Forum of Federations
THE GLOBAL NETWORK ON FEDERALISM

Forum des fédérations
LE RÉSEAU MONDIAL SUR LE FÉDÉRALISME

IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION AND CANADIAN FEDERALISM: EXPLORING THE ISSUES

CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE FORUM OF FEDERATIONS AND THE MOWAT CENTRE

JANUARY 28, 2011
Room ES B149, Earth Sciences Building, University of Toronto
25 Willcocks Street, Toronto

Although the Canadian federal and provincial governments share constitutional responsibility for immigration, the latter became active in this field only fairly recently. Following Quebec, which signed agreements with the federal government starting in the 1970s, all provincial and two territorial governments now play a significant role in immigrant selection. In addition, a number of provinces now administer or co-manage (with Citizenship and Immigration Canada) immigrant settlement services. Some observers see these developments as consistent with the dynamics of Canadian federalism; others are concerned about what they consider to be insufficient policy coherence in this field.

At a conference at the University of Toronto on January 28, 2011 leading Canadian scholars will explore the impact of Canadian federalism and intergovernmental relations on immigrant integration (laws, policies and programs). Presentations on other countries' experience will be followed by a session on federal-provincial immigration agreements in Canada. The conference will conclude with a panel discussion about the future of the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement, which is due for renewal in the coming months.

This conference is part of a Forum of Federations project on federalism and immigrant integration in seven countries. Leading scholars are currently finalizing chapters for a volume intended for publication by McGill-Queen's University Press. For further information, see: http://www.forumfed.org/en/global/thematic/immigration.php. The conference will also draw on two research reports on immigrant services the Mowat Centre published in May 2010: http://www.mowatcentre.ca/research-topic-mowat.php?researchTopicID=7

Although there is no fee to attend the conference, registration is required. Those planning to attend should inform Rachida Chaillie, indicating their position/affiliation: chaillie@forumfed.org.

MOWAT CENTRE
POLICY INNOVATION

School of Public Policy & Governance
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

PROGRAM (DRAFT)

Opening session

9.0-9.15 Welcome:
- Matthew Mendelsohn, Director, Mowat Centre (University of Toronto)
- Representative of Forum of Federations

Session 1: Immigrant Settlement and Integration: Ontario's Perspective

9.15-9.40 Keynote address: Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration [invited]

9.40-10.15 Questions and answers/discussion

10.15-10.30 **Break**

Session 2: Immigrant Integration – Canada Compared

10.30-10.50 The impact of federalism on immigrant integration in Canada: Keith Banting (Queen's University)

10.50-11.10 International perspectives on immigrant service provision: Myer Siemiatycki (Ryerson University) and Phil Triadafilopoulous (University of Toronto)

11.10-11.30 The impact of federalism on public policy – comparative observations from the Forum of Federations project: Leslie Seidle (Forum of Federations)

11.30-12.15 Discussion

12.15-13.45 **Lunch**

Keynote address: Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Government of Canada [invited]

Session 3: Intergovernmental Immigration Agreements and Settlement Services

13.45-14.05 Overview of intergovernmental immigration agreements: Robert Vineberg (former regional director general, Citizenship and Immigration Canada)

14.05-14.25 Quebec's immigration agreement and settlement services: TBD

14.25-14.45 Immigrant settlement services in Ontario: Daiva Stasiulis (Carleton University)

14.45-15.15 Discussion

15.15-15.30 **Break**

Session 4: The Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement – Challenges and Options for Renewal

15.30-16.0 Opening remarks by panellists:
- Matthew Mendelsohn (Mowat Centre)
- Naomi Alboim (Queen's University)
- Debbie Douglas (OCASI)
- Marina Jimenez (The Globe and Mail)

16.0-16.45 Questions and comments to panellists/discussion

Closing session

16.45-17.0 Concluding remarks

- Matthew Mendelsohn
- Representative of Forum of Federations