

Final Report to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council on Cluster Design Grant:  
**Population Change and Public Policy**

**Leadership Team:** Roderic Beaujot (University of Western Ontario), Monica Boyd (University of Toronto), Robert Bourbeau (Université du Montréal), Céline Le Bourdais (McGill University), Kevin McQuillan (University of Western Ontario), Byron Spencer (McMaster University), Frank Trovato (University of Alberta), Zheng Wu (University of Victoria).  
Coordinator: Zenaida Ravanera (University of Western Ontario),

**Universities with cluster members:**

**Atlantic:** Dalhousie University, St. Mary's University, University of Prince Edward Island.

**Quebec:** Institut national de la recherche scientifique; McGill University, Université du Montréal, Université du Québec à Montréal; Concordia University.

**Ontario:** McMaster University; Nipissing University; Queen's University; University of Toronto; University of Western Ontario; University of Windsor; University of Waterloo; Wilfrid Laurier University; York University.

**Prairies:** University of Alberta; University of Calgary; University of Manitoba; University of Saskatchewan; University of Lethbridge; University of Winnipeg.

**British Columbia:** Simon Fraser University; University of Victoria.

**Partners - Agency and Contact Persons:**

Finance Canada, Marie-France Pacquet

Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Gordon Lenjosek

Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Maxime Fougere

Policy Research Initiative, Terrance Hunsley

Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Elizabeth Ruddick

Office of the Chief Actuary, Jean Claude Menard

Statistics Canada, Michael Wolfson

Health Canada, Mark Wheeler

**Main activities of the cluster:**

Workshop: To establish the cluster, a planning workshop was held in London on 3-4 February 2005 involving 26 researchers from 15 universities and 8 partner agencies at the Federal level. (For details, see <http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/sociology/popchange/Planning%20Workshop.htm>)

Since the London workshop, the cluster has had the following main activities:

1. Entered into an agreement with the Policy Research Initiative on the "The Population, Work and Family Policy Research Collaboration" (PWFC) that brings the cluster into activities and exchanges with two other clusters and federal level agencies. In the PWFC First Symposium in March 2006, the cluster's participation included the attendance of thirty-seven professors, researchers, young scholars, and graduate students who were involved in discussion of the priorities for research of government agencies, and presentation of papers in plenary, panel, and poster sessions. After the Symposium, the cluster held a meeting to discuss the formation of

committees, data needs, and training activities, and had a joint meeting with the Life Course cluster.

(For details, see [http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/sociology/popchange/first\\_symposium.htm](http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/sociology/popchange/first_symposium.htm).)

2. The PRI partnership included participation in PRI - SSHRC Policy Research Roundtable on "Population aging, older workers and the labour market" on 24 May, 2005; a consultation with senior civil servants on "Population, work and family issues and public policy" on 21 September, 2005; and, participation in the Advisory Committee for LifePaths, its first meeting on 16 June 2006, and the training of three members in the use of LifePaths in July.

3. A partnership with Human Resources and Social Development Canada included participation and presentation of papers in SDC-sponsored "Expert Roundtable on Challenges for Canadian Families" in 1-2 December 2005.

The cluster has had active interchange with associated researchers and partners, through e-mail, conference calls, and a web site (<http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/sociology/popchange/>). The cluster also received a grant of \$10,000 from the University of Western Ontario.