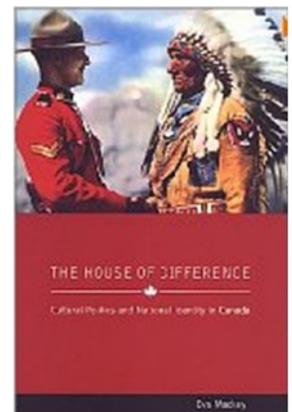
**Poverty**

A Choir of Voices: the "what was said" report: a dialogue on poverty: developing a poverty reduction plan for New Brunswick. Province of New Brunswick, June 2009.

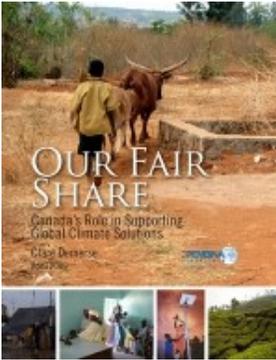
Median wages and productivity growth in Canada and the United States. Report by Peter Harrison, Centre for the Study of Living Standards, July 2009.

A poverty reduction plan for Canada: notes from a town hall meeting on the role of the federal government in poverty reduction. Campaign 2000 and the 25 in 5 network for poverty reduction, June 2009.

Taking it Back: the Halifax Coalition Against Poverty's Special Needs Campaign. DVD produced by Praxis Media Productions.



## Resources, continued



Family security in insecure times: the case for a poverty reduction strategy for Canada. 2008 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada, Campaign 2000.

### Transportation

ETS growth strategy: shadow report to Edmonton City Council. Report by Transit Riders' Union of Edmonton, July 2008.

### Health

Crisis? What Crisis? Public health care affordability in Alberta. Report by Greg Flanagan, the Parkland Institute, June 2009.

Experiences with primary health care in Canada. Report by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, July 2009.

### Aboriginal Issues

Aboriginal energy alternatives. Report by Tim Weis and Paul Cobb, July 2008.

The effect of increasing aboriginal educational attainment on the labour force, output and the fiscal balance. Report by Andrew Sharpe, Jean-François Arsenault, Simon Lapointe and Fraser Cowan, Centre for the Study of Living Standards, May 2009.

Prosperity through partnerships: framing the future of aboriginal economic participation. Report from Public Policy Forum, June 2009.

### Environment

The (un)happy planet index 2.0: why good lives don't have to cost the Earth. Report by the New Economics Foundation, 2009.

Our Fair Share: Canada's role in supporting global climate solutions. Report by Clare Demerse, the Pembina Institute, April 2009.

### Seniors

Seniors programs and services: information guide 2008-2009. Directory from the Alberta Seniors and Community Supports, 2008.

Seniors housing guide 2009. Directory from the Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton, 2009.

### Homelessness

Keeping the homeless housed: an exploratory study of determinants of homelessness in the Toronto community. Report by Jacques Tremblay and Action Consulting, July 2009.

Towards effective strategies for harm reduction housing. Report by the Fred Victor Centre and Jim Ward Associates, Wellesley Institute, July 2009.

### Racism and Multiculturalism

Crimes of colour: racialization and the criminal justice system in Canada. Book edited by Wendy Chan and Kiran Mirchandani, 2002.

The dark side of the nation: essays on multiculturalism, nationalism and gender. Book by Himani Bannerji, 2000.

Selling diversity: immigration, multiculturalism, employment equity, and globalization. Book by Yasmeen Abu-Laban and Christina Gabriel, 2002.

Race, space, and the law: unmapping a white settler society. Book edited by Sherene H. Razack, 2002.

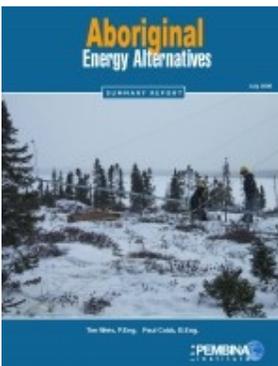
### Other Issues

Reclaiming our humanity. Report by Sherri Torjman, 2001.

Families in the eyes of the law: contemporary challenges and the grip of the past. Choices v.15 no. 8, July 2009. Institute for Research on Public Policy.

A Rough Patch: Alberta economic profile and forecast. Report by Jacques Marcil, Canada West Foundation, June 2009.

Kitchen Table Sustainability: practical recipes for community engagement with sustainability. Book by Wendy Sarkissian, 2009.



## Of Interest...

homeless connect  
edmonton



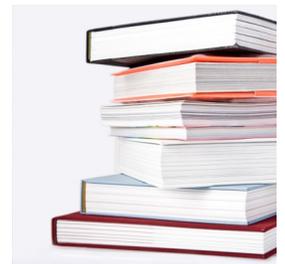
Homeward Trust Edmonton is hosting the next **Homeless Connect** on October 4, 2009 at the Shaw Conference Centre. For more information visit [www.homelessconnect.ca](http://www.homelessconnect.ca).

### I'm new here!

As of August 20th I have taken over for Erin Kreskoski as the Resource Coordinator for the ESPC. I'm excited about this job and look forward to working with you.

Please be in touch to let me know how myself and the resource library can be of assistance!

Jennifer Hoyer  
780.423.2031 ext. 354  
library[at]  
edmontonsocialplanning  
[dot]ca



We want your input! How can this Update be made more useful for you? Contact us:

Suite 37, 9912-106 St  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 1C5

Phone: 780-423-2031  
ext. 354  
Fax: 780-425-6244

**library [at]  
edmontonsocialplanning  
[dot] ca**