



Metropolis North America, an initiative of the International Metropolis Project

Introduction

On June 24, 2008, Metropolis took another step in expanding its network. Following a two-day dialogue of experts on labour mobility and migration, which took place in Mexico City, a collaborative agreement was signed by representatives of Canada, the United States, and Mexico creating *Metropolis North America*. The Metropolis Project Secretariat at Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)/Centro de Investigaciones sobre América del Norte (CISAN), and the Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security of the United States were the signatories to the agreement through which they commit to co-operate on a policy-research initiative on labour mobility and migration within North America.

Metropolis North America released a report in 2009 on its inaugural event, The “Expert Dialogue on Labour Mobility” which took place in Mexico City. A copy of this report is available on the Metropolis Web Site (www.metropolis.net).

The objectives of Metropolis North America are to:

- Promote research on migration and diversity within North America and their effects on North American cities and societies.
- Invite and encourage the participation of the respective national and sub-national governments, research institutions, and civil society organizations.
- Cooperate through scholarship in fostering a mutual learning environment within the areas of government responsible for the delivery of immigration programs and programs related to ethnic, racial, and religious diversity;

Overall, Metropolis North America seeks to enhance our understanding of migration within the North American continent. Our intention is to examine migration and diversity *within* the continent as opposed to migration *to* North America from elsewhere in the world and as opposed to migration between any pairs of the three North American states. About the latter, there is already a great deal of work being done, but there is comparatively little focus on North America as a single unit of analysis. It is here that *Metropolis North America* will place its emphasis and make a distinctive contribution. Being an empirical

research project, we are not engaged in political advocacy. The initiative will seek wide dissemination and uptake of research through publications, the website, and small conferences.

The founding partners of the project

There are four principal founding partners of Metropolis North America:

The *International Metropolis Project*, with a Secretariat based in Ottawa which acts on behalf of the Metropolis International Steering Committee. Metropolis is a forum which provides a bridge between research, migration policy and practices, and diversity. Metropolis aims to underscore the academic capacity of research, promote research that is pertinent to migration policies and diversity and facilitate the use of that research by governments and non-governmental organization. Since its inception, Metropolis has included researchers, political players, international organizations and non-governmental organizations of North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific.

The *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*, in conformity with Article 1 of its Organic Law is a public Corporation, a decentralized organism of the State, endowed with full juridical capacity, of which it has as its end to provide higher education. The legal representation of this House of Studies is upon the Rector, Dr. José Narro Robles, who as the Head of the University, in accordance with articles 9 of its Organic Law and 30 of its General Statute, has the faculty to delegate it in conformity with article 34 section I of the same statute. Dr. Sergio M. Alcocer Martínez de Castro, as General Secretary and Dr. Estela Morales Campos, as Humanities Coordinator has the faculty required to support this instrument, in accordance with the Agreement that delegates and distributes competences for the signing of agreements, contracts and other consensual instruments that include the University, as published by Gaceta UNAM, January 23, 2003. The Centro de Investigaciones sobre América del Norte (CISAN) belongs to this administrative structure, which has the infrastructure and the required resources to fulfill the objective of the present Agreement. For the purposes of the present Agreement it has the following legal address 9° piso de la Torre de la Rectoría, Ciudad Universitaria, Delegación Coyoacán, México, D.F., Código Postal 04510.

The *U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)*, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), established by statute in 2003, is responsible for providing benefits and services related to the temporary and permanent stay of noncitizens and naturalization and citizenship. Carlos Iturregui, Chief of the Office of Policy and Strategy of USCIS, has a statutory mandate to conduct research related to immigration and citizenship and to inform policymaking in these areas. In furtherance of this responsibility he has the authority to enter into this agreement. For the purposes of this agreement the Office of Policy and Strategy has the following address: 20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Room 4010, Washington, DC 20529.

The *Canadian Foundation of the Americas (FOCAL)* is an independent, non-partisan think tank dedicated to strengthening Canadian relations with Latin America and the Caribbean through policy dialogue and analysis. By providing key stakeholders with solutions-oriented research on social, political and economic issues, FOCAL strives to create new partnerships and policy options throughout the Western Hemisphere. FOCAL promotes good governance, economic prosperity and social justice, basing its work on principles

of intellectual integrity, racial diversity and gender equality. FOCAL was created as a Federal Act of Cabinet in 1989 and is registered as a Canadian charitable organization (number 89228-5099 RR). Carlo Dade, Executive Director, is authorized to sign the present document in FOCAL's representation, according to the regulatory nature of FOCAL. For the legal effects of the present document indicates the following residence: Canadian Foundation for the Americas, 1 Nicholas Street, Suite 720, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Tel: (613) 562-0005.

The Metropolis North America Research Agenda

The following research agenda indicates the scope of the initial work of Metropolis North America. It will not only serve as a guide to our affiliated researchers and for our conferences but will help define the project and its objectives. This agenda will be subject to revisions in the future.

1. The effects of NAFTA on the socio-economic situation of the three member countries

- A comparison of the pre-NAFTA and post-NAFTA socio-economic indicators for each country
- Is there a NAFTA effect? How has NAFTA affected the macro-economic indicators, migration flows and the overall socio-economic situation of each country?
- Development of statistics on emigration in North America

2. Labour trends and impacts:

- Trends in occupations, specializations and mechanisms used to fill employment needs
- Evolution in employment conditions (before and after influx of temporary foreign workers).
- Regional trade agreements and mobility provisions/visa regimes
- An analysis of the labour market needs, demographic trends and the educational offer of each country

3. Temporary foreign worker impacts:

- Family impact of seasonal, long term and permanent absence of the wage earners
- The economic and social impact of temporary migration programs on sending countries (Mexico).
The effect of these programs on:
 - The national level: GDP, poverty, unemployment, health indicators
 - Local and regional level: socio-economic and cultural effect (creation of a culture of migration)
 - Individual level: career of temporary workers and temporary workers' families
- A comparison of the use of local services public spaces and other community and recreational facilities and activities in the host country and in the home country
- A comparison of the interactions with local community groups in host countries (type, quality and quantity)
- Medium and long-term success indicators for individuals who have worked or work as temporary foreign workers.

4. Managing border security and circular migration

- Illegal Migration/undocumented workers

- Driving forces of changes in job location and by categories or status of migrants, i.e. temporary, permanent and undocumented.
- Partnership (SPP) on North American discussions on movement of people and national immigration policy debates
- Alternative screening regimes at the borders (internal and external): smart borders, traveler pre-clearance (e.g. SENTRI/NEXUS programs), prescreening mechanisms, exchanges on immigration and visa criteria
- Driving forces of changes in job location and by categories or status of migrants, i.e. temporary, permanent and undocumented.
- Circular migration within North America and efficient handling of this phenomenon at the borders
- Immigration to North America, enforcement issues, concept of border security

5. Social impact of newcomers in local communities

- On local perceptions and attitudes about new arrivals
- On schools and on extracurricular, recreational and social activities, use of public space including changes and adaptation.
- On local governments' policies, programs, laws/ ordinances/ by-laws law enforcement activities, etc.
- On crime levels & types, homelessness & unemployment
- On health and community services
- On existing minorities' inter-ethnic and inter-racial relations.
- On the media (editorials' foci, diversity, inclusion and coverage of related issues
- Cross-border citizens and the application of human rights

6. Migration and development

- Remittances: who pays who? An analysis of costs related to remittances for the host country and the sending country
- NAFTA: does it facilitate migration or does it hinder mobility of the workforce
- Success indicators for migration and development programs

Note: Throughout these six areas, gender-based analyses are especially welcomed.

Network Events

The Metropolis Secretariat and the founding members of Metropolis North America will undertake to organize seminars, conferences, roundtables, and webinars on the topics outlined in the research agenda. However, others are invited to incorporate their events under the Metropolis North America name should they wish to do so and so long as the content of the event fits within the research agenda. Those wishing to have one of their events considered as an event of Metropolis North America are asked to provide information about the event to the Metropolis Secretariat through Enrico del Castello at 1-613-948-5984 or at enrico.delcastello@cic.gc.ca. The Secretariat will then provide the event organizers with an electronic copy of the Metropolis logo for use in their publicity for the event. The Secretariat will also promote the event on the Metropolis website. This way of operating has proven successful over many years in the International Metropolis Project in developing networks of officials and researchers, in

promoting events, and in encouraging collaboration amongst people in different sectors in the migration and diversity fields.

The Metropolis North America Website

A website is under development within the framework of the website of the International Metropolis Project (www.international.metropolis.net). It will feature facilities to

- Disseminate research pertaining to the policy-research agenda above
- Promote events organized under the auspices of Metropolis North America
- Create opportunities for interaction amongst Metropolis North America affiliates

ANNEX

THE COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

The Centre for Research on North America (CISAN), the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Office of Policy and Strategy, The Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) and the International Metropolis Secretariat (Citizenship and Immigration Canada) hereinafter referred to as the parties,

Recognizing that international migration is an urban phenomenon, and that urban change prefigures changes in the broader society of North America;

Aware that a scientifically grounded knowledge of how international migration affects the world's cities offers a sound base from which to develop public policy on immigration and diversity;

Desiring to work together in supporting the concerted efforts of government officials of various countries, researchers in diverse fields of academic endeavours, and representatives of non-government organizations, to further, expand, and share their knowledge of the effects of international migration on cities;

Intending to support an international multi-disciplinary project designed to provide researchers with opportunities to plan and coordinate comparative studies over the next six years on various topics. These would include: the effects of immigration on urban economies, the social, political, and cultural effects of international migration, including the social integration of children, spatial distribution of groups within cities, the impact of international migration on government and non-government services, the impact of international migration on socio-economic inequalities and shaping societal attitudes towards issues such as social tolerance and equity;

Have reached the following understanding:

1. The Centre for North American Research (CISAN) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico on behalf of the University (UNAM), The Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), the USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy (USCIS OP&S) and The International Metropolis Project Secretariat will be implementing the organization for this Cooperative Agreement.

2. A Project, “Metropolis North America” will be supported by an office to be established in Mexico City under the auspices of CISAN; and the Director of CISAN will be a member of the International Metropolis Steering Committee and the Chair of the Metropolis North America Committee.

3. Subject to financial and other constraints, the parties will:
 - A. Promote research and the participation of academics and their institutions in conducting migration-related research which is pertinent, but not limited, to North American Countries;
 - B. Invite and encourage the participation of their respective national and sub-national governments, research institutions, civil society and where appropriate, participation from other countries;
 - C. Cooperate through scholarship in fostering a mutual learning environment within the areas of government responsible for the delivery of immigration programs;
 - D. Take up membership in the International Metropolis Steering Committee, and accept the benefits and the responsibilities such as sponsoring meetings and conferences at which academics and policy makers will explore scholarly views and policy impacts of the research findings.

4. Promote, sponsor and organize in cooperation with the academic and government representatives of North American countries, a regular Metropolis North America Conference for the purpose of exchanging scholarly research to inform the development of policy that can improve the management of migration and diversity in the North American context.

5. General Considerations:
 - A. Specific Agreements

Specific agreements shall be undersigned by authorities with sufficient power to make a commitment on behalf of the parties.

 - B. Labour Relations

The parties agree that the personnel chosen by each of the parties for the implementation of the present project will report exclusively to the hiring party. As such, any hired personnel will only be responsible for this specific concept and in no case will be considered liable or substitute employers.

C. Intellectual Property

The intellectual property which derives from this project are subjected to the legal instruments and other specific regulations of each of the parties that may apply to the project's implementation. And further provided that the contribution of each of the parties be officially recognized as such.

D. Liability

It is explicitly agreed that all the parties shall not be liable for any damages and/or harm that may result as a consequence of Force Majeure, particularly those resulting from academic and/or administrative strikes.

E. Interpretation

The cooperative agreement is the result of good faith, thus any conflicts that may arise from the project's implementation, interpretation and formalization shall be resolved by all parties by consensus.

6. This Cooperative Agreement is not legally binding and shall come into effect upon signature for an indeterminate period of time and may be amended by mutual consent. Any of the parties may terminate this Cooperative Agreement by giving 3 (three) months written notification to the other Party.
7. The official languages of the North America Metropolis Project are English, French and Spanish and each of them having equal status.

Signed in four copies at Mexico City this 24th day of June 2008, in the English, Spanish and French languages, each text being equally valid.