

Harold Crabtree Foundation Award in Public Policy

The University of Western Ontario is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2010-2011 Harold Crabtree Foundation Award in Public Policy. Dr. Victoria Esses, Psychology and Director, Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations and Caroline Bennett-AbuAyyash, PhD Candidate, Psychology and Collaborative Graduate Program in Migration and Ethnic Relations are this year's recipients. Their project is entitled, **Immigration and Integration Policies in Canada**.

The Harold Crabtree Foundation's generous gift is making a difference by helping us promote exploration and innovation through research and inspire a community engagement and a global outlook.

The Research Team

The research team includes Victoria Esses (pictured top right), Professor of Psychology and Director of the Centre for Research in Migration and Ethnic Relations, and Caroline Bennett-AbuAyyash (pictured bottom right), PhD student in Psychology and in Migration and Ethnic Relations, who works under the supervision of Victoria Esses.

Professor Esses' main area of expertise is immigration and integration policies and practices in Canada. Her work seeks to examine factors that reduce the ability of immigrants to contribute to Canadian society, both socially and economically, and strategies for counteracting these effects.

As a team, they conduct research in the area of immigration policy and practice, and examine strategies for promoting the integration of immigrants in Canada. They have collaborated on research in this area, have published and presented their findings internationally, and have co-authored reports for Citizenship and Immigration Canada on foreign credential recognition and on promoting welcoming communities in Canada.

The Project

The allocation from the Harold Crabtree Foundation will be used to fund public presentations regarding immigration, integration, and multiculturalism in Canada in the Fall and Winter terms, culminating in keynote addresses at the conference on Immigration to North America in 2000-2010, to be held by the Centre for Research in Migration and Ethnic Relations in the Spring.

These special lectures will be attended by a broad range of participants and will contribute to the knowledge base and research grounding of graduate students, faculty and members of community organizations who serve immigrants and promote strong policy-relevant research in this area.

The funds will also be used to conduct research to promote the success of immigration and integration policies and practices in Canada. The first set of studies will examine the role of the media in determining public attitudes toward immigrants and immigration in Canada. The second set of studies will focus on strategies for improving the utilization of immigrants' skills in the Canadian labour market. Caroline Bennett-AbuAyyash will also travel to two conferences to present her work in this area.

