

Organizer: **Laureen Rennie**
Organization: Region of Peel
E-mail:

Title of workshop: Using Local Labour Market Research to Inform Regional Policy Development

Format : Pr sentation suivi de discussion / Workshop
Theme: Economic and Labour Market Integration

Presenter 1: Michelle Goldberg
E-mail:
Organization: Consultant to the Region of Peel
Title: Peel Immigration Labour Market Survey

Presenter 2: Laureen Rennie
E-mail:
Organization: Project Manager Peel Immigration Labour Market Survey, Region of Peel
Title:

Presenter 3: John Reilly
E-mail:
Organization: Senior Diversity and Inclusion Consultant, City of Edmonton
Title: The Match Between Labour Market Needs and Immigrants' Skills

Presenter 4: Naomi Alboim
E-mail:
Organization: Queen's University
Title: The Role of Local Research at the National Level

Presenter 5: Jeffrey Reitz
E-mail:
Organization: University of Toronto
Title: Connecting Local and National Research

Discussant: Jeanne To-Thanh-Hien,
E-mail:
Organization: Senior Policy Analyst, Labour Standards and Workplace Equity
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Title:

Abstract

This workshop will present the results and discuss the experiences of local labour market immigration studies. The objective is to showcase how local labour market research can inform regional policy development such as local immigration strategies and others to help immigrants be more successful in the workplace upon arrival.

Workshop Summary:

Today we clearly recognize the importance of immigration in Canada's population and labour force growth. New to this debate is the recognition of municipalities' interest in the labour market integration of newcomers. While immigration selection is in most cases a federal responsibility, immigrants settle and live in cities. Given the recent spread of migration outside the urban centres, coupled with the fact that municipal and regional governments are responsible for many of the human services accessed by its residents, many local governments are struggling to adapt their policies and services to meet the needs of their newly diversified population.

Furthermore, in the context of recently signed local immigration partnerships, communities across Canada are becoming more engaged in initiatives to address labour market integration at the local level. Despite extensive research on immigrants' labour market experiences in Canada, little is known about the experiences of immigrants in specific communities outside perhaps Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Few studies have explored immigrants' access to their intended occupations upon arrival, the extent to which they utilize their skills at work, their career satisfaction, advancement opportunities, and discrimination in the workplace.

This workshop will showcase examples of local labour market studies highlighting the efforts of municipalities and local activists in narrowing the data gap. Presentations will focus on the role and application of local research, in particular how formal or informal local studies can help advance the call to action by providing data that informs government, local employers and community organizations about the labour market experiences of individuals. Ultimately this information is essential for informing funding investments, developing successful local policy and program solutions.