



IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION AND CANADIAN FEDERALISM: EXPLORING THE ISSUES

CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE FORUM OF FEDERATIONS AND THE MOWAT CENTRE

JANUARY 28, 2011

William Doo Auditorium, New College, University of Toronto
45 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.



School of Public Policy & Governance
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

PROGRAM

Opening session

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

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
- 9.40-10.15 Questions and answers/discussion
- 10.15-10.30 **Break**

Session 2: Immigrant Integration – Canada Compared

- Chair: Deborah Tunis (Director General (Integration), Citizenship and Immigration Canada)
- 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 Triadafilopoulos (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**

Session 3: Intergovernmental Immigration Agreements and Settlement Services

- Chair: Joan Andrew (former deputy minister, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration)
- 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: Stephan Reichhold (*Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes*)
- 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

- Chair: Ratna Omidvar (Maytree Foundation)
- 15.30-16.0 Opening remarks by panellists:
- Matthew Mendelsohn (Mowat Centre)

- Naomi Alboim (Queen's University)
- Debbie Douglas (Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants [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