

Jarislowsky Chair Newsletter

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Edited by: Kerri Neil

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AS THE STEPHEN JARISLOWSKY CHAIR IN CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, DR. TONY FANG

is dedicated to publishing cutting-edge research on the Canadian and Newfoundland and Labrador economies. Dr. Fang has been especially busy these past few months with projects focused on immigration, an obvious route through which the province can meet, in part, its goal of sustainable population growth.



Theme 1

The Temporary Foreign Worker Program and Employers in Labrador.

We are excited to announce our new study "The Temporary Foreign Worker Program and Employers In Labrador" has been published by the Leslie Harris Centre for Regional Policy and Development as part of their Population Project. Our study aims to illuminate the experiences of employers using the Temporary Foreign Worker Program in the context of Labrador, where the demand for labour has vastly exceeded the supply, leading to a reliance from some businesses on temporary foreign workers. The objective of the project is to develop a more appropriate regional model in light of changing demographics, and provide recommendations to government and key stakeholders on how to implement such a model. Among these findings were:

The TFWP uses a fairly crude instrument for (Labour Market Impact Assessment) LMIA allocations such as unemployment rate. The local unemployment rate is one of the most important indicators that the federal government decisions are based on through the LMIAs of the Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to approve or reject the TFW applications made by the employers. However, unemployment data are problematic for the Labrador region.

TFWs should be provided with sufficient language training and assisted with finding suitable accommodation, which is a serious problem in Labrador. Pathways to permanent residency should be established for all TFWs and not only for highly skilled ones. Given that some respondents pointed to complicated nature of permanent residency application process, the provincial immigration office could prepare information package for employers who would like to help their TFWs apply for permanent residency.

Labrador businesses are likely to need to attract foreign workers in the future. Among advantages of hiring TFWs are their punctuality, good customer service, and required skill sets. As governments, employers and community organizations to provide all necessary support to their success.

Theme 2

Newfoundland and Labrador Government Release “The Way Forward on Immigration”

We were very pleased to attend the launch of the provincial government’s immigration strategy, “The Way Forward on Immigration.” We look forward to working with the provincial government to help meet their targets in attracting and retaining more immigrants to this province. Some of the objectives of the strategy for the next year are:

- Realigning resources to increase capacity for immigration application processing;
- Supporting third parties to deliver settlement services and supports to newcomers;
- Establishing an Interdepartmental Committee on Immigration.



Following the launch, Dr. Fang had an opportunity to meet with Minister Byrne again to further discuss our team’s current research projects and how we may be able to work with the provincial government to help them meet their immigration targets.



Theme 3

Tony Fang Presents on The Socioeconomic Benefits of Immigration

As part of the Speakers Series with Collaborative Applied Research in Economics, Dr. Fang was invited to present on his research analyzing the short-run and long-run effects of immigration on provincial economy on March 22. This presentation also included policy recommendations such as:

- Improving foreign credential assessment processes though maintaining databases of program equivalences by provincial government or establishing central agency for credential assessment;
- Adding an entrepreneur or investor class to immigration categories.



Dr. Fang was pleased to have another opportunity to present this research at the St. John’s Local Immigration Partnership’s Community Forum on March 2.



Theme 4

Petr Kocourek wins David Curran award!

Congratulations to Petr Kocourek for winning the prestigious David Curran award! This award was established by the Harris Centre and Municipalities NL.

Theme 5

Halina Sapeha Attends Queen's-McGill Emerging Scholars Workshop

On April 8-9, Dr. Sapeha attended Queen's-McGill's Emerging Scholars Workshop on Migration, Integration, & Democratic Participation workshop in Kingston, ON. This workshop series is designed to bring junior social science researchers with an interest in migration and democratic citizenship together with senior faculty mentors to discuss current issues in social science research on migration and citizenship, and receive constructive feedback on participants' works-in-progress in order to foster a community of emerging scholars



Theme 6

Opeyemi Jaunty-Aidamenbor presents at MUN Buttoned's PhDs On The Go.

Through a partnership with the Leslie Harris Centre, the School of Graduate Studies and CBC Radio, Opeyemi was one of 10 Memorial PhD students featured in "PhDs On The Go" where she presented her work on the socio-economic effects of preferential immigration among skilled workers. In this study, Opeyemi will explore how the province will benefit from skilled immigration, and what factors must be addressed to enhance



attraction and retention of skilled immigrants. You can hear short synopsis of her PhD research on CBC's On The Go [here](#).

Theme 7

Research Team Presents at 19th National Metropolis Conference.

Our team was pleased to attend the 19th National Metropolis Conference from March 16-18 where Dr. Fang was invited to share background information for our new project, "Syrian Refugee Arrival, Resettlement and Integration in Newfoundland and Labrador." Halina Sapeha participated in the round table on Syrian Refugees Labour Market Integration. The goal of the round table was to identify optimum integration and resettlement processes by city size and centrality and multi-generational. Kerri Neil got an opportunity to learn about cutting-edge research on international students and to network with researchers working in her field.

Theme 8

Drs. David Brake and Tony Fang Team Up to Outreach



Given the international political climate surrounding immigration, our team has become more involved in communicating our research objectives and findings to our surrounding community. To expand our reach, Drs. David Brake and Tony Fang have put together several articles that have been published by local media outlets including:

Welcoming more immigrants to NL. [Independent](#), April 13, 2017.

Canada is growing: Newfoundland and Labrador can too, say immigration researchers. [Gazette](#), Feb. 13, 2017

Letter: Trump's action creates an opportunity for N.L. [Telegram](#), Feb. 4, 2017

Trump's Anti-Immigration Orders Present Opportunities for NL & Canada. [Gazette](#), Jan. 31, 2017

Theme 9

Knowledge Mobilization

Over the past few months, Dr. Fang has had the opportunity to do several media interviews regarding labour market and immigration policies including:

On April 6, Tony Fang was invited to guest host on CBC CrossTalk where the question of the day was “Do you agree with the provincial plan to increase immigration.” This was a lively discussion that included comments from team member David Brake, Association for New Canadian’s Jamie Baker, and Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Gerry Byrne.

On March 14, Gerry Rogers guest hosted CBC CrossTalk with Ramona Dearing asking “Will women in NL ever see pay equity.” Team members Tony Fang and Kerri Neil were invited to call in and discuss their research on the Canadian labour market and factors affecting the gender wage gap.

On Feb. 25, Dr. Fang was invited to speak about the effect of Trump’s economic and social policies on the Chinese economy on the public national broadcast, CGTN, in China as part of his work with the Center for China and Globalization.

On Feb. 14, Tony was interviewed by CBC’s Central Morning on the demographic crisis facing Newfoundland and Labrador and the positive effect of immigration on the provincial economy.

On Feb. 1, Dr. Fang called in to VOXM’s Open Line to discuss his research on how the United States immigration ban presents a golden opportunity for Newfoundland and Labrador given the current demographic situation. Kerri Neil also called in to bust myths about immigrants taking jobs from locals.

Theme 10

Events in the City

MP Seamus O’Regan Presents on “Embracing Change and ‘Thinking Big’ in a Global Economy.”

Our team was pleased to attend the St. John’s Board of Trade luncheon featuring guest speaker Member of Parliament Seamus O’Regan. At the luncheon, Seamus shared his insights on key policy initiatives, such as the Atlantic Growth Strategy, designed to help Newfoundland and Labrador succeed in a global marketplace. From immigration, oil and gas, education, and CETA, Seamus shared his perspective on the opportunities and challenges of globalization ahead.

Human Shield Around St. John’s Mosques

After the horrific Quebec City Mosque Shooting, residents in St. John’s came together on Feb. 2 to make a human shield around mosques in the city on Friday afternoon while local Muslims were congregating within the mosque for prayer. We were very pleased to attend the events and see the high turnout from the St. John’s community and see the many messages of love and support for our Muslim population.



Contact us

Contact information Dr. Tony Fang

Email: tfang@mun.ca

Website: mun.ca/jchair

Twitter: @JChair_NL

Facebook: Stephen Jarislowky Chair NL