



ELECTORAL AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT OF CANADA'S IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Workshop sponsored by the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP)
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Offices of Samara
33 Prince Arthur Avenue, Toronto

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Antoine Bilodeau is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at Concordia University in Montreal. His research interests focus on the political integration of immigrants and the dynamics of public opinion about ethnic diversity and immigration. His research has been published in journals in political science and ethnic studies such as the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, the *International Migration Review*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, the *International Political Science Review*, *Democratization*, the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* and the *Australian Journal of Political Science*. He is a member of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship. Over the last few years he has worked closely with the Quebec Metropolis Centre as leader of citizenship and social, cultural and civic integration.

Karen Bird is an associate professor of political science at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont. She specializes in comparative politics, with a particular focus on gender and ethnic diversity and the political representation of women and ethnic minorities in countries around the world. She teaches courses at the Centre d'Informatisation des Données Socio-Politiques in Grenoble, France; the Academy for Migration Studies in Aalborg, Denmark; and the Unité de Recherches Migrations et Société in Paris. She has also taught political science courses at the Instituts d'Etudes Politiques in Grenoble and Lille. She recently published *The Political Representation of Immigrants and Minorities: Voters, Parties and Parliaments in Liberal Democracies* (co-edited with Thomas Saalfeld and Andreas Wüst; 2011).

Alejandra Bravo is manager, leadership and learning, at the Maytree Foundation. Her volunteer commitments include director positions with the Toronto Board of Health, Art Starts Neighbourhood Cultural Centre and the Canadian Hispanic Congress. She has worked in the public and nonprofit sectors in communications and research.

Stéphanie Casimir has worked with young parents (teenage mothers) at the Maison d'Haïti for almost three years. She also works with Amarrages sans frontières, where for 10 years she has coordinated and facilitated visits to multiethnic communities and activities for the general public to promote a better understanding of the various cultures in Quebec. Previously, she was the coordinator and spokesperson of the Télédiversité 2008 event, where she also worked as a facilitator for two years. She has 20 years' experience in the communications field as a facilitator, news reader, columnist, journalist and researcher with, among others, Télévision ethnique du Québec, Radio-Canada and CPAM radio. She has her own communications firm, where she offers facilitation, lecture, public relations and event organization services.

Wendy Cukier is the vice-president, research and innovation, at Ryerson University in Toronto. Her research has focused on technological innovation and social change. She is the coauthor of *Innovation Nation*. She is founder of the Diversity Institute and principal investigator on several projects including the \$2.7-million initiative Diversity Leads, funded through the Community-University Research Alliances program of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Previously she was associate dean, academic, at the Ted Rogers School of Management. She continues to teach and supervise students in several graduate programs including the MBA, the PhD in politics and public administration, and the joint graduate degree in communications and culture. An active volunteer, she chairs the board of Flybits, a start-up company, and serves on the boards of the Environics Institute and Women's College Hospital. She is a

recipient of the Governor General's Meritorious Cross, one of Canada's highest civilian honours. Wendy Cukier was named one of the University of Toronto's 100 Alumni Who Shaped the Century, and in 2010 she was selected as one of 25 Transformational Canadians by the *Globe and Mail*, *La Presse* and CTV.

Graham Fox was appointed president and CEO of the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP) in April 2011. He brings to the organization a decade of executive-level experience in the fields of politics and public policy. Before coming to the IRPP, he was a strategic policy adviser at the law firm Fraser Milner Casgrain, where he provided public policy analysis and government relations advice in the fields of telecommunications, economic development, international aid, foreign investment, energy and aerospace. Before that he was vice-president of the Public Policy Forum, executive director of the KTA Centre for Collaborative Government and director of communications at the IRPP. In politics, Graham Fox contested the 2007 Ontario general election as a candidate in the constituency of Ottawa-Orléans. He was chief of staff to the Right Honourable Joe Clark and an adviser to members of Parliament in the House of Commons. In 1998, he served as press secretary to Hugh Segal's campaign for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada. A policy entrepreneur, Graham Fox has many research interests including parliamentary reform, democratic renewal and citizen engagement.

Elisabeth Gidengil is Hiram Mills Professor in the Department of Political Science at McGill University in Montreal. Recently elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, she is the founding director of the interuniversity Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship. Her research focuses on citizen engagement, public opinion and electoral behaviour, with particular interests in the intersections of gender, social class and ethnicity. Her books include *Making Electoral Democracy Work*, *The Challenge of Direct Democracy*, *Unsteady State*, *Anatomy of a Liberal Victory*, *Citizens* and *Dominance and Decline*. Together with Heather Bastedo, she is editing a book on Canadian democracy, in collaboration with Samara.

Jane Hilderman oversees Samara's research projects, which often involves working collaboratively with Canadian academics and community partners. In addition to co-authoring Samara's reports, she has done research for Elections Canada, as well as for *Canadian Democracy in the 21st Century* (edited by Elisabeth Gidengil and Heather Bastedo). Before joining Samara, she worked on Parliament Hill and in the US Embassy under the aegis of the Parliamentary Internship Programme. She holds a master's of public policy from the School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Toronto and a bachelor of arts (honours) in political studies from Queen's University. During her graduate studies, Jane served as the elected Don of Hall at Massey College.

Miriam Lapp is assistant director, outreach and research, at Elections Canada. She is responsible for developing and managing outreach programs and research, with a particular focus on electoral participation and youth engagement. Before joining Elections Canada in 2002, she was an assistant professor of political science at the University of Western Ontario in London. She holds a PhD in political science from the Université de Montréal, with a specialization in electoral participation.

Alison Loat is the executive director and co-founder of Samara, a charitable organization that works to improve political and civic engagement in Canada. A past president of the Canadian Club of Toronto, she teaches at the University of Toronto's School of Public Policy and Governance and is a director of the Toronto Community Foundation and the Harvard Kennedy School Alumni Board. Previously, she worked for McKinsey & Company and the Government of Canada and founded Canada25, a public policy organization. She received the Queen's Jubilee Gold and Diamond Medals for her service to Canada.

Eyob Naizghi is the executive director of MOSAIC, an immigrant- and refugee-serving organization in Vancouver. Before this, he served MOSAIC for nine years as director of the Settlement Services Department. He is responsible for achieving strategic, financial and operating objectives, and for ensuring the organization operates in accordance with the policies established by MOSAIC's board of directors. He

has an MA in geography from the University of British Columbia, specializing in rural-urban migration. He has over 30 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, working with immigrants and refugees toward achieving meaningful participation for full integration. He has also worked in the international development sector. Naizghi sits on the Mayor's Working Group on Immigration, on the board of the Immigrant Employment Council of BC and on a number of local and national tables representing immigrants and refugees.

Chima Nkemdirim is chief of staff to the mayor of Calgary, Naheed Nenshi. Before that, Nkemdirim was a partner at Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP in the capital markets practice group. His legal practice focused on helping clients navigate Canada's complex securities regulatory system and assisting them with equity and debt financings and mergers and acquisitions. He is an active member of the community and volunteers his time with a variety of political, philanthropic and cultural organizations. He served on the advisory committee of the Alberta Securities Commission and was an instructor at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Law. He has long been active in municipal, provincial and federal politics. He was a founding member of the renewed Alberta Party and chair of the Better Calgary Campaign (a nonpartisan public advocacy group dedicated to transforming Calgary into a more vibrant, diverse and sustainable community). In 2011, the Government of Alberta recognized Nkemdirim as Queen's Counsel, bestowing on him the QC designation for his contributions to the legal profession and the community.

Ratna Omidvar is president of Maytree, a private foundation that promotes equity and prosperity. Under her leadership, the foundation has gained recognition for its expertise in developing, testing and implementing programs and policy solutions related to immigration, integration and diversity in the workplace, in the boardroom and in public office. She serves on a number of boards, including the Canadian Club of Toronto, the Environics Institute, Connect Legal and the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council, and she is the co-chair of DiverseCity: The Greater Toronto Leadership Project, a joint project of Maytree and the Greater Toronto CivicAction Alliance. In 2006, she was appointed to the Order of Ontario. In 2010, the *Globe and Mail* profiled Omidvar as its Nation Builder of the Decade for Citizenship, and in 2011 she was appointed a member of the Order of Canada.

Anne-Marie Pham works at the City of Calgary, where she leads the implementation of the Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace Framework and Action Plan. In her previous role as racism prevention officer and national coordinator of the Racism Free Workplace Strategy at Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, she provided advice to employers and developed partnerships between government and community groups to support inclusive workplaces across Canada. She was also the executive director of the Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary, facilitating the collective voice of Calgary's visible-minority communities. Pham also enjoys volunteering. From 2008 to 2013, she chaired the Vietnamese Canadian Federation's national Youth Action Committee to develop strategies to support at-risk youth, and to coach youth leaders in five cities to develop mentoring and leadership initiatives. She is the co-founder of the Calgary Vietnamese Youth Association and recently joined the board of directors of the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations. Pham is a recipient of the 2013 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award and the 2005 Alberta Centennial Medal.

F. Leslie Seidle is research director of the Diversity, Immigration and Integration program at the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP). He previously held senior positions in the Government of Canada, including director general of strategic policy and research, intergovernmental affairs, in the Privy Council Office (1996-2002). He was research director (governance) at the IRPP (1992-96) and senior research coordinator for the Royal Commission on Electoral Reform and Party Financing (1990-91). He is the author of *Rethinking the Delivery of Public Services to Citizens* (1995) and numerous articles on immigration issues, electoral and constitutional reform, citizen participation, public management and political finance. He has edited or co-edited 13 books, including *Immigrant Integration in Federal Countries* (2012) and *Belonging? Diversity, Recognition and Shared Citizenship in Canada* (2007).

Myer Siemiatycki is a professor in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at Ryerson University in Toronto, which he served as chair from 1991 to 1996. A member of the Yeates School of Graduate Studies, he was the founding director (2004-08) of the interdisciplinary Immigration and Settlement Studies MA program. In 2012, he was appointed the first Jack Layton Chair. Most of his teaching has been in local government, labour policy and immigration politics. His research interests explore intersections of immigration, urban and labour studies in Toronto. He is a frequent media commentator on political matters. He has received a Distinguished Educator Award, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (1992); a Ryerson Popular Professor Citation, *Maclean's* Guide to Canadian Universities (2003 to 2006); and a Ryerson University Faculty Service Award. He was research domain leader at the Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement (2001 to 2006).

Raj Sihota is the former director of outreach for the British Columbia New Democrat Caucus. She is also a board director and trainer with the Canadian Women Voters Congress. She is an outreach and communications consultant who is currently working with First Nations in Canada and the emerging democracy in postconflict Libya.

Matt Smith is the director of research and engagement at Stratcom Strategic Communications. Working for charities, not-for-profit organizations, unions and progressive political organizations, the department delivers quantitative and qualitative public opinion and member research through polling and focus groups, along with engagement strategies and products including broadcast voicemails, telephone town halls, direct mail and supporter phoning. His MA in geography and urban planning from the University of Toronto investigated whether Vancouver's at-large electoral system impeded visible-minority candidates' electability in municipal elections. He published a CERIS-funded report entitled *Visible Minority Electability in Urban Local Government in Ontario* (with Alan Walks).

Greg Sorbara is currently the advisory board chair of the Sorbara Group. He served in the Ontario Legislature for 21 years as a Liberal MPP. He held a series of senior posts in previous Liberal governments, including minister of finance, minister of colleges and universities, and minister of consumer and commercial relations. He holds a BA from York University's Glendon College and a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School, and was awarded an honorary doctor of laws by York University.

Erin Tolley is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto Mississauga. Her current research looks at the media's coverage of ethnocultural diversity in Canadian politics. More broadly, she is interested in questions related to immigration and multiculturalism, electoral representation and the inclusion of women and minorities in politics. She is the co-editor of *Electing a Diverse Canada: The Representation of Immigrants, Minorities and Women* and *Integration and Inclusion of Newcomers and Minorities across Canada*. Previously she worked in the federal government, most recently at Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Livianna Tossutti is an associate professor of political science at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont. She is the co-author of *Canada's Politics: Democracy, Diversity and Good Government* and the author of "The Electoral Participation of Ethnocultural Communities." She has co-authored reports for Citizenship and Immigration Canada and has published articles on political behaviour, public opinion, political parties and immigration policy in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *Party Politics*, *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, *West European Politics*, *European Foreign Affairs Review*, *Modern Italy* and *Issues and Studies*.