

The Role of Churches in Immigrant Settlement and Integration SSHRC Partnership Development Grant

Religion and Diversity team members Michael Wilkinson and Sam Reimer were successful co-applicants for a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant valued at \$200,000. Rich Janzen from the Community Based Research Centre, Kitchener, Ontario, will administer the project. The purpose of this two-year grant is to develop a national research partnership that will study the role of church groups across Canada and the programs they operate for immigrant and refugee settlement.

During the first year, a national study will explore various programs church groups operate in support of immigrants. Different partners will lead research activities in five communities across Canada (Vancouver, Toronto, Montréal, Halifax, and Moncton). The second year will see partners working on a series of activities designed to connect partners to each other and to research findings. A unique feature of this research program is its adoption of a “community based” or “participatory action” approach.