

TIEDI Newsletter No. 1

Spring 2009

Welcome to the first edition of the TIEDI newsletter!

In these newsletters we plan to keep our partners (and anyone else who is interested) informed about the activities of the project. Over the past 9 months, a lot of the work of the project has involved laying the foundations for meeting TIEDI's goals.

Our first and most important act was to appoint Maryse Lemoine as our full-time coordinator. Maryse's experience as a government information librarian and as a graduate researcher on francophone immigrant settlement, not to mention her organizational flair, have been essential to the project's work. Much of Maryse's work thus far has involved hiring and supervising our student analysts, securing access to various databases, and organizing the events described in this newsletter.

While some data and analysis has already started to flow to our partners through short factsheets, it will be over the coming months that the bulk of our output will start to emerge, as the data requests formulated during workshops are answered in the form of analytical reports.

We hope these reports meet expectations and look forward to continuing and expanding our relationships with community partners (from a variety of sectors) over the forthcoming series of workshops and other activities.

If you have suggestions or comments on the work of the TIEDI project, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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A PDF version of this newsletter is available at www.yorku.ca/tiedi/doc/Newsletter1.pdf

TIEDI holds a community consultation to introduce the goals of the project

TIEDI held an Exchange Forum at York University on October 10, 2008. The Forum officially launched the TIEDI initiative, introducing its purpose and explaining how the project will seek to assist organizations. The Forum also provided an opportunity to meet the team of faculty and community organizations involved in the project.

The Forum was well attended with 88 participants representing 60 organizations.

It featured presentations by:

David Phipps, the Director of the Office of Research Services at York University. David introduced the concept of knowledge mobilization, in which research is driven by community needs.

<http://www.yorku.ca/tiedi/doc/EFkmb.pdf>

Philip Kelly, the Principal Investigator for TIEDI, described the purpose of TIEDI, the type of questions that could be answered by the initiative, and the processes involved in accessing data. He also entertained us with his homage to Dr. Seuss.

<http://www.yorku.ca/tiedi/doc/EFtiedi.pdf>

Three presentations discussed examples of collaborative work between TIEDI and community organizations. Presenters were:

- Steven Tufts (York University), Anna Larsen (Labour Education Centre), and Marcia Ponte (Working Women Community Centre);
- Tony Fang (York University) and Elaine Shin (TRIEC);
- Rupa Banerjee (Ryerson University), Josie Di Zio (COSTI Immigrant Services), and Roberto Jovel (Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants - OCASI).
- All presentations are available at: <http://www.yorku.ca/tiedi/events.html>

Organizations discussed their data needs during lunch and then organized these needs into thematic groups during the afternoon session. Six general themes were identified:

- Labour market outcomes of immigrants
- Barriers to the integration of immigrants
- Service provision
- Labour market information
- Self-employment and immigrant businesses
- Demographic data

TIEDI holds data workshops to establish community data needs

TIEDI has started the process of organizing thematic workshops to follow up on the Exchange Forum. The purpose of the workshops is to bring together organizations to discuss their data needs concerning specific aspects of immigrant labour market integration.

Please contact Maryse Lemoine, the TIEDI Coordinator, (by email: mlemoine@yorku.ca or by telephone: 416-736-2100 ext. 22826) if you would like to provide feedback on the list of compiled questions.

**Workshop 1:
Labour Market Outcomes
December 12, 2008**

This workshop aimed to discuss specific data needs related to the labour market outcomes of immigrants that could be answered using statistics and existing research.

This workshop dealt specifically with the income, labour participation and unemployment rate of immigrants; the use of immigrants' skills; match and mismatch between immigrants' skills and their occupations in Canada; data on immigrants by industry, sector and occupations; as well as job satisfaction.

The workshop was facilitated by a primer (<http://www.yorku.ca/tiedi/doc/Wlmosummary.pdf>) providing examples of available data to stimulate ideas for discussion.

The workshop was attended by:

- Enriketa Dushi, Toronto Training Board
- Diane Dyson, WoodGreen Community Services
- Jian Guan, Gateway for International Professionals, Ryerson University
- Katherine Harvey, Ontario Regulators for Access
- Sophia Lowe, World Education Services
- Mahassen Mahmoud, St. Christopher House
- Catherine McNeely, ACCES Employment
- Smadar Peretz, CIITE Project, CON*NECT Strategic Alliances
- Ted Richmond, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
- Elaine Shin, TRIEC

The data needs compiled at the workshop have been summarized into 11 questions (<http://www.yorku.ca/tiedi/doc/Wlmosummary.pdf>) that can be answered using the datasets TIEDI has access to. Each of the questions will form the basis for a short analytical report.

**Workshop 2:
Labour Market Barriers
January 30, 2009**

This workshop aimed to discuss specific data needs related to the obstacles encountered by immigrants in the labour market that can be answered using statistics and existing research.

The workshop focused on accreditation and recognition of foreign credentials; Canadian experience & foreign experience recognition; language skills as barriers to employment; and experiences of discrimination.

The workshop was facilitated by a primer (<http://www.yorku.ca/tiedi/doc/Wbarriers.pdf>) providing examples of available data to stimulate ideas for discussion.

The workshop was attended by:

- Joan Atlin, TRIEC
- Monica Atwal, Brampton Multicultural Community Centre
- Diane Dyson, WoodGreen Community Services
- Des Gardner, Toronto Community Housing
- Melinda Kao, Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Training
- Erica Leaven, Job Skills
- Mahassen Mahmoud, St. Christopher House
- Catherine McNeely, ACCES Employment
- Kim-Ha Nguyen, YMCA of Greater Toronto
- Nikhat Rasheed, CIITE Project, CON*NECT Strategic Alliances
- Pamela Richardson, Learning Enrichment Foundation
- Aqeel Saeid, Toronto Catholic District School Board
- Ilham Tamari, Centre for Education and Training
- Tej Wadhwa, Gateway for International Professionals, Ryerson University
- Theresa White, Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services
- Maria Williams, Ontario Human Rights Commission

The data needs compiled at the workshop have been summarized into 13 questions (<http://www.yorku.ca/tiedi/doc/Wbsummary.pdf>) that can be answered using the datasets TIEDI has access to. Each of the questions will form the basis for a short analytical report.

TIEDI publishes fact sheets based on data requests

TIEDI offers a Rapid Data service through which our partner organizations can make well-defined data requests. Most data requests are published as short fact sheets that include statistical tables and analysis. Eleven TIEDI Fact Sheets have been produced since November 2008:

- Immigrants entering the financial sector in 2000-2005
 - Immigrants entering the IT sector in 2000-2005
 - Statistics on the occupations of immigrants settling in Toronto in 2005
 - Annual arrivals of immigrants with masters' and PhD degrees (data for 1980-2005)
 - Immigrants and employment insurance (data for 2005)
 - Immigrants and employment insurance (data for 2000)
 - A profile of immigrants planning to work as:
 - o Dietitians and Nutritionists
 - o Financial Auditors and Accountants
 - o Midwives and Practitioners of Natural Healing
 - o Physiotherapists
 - o Social workers
-

Talking up TIEDI

OCASI Executive Directors Forum, October 20-22, 2008

Philip Kelly attended the OCASI executive directors retreat in Orillia where he presented the TIEDI project to participants.

Community Social Planning Council of Toronto Research Roundtable, March 3, 2009

Philip Kelly and Maryse Lemoine presented the TIEDI initiative at a session on local data initiatives and the democratization of data.

National Metropolis Conference, March 19-22, 2009

Philip Kelly, Steven Tufts, and Tony Fang (York University), along with Joan Atlin (TRIEC) presented a session on community collaboration and accessing statistical data on immigrant employment. This session reported on collaborative projects with community groups to access statistical data on immigrant labour market integration through the TIEDI project.

The discussants were Martha Justus (Citizenship and Immigration Canada) and Lori Wilkinson (University of Manitoba, Prairie Metropolis Centre).

Information on the Metropolis conference is available at: <http://www.metropolis2009.net/>

Training opportunities

As part of its mandate, TIEDI is planning to hold a training session on accessing free data. In future, TIEDI also plans to provide training to community organizations on the use of open-access statistical resources, the interpretation of statistical data, and the collection and analysis of internal administrative data.

All about data

Negotiating for data access is an intensive and lengthy process. While general statistics are easily available, accessing the more specific data needed by TIEDI has involved applying for access and negotiating with different agencies.

In late June 2008, TIEDI negotiated to access the public microdata files of the Census, Ethnic Diversity Survey, Labour Force Survey and Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics through the Data Liberation Initiative. Also called the DLI, this initiative allows unlimited access to numerous Statistics Canada public use microdata files, databases and geographic files to the faculty and students of participating post-secondary institutions.

In early September 2008, TIEDI was granted access to datasets distributed through CERIS – The Ontario Metropolis Centre. CERIS datasets are available to affiliated researchers and include the Permanent Resident Data System (formerly known as LIDS), the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) and a selection of customized Census tables.

Research Data Centres are part of an initiative by Statistics Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to provide researchers with access, in a secure setting, to micro-

data from population and household surveys. They are accessible only to researchers with approved projects who have been sworn in under the *Statistics Act* as 'deemed employees.' In November, TIEDI was approved to access the Census, Ethnic Diversity Survey, Labour Force Survey, Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, and Workplace and Employee Survey.

Toronto currently has two Research Data Centres. One is located at the University of Toronto, and the other one opened recently at York University.

The datasets available in Research Data Centres differ from those available through the DLI mentioned above. The datasets available through the DLI are smaller subsets of the datasets available in the Research Data Centres. Research Data Centres provide access to more detailed data, but TIEDI will have to conform to more stringent rules to use the data due to its highly confidential nature.

TIEDI will also rely on data provided through the Gender and Work Database, an interactive statistical research and teaching tool. It includes six modules: on health care, migration, precarious employment, technology, unpaid work and unions. Data tables are accessible for non-commercial research. More information on the Gender and Work Database is available at: <http://www.genderwork.ca>.

Working behind the scenes: meet our student analysts

Much of the work involved in extracting relevant data is carried out by our two part-time student analysts, working under the supervision of Maryse Lemoine.

Mai Phan is a Doctoral candidate at the University of Kent (Canterbury), School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research. Her research topics of interest include inequality, ethnicity, immigration, inter-group relations and social cohesion, with a focus on institutional analysis and social policy. For her doctoral thesis, Mai examines and compares policy learning mechanisms by government policymakers in reforming anti-discrimination legislations in Canada (British Columbia, Ontario) and Britain.

Nina Damsbaek is a Master of Public Policy Candidate 2010 at the University of Toronto. Nina holds a Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management from Carleton University (with a specialization in Social Policy) where she graduated with Highest Honours. Nina specializes in social and economic theory – with particular interests in poverty, women's concerns, Aboriginal affairs and immigration.



Nina and Mai in TIEDI's office