

TORONTO NEIGHBOURHOODS RESEARCH NETWORK

September 25, 2006

Inaugural Meeting, University of Toronto Faculty Club

Andalee Adamali, Council of Agencies Serving South Asians, andalee@cassa.on.ca
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Sharon Kirkpatrick, Department of Nutritional Sciences, UofT
Mat Krepicz, City of Toronto, mkrepicz@toronto.ca
Hugh Lawson, Toronto Community Housing, hugh.lawson@torontohousing.ca
Harvey Low, City of Toronto, hlow@toronto.ca
Richard Maaranen, University of Toronto, richard.maaranen@utoronto.ca
Susan MacDonnell, United Way, smacdonnell@uwgt.org
Robert Murdie, York University, murdie@yorku.ca
Sylvia Novac, Centre for Urban and Community Studies, UofT, sylvia.novac@utoronto.ca
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Alan Walks, University of Toronto, awalks@utm.utoronto.ca
Beth Wilson, Community Social Planning Council, bwilson@cspc.toronto.on.ca

PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Centre for Urban Health Initiatives

www.cuhi.utoronto.ca

Jim Dunn, Sarah Wakefield, Miriam Diamond, Brenda Ross, Alexis Kane Speer, Teri Hason

- health opportunity structures: the effects of neighbourhoods on health behaviours
- Intensive Research on Neighbourhoods and Health Initiative (IRONhI) with St. Michael's, focusing on six neighbourhoods in Toronto
- studies on food security and health; urban agriculture and health; neighbourhoods and health
- Health database: www.TorontoHealthProfiles.ca
- Miriam Diamond is looking at the effects on chemical on health
- recently published "Making Toronto Streets" by Paul Hess and Beth Milroy, available from the website at www.cuhi.utoronto.ca/research/Toronto%20Streets%20Report%20Sept%202006.pdf
- Upcoming talk on healthy neighbourhoods October 4 at University College

Centre for Urban and Community Studies

www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca

Community University Research Alliance

www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/cura/

David Hulchanski, Richard Maaranen, Bob Murdie, Larry Bourne, Sylvia Novac, Philippa Campsie

- Community University Research Alliance: research partnership with St. Christopher House, focusing on west-central Toronto neighbourhoods
 - CUCS will soon become part of U of T's Cities Centre
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City of Toronto, Social Policy and Analysis

www.toronto.ca/demographics

Harvey Low, Mat Krepicz

- tracking FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) Quality of Life indicators, using census data and some qualitative data; for more information, see www.sustainablecommunities.ca/Tools/Assessments_and_Indicators/Quality_of_Life_Reporting_System.asp
- focus on 13 priority areas, including participation in a subgroup on guns and violence; tracking youth indicators, working with the Toronto District School Board and Parks & Recreation, developing annual indicators (see www.toronto.ca/demographics/sntf.htm)
- participating in the CURA project
- StatsCan is developing neighbourhood indicators of its own

St. Christopher House

www.stchrishouse.org/

Rick Eagan

- St. Chris is a multi-service agency in west-central Toronto
- participating in the CURA project with CUCS at the University of Toronto

Toronto District School Board

www.tdsb.on.ca

Rob Brown

- working on secondary achievement indicators, Grade 9 cohort study
 - demographic information for 300,000 studies
 - GIS capabilities
 - Learning Opportunities Index maintained since the early 1960s, formerly the Inner-City Index
 - Dr. Brown also working with researchers at OISE on time structures
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CERIS: Joint Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement

<http://ceris.metropolis.net>

Bob Murdie

- The Metadatabase provides the following information for a large number of databases related to immigration and ethnicity: database type, database format, key database information, geographic coverage, data collection, access policies, contact information. For more information, go to http://ceris.metropolis.net/frameset_e.html and click on Metadatabase.

Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

www.mah.gov.on.ca

Lisa Altieri

- participating in Guns and Gangs task force
- interested in urban affairs and neighbourhoods, citizen engagement
- the Ministry is hoping to increase its research capacity

Community Social Planning Council

www.socialplanningtoronto.org

Beth Wilson

- research on housing and community spaces

Council of Agencies Serving South Asians

www.cassa.on.ca

Andalee Adamali

- part of the Alternative Planning Group with three other agencies together with Hispanic Development Council, Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter, and African Canadian Social Development Council
 - particular research interest in immigrant seniors and their needs
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Department of Nutrition, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

www.utoronto.ca/nutrisci/

Sharon Kirkpatrick

- conducting a study of nutrition within low-income families and single households in Toronto
- co-research is Valerie Tarasuk

Toronto Community Housing

www.torontohousing.ca

Hugh Lawson

- TCHC houses about 164,000 people or 6% of the population of the city
- conducts ongoing evaluations and maintains a database

United Way

www.unitedwaytoronto.com

Susan MacDonnell

- after several years of not conducting research, is preparing a new research agenda for the next few years
- participant in the Toronto City Summit Alliance (see www.torontoalliance.ca)
- interested in growing income gaps and its implications
- also interested in best practices in neighbourhood revitalization, not just indicators of negative trends
- may have access to data from Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC)

Ryerson University, Faculty of Business, Regionomics

www.regionomics.com

Murtaza Haider

- interested in the construction and real estate businesses, focusing on access by low-income households to shelter, with the goal of helping the construction industry meet the needs of this group
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Toronto Neighbourhoods Research Network

Meeting #1, 25 September 2006

Page 6 of 8

- studied the housing needs of the urban poor in Montreal at McGill; Toronto has much less rental housing compared to Montreal
- database on housing sale prices over a 10-year period; cannot share raw data, but can do number-crunching on trends
- database on housing built in Toronto
- currently tracking construction projects in Toronto
- database also maintained by the Centre for Commercial Activity, Usha George (formerly of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto)

Other groups not represented at the meeting that may participate:

- Wellesley Institute (formerly Wellesley Central Health Corporation), <http://wellesleyinstitute.com/>
 - Toronto Public Health, www.toronto.ca/health
 - Access Alliance, Multicultural Community Health Centre, www.accessalliance.ca
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HOW THE NETWORK WILL FUNCTION

Name

- Toronto Neighbourhoods Research Network met with general approval

Contacts (co-chairs)

- James Dunn, Inner City Health Research Unit, St. Michael's Hospital, jim.dunn@utoronto.ca
- David Hulchanski, Centre for Urban and Community Studies, UofT, david.hulchanski@utoronto.ca

How best to share information

- Members of the network need to know who has what data
- Not too much paper
- A webpage can be made available on the CUCS website, including a discussion forum, with help from City of Toronto staff, links to each participating agency or department
- Pool expertise on developing indicators and indexes
- Hardest information to get is that from the federal government

Frequency, timing, format, and location of meetings

- Four times a year, not in summer
 - Monday mornings at 9:30 (until noon) is usually good for most people
 - One hour for updates and admin, 1½ hours for presentations and discussion
 - Location will shift: Faculty Club is available, space also at United Way (spring only), TCHC boardroom (near Rosedale Station), City of Toronto
 - **Meetings set for November 27, 2006; March 5, June 11, and September 24, 2007**
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Toronto Neighbourhoods Research Network

Meeting #1, 25 September 2006

Page 8 of 8

Next meeting: November 27, 2006

Location: UofT Faculty Club, 2nd Floor, 9:30 to noon (coffee 9:15)

Topic: indicators and indexes

Presentations: United Way, City of Toronto, Toronto District School Board, Centre for Urban Health Initiatives, Community University Research Alliance (CURA-UofT)

Special invitee: representative of the Atkinson Foundation

Presenters to send a one- or two-page summary to David Hulchanski in advance

Location: 41 Wilcocks Street (2 blocks north of College St., one building east of Spadina Ave.)
