

ANNEX-A

***Recession, Immigration and Homelessness
Proposal for the National Metropolis Conference
Montreal March 18-21, 2010***

In times of economic recession, immigrants are more at risk of facing unemployment and precarious working conditions. This is particularly the case for immigrants who have been in Canada less than five years: their unemployment rate is twice as high as for Canadian born population Statistics Canada (2007). Also almost a fifth of immigrant households are in core housing need, and the incidence of housing need climbed to more than one in three among recent immigrant households which puts them at a greater risk of homelessness.

The aim of this workshop is to look at the question of immigration and homelessness in the context of an economic downturn. The following questions will be addressed:

- What are the housing trends among immigrants? Have they changed since the recession?
- Are immigrants facing greater risks of homelessness since the recession?
- What are the needs of homeless immigrants? Could the intervention strategies towards homeless immigrants be different in light of the effects (as much as they can have come to light thus far)?
- What are the policy implications of addressing homelessness in the context of economic downturn?

Valerie Laflamme, Manager, Partnerships and Research, Homelessness Partnering Secretariat – Opening remarks and discussant

Presenters:

1. Lionel-Henry Groulx, University of Montreal – Confirmed, Title of Presentation: "L'exclusion comme lecture des problèmes sociaux : y a-t-il une approche canadienne?"
2. Beth Wilson, Community Social Planning Toronto – Confirmed, Title of Presentation: "Immigrant housing Issues in the Context of an Economic Crisis"
3. Beba Svirgic, Calgary Immigrant Women Association – Confirmed, Title of Presentation: "Crisis Support for Immigrant Families Facing Homelessness"

4. Richard Marquardt, Consultant/Social Policy Researcher – Confirmed,
Title of Presentation: “Housing Issues of Working Poor Newcomers in
Periods of Recession”