



Where is the 'warmth of  
welcome' for immigrants and  
refugees in northern BC?

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## Outline

- Correlation between NETHRN and 'Warmth of Welcome'
  - NETHRN - CIHR overview
  - 'Warmth of welcome' – SSHRC overview
- } Community Development Institute
- How are the two projects related?
  - Discussion



# *NETHRN – Project Overview*

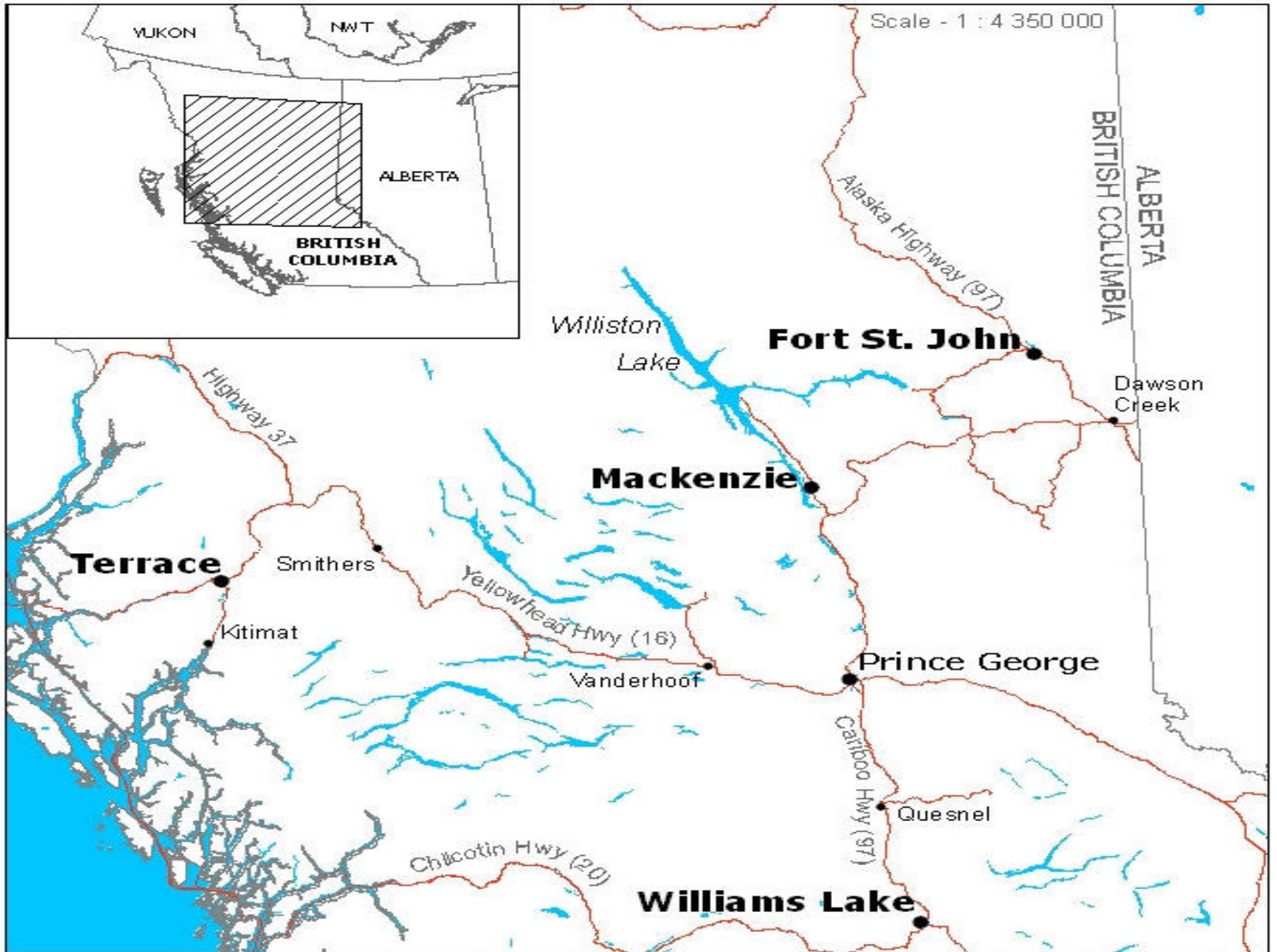
Primary investigators: Neil Hanlon & Greg Halseth



# *NETHRN – Project Overview*

Primary investigators: Neil Hanlon & Greg Halseth

- Restructuring of health care services
- Stress on formal care sector
- Dependence on informal care sector
- Formal and informal care providers for households under stress
  - Lone parent
  - Recently unemployed
  - Permanent disability
  - Chronic illness





# *NETHRN – Project Overview*

Primary investigators: Neil Hanlon & Greg Halseth

- Summer 2005 (Exploratory)
  - Service Provider Interviews (*n*=88)
- Fall 2006 (Exploratory)
  - Service User Interviews
    - Focus Group (*n*=7)
    - Interviews (*n*=32)
  - Service Provider Interviews (*n*=30)
- Summer 2007 (In-depth)
  - Service User Interviews (*n*=29)
  - Service Provider Interviews (*n*=40)



# *NETHRN – Project Overview*

Primary investigators: Neil Hanlon & Greg Halseth

- Key Themes
  - Formal service reduction
    - Insufficient funding
  - Partnerships
    - Cohesion and adaptation
  - Unstable volunteer structure
    - Lack of access, volunteer availability
- ‘Thin on the ground’



# 'Warmth of the Welcome'

Primary investigators: Catherine Nolin & Greg Halseth



# 'Warmth of the Welcome'

Primary investigators: Catherine Nolin & Greg Halseth

- Purpose: Examine the settlement, social and economic integration, and retention of immigrants and refugees in northern BC
- Affiliation with Immigration and Multicultural Service Society (IMSS)
- Regionalization



# 'Warmth of the Welcome'

Primary investigators: Catherine Nolin & Greg Halseth

## Role of IMSS

- UNBC partnership with IMSS
- Only immigrant service in the north
- Daunting challenge to expand services



# 'Warmth of the Welcome'

Primary investigators: Catherine Nolin & Greg Halseth

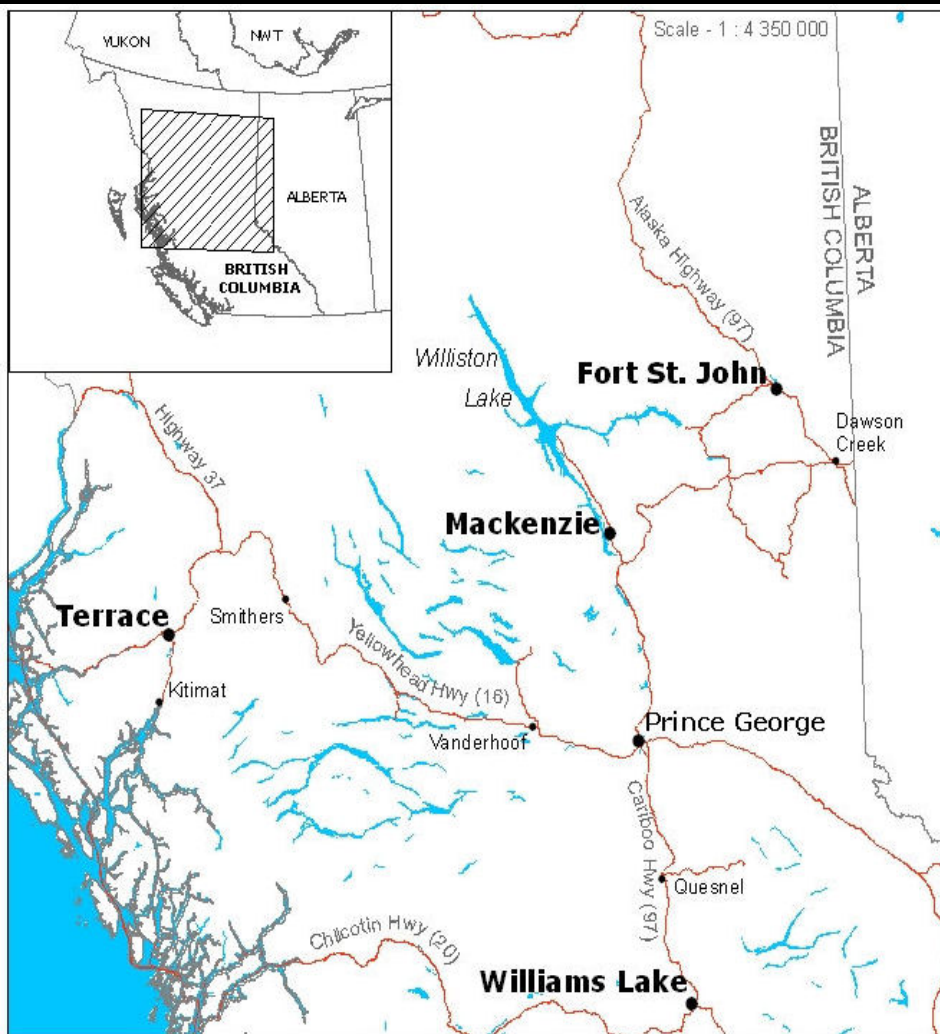
- Multicultural Health Fair – October 20, 2007
- 450 people throughout the northern region
- Workshops
- Different languages available

# 'Warmth of the Welcome'

Primary investigators: Catherine Nolin & Greg Halseth

Summer 2007

- Prince George
- Terrace
- Fort St. John





# 'Warmth of the Welcome'

Primary investigators: Catherine Nolin & Greg Halseth

- Exploratory
  - Community capacity to offer a 'warmth of welcome'
- Roundtable ( $n=3$ )
  - Municipal governments, business community, and policy makers
- Interviews ( $n=25$ )
  - Service provider community



# 'Warmth of the Welcome'

Primary investigators: Catherine Nolin & Greg Halseth

- Canadian government so-called 'regionalization'
- Canadian government – recognizes long-term benefits
- Rural and northern communities have yet to benefit



# 'Warmth of the Welcome'

Primary investigators: Catherine Nolin & Greg Halseth

- Settlement patterns
  - Employment
  - Education
  - Health
- Limited services, spatially concentrated
- Settlement service for the entire north operates in Prince George
- Services for immigrants are really 'thin on the ground'



How are the two projects related?



## How are the two projects related?

- Access to care services is difficult
  - Complex system
- Exacerbated for newcomers due to lack of formal and informal services
  - Language
  - Mobility
  - Lack of immigrant specific services
- Formal and informal partnering



# Discussion



# Discussion

## Key issues

- Access
  - Language, terms
  - Cultural norms and practices
- Settlement Services
  - English as a Second Language (ESL) vs. English for Academic Purposes (EAP)



## Discussion

### Policy Implications

- Research and policy focus on urban
- A new initiative
  - Provincial Nominee Program
- Research needed
  - Ethnographic work – Summer 2008

