



'Services thin on the ground' : Welcome to BC's north

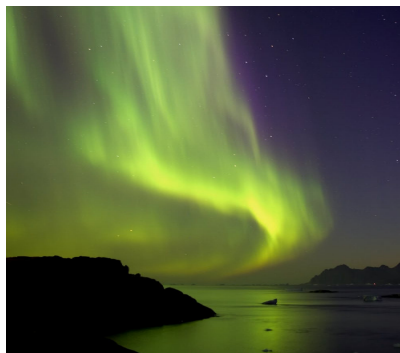
Anisa Zehtab-Martin
Catherine Nolin, Greg Halseth & Neil Hanlon
University of Northern British Columbia

WDCAG - Western Washington University
March 8, 2008
Bellingham, WA



Outline

- Correlation between New Emerging Team for Health in Rural and Northern BC (NETHRN) and 'Warmth of Welcome'
 - NETHRN - CIHR overview
 - 'Warmth of welcome' – SSHRC overview
 - How are the two projects related?
 - Discussion
- Community Development Institute



Primary investigators: Neil Hanlon & Greg Halseth

NETHRN – Project Overview

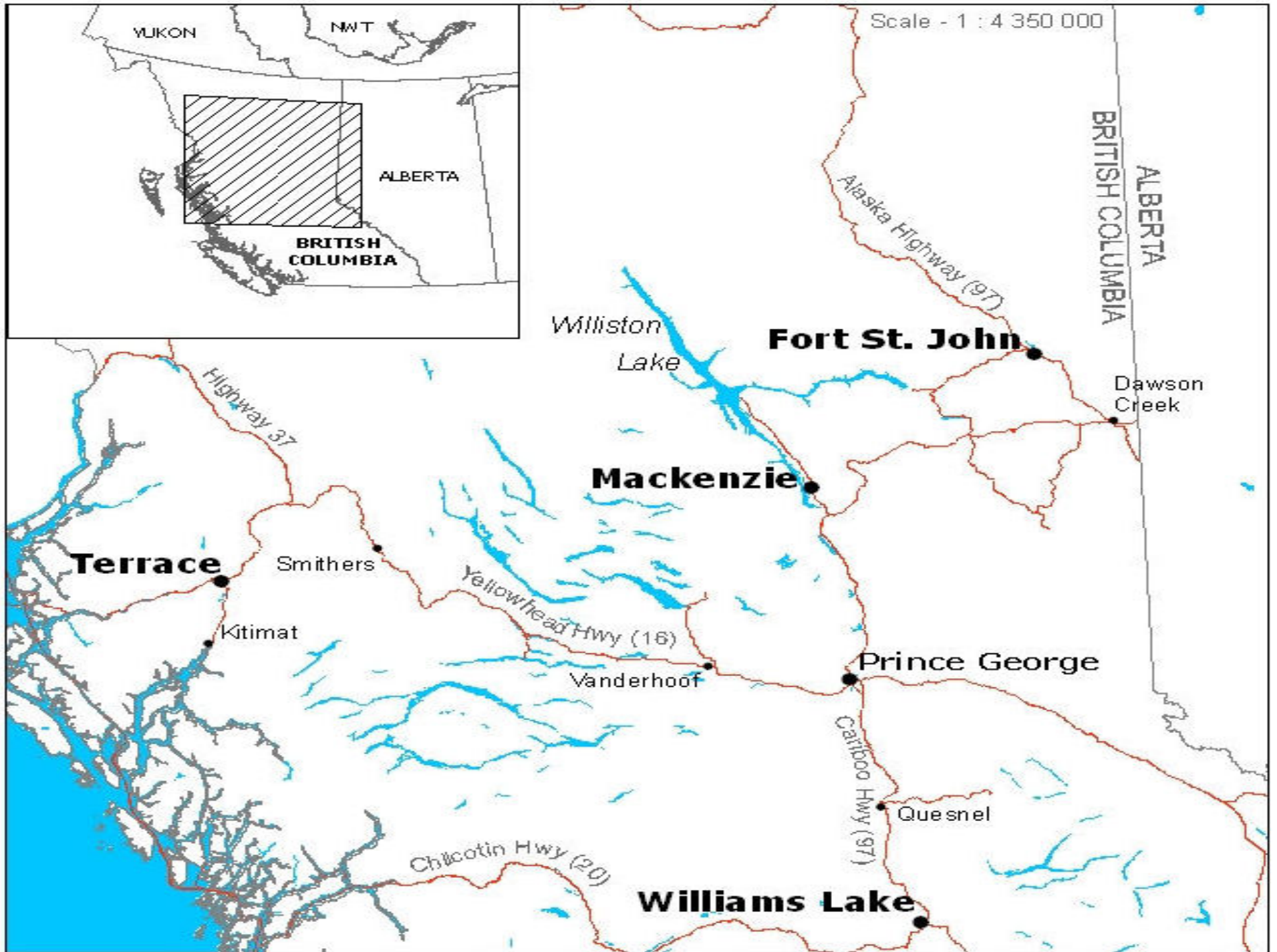
- Community of academics, policy makers, and graduate students
- UNBC component: shifting roles and relationships between formal & informal sectors

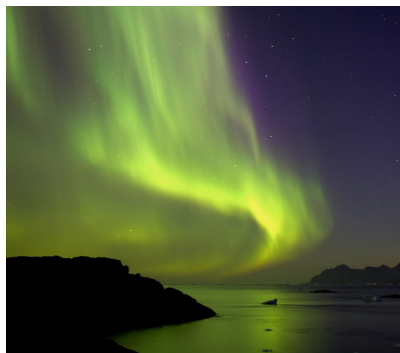


NETHRN – Project Overview

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

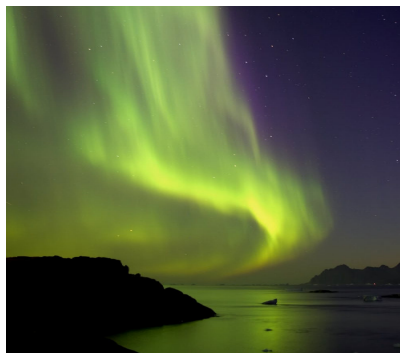
- Key Themes
 - Formal service reduction
 - Insufficient funding
 - Partnerships
 - Cohesion and adaptation
 - Unstable volunteer structure
 - Lack of access, volunteer availability
- ‘Thin on the ground’



Primary investigators: Catherine Nolin & Greg Halseth

‘Warmth of Welcome’

- Immigrants moving to rural and northern communities
- Settle, integrate, and access services



'Warmth of 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 Immigrant and Multicultural Service Society (IMSS)
- Regionalization

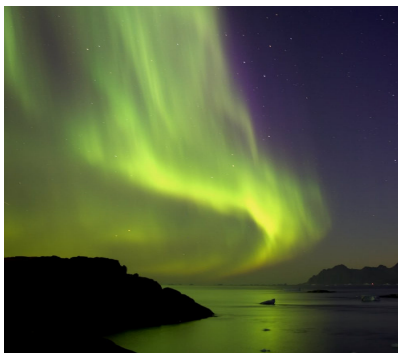


'Warmth of Welcome'

Primary investigators: Catherine Nolin & Greg Halseth

Role of IMSS

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

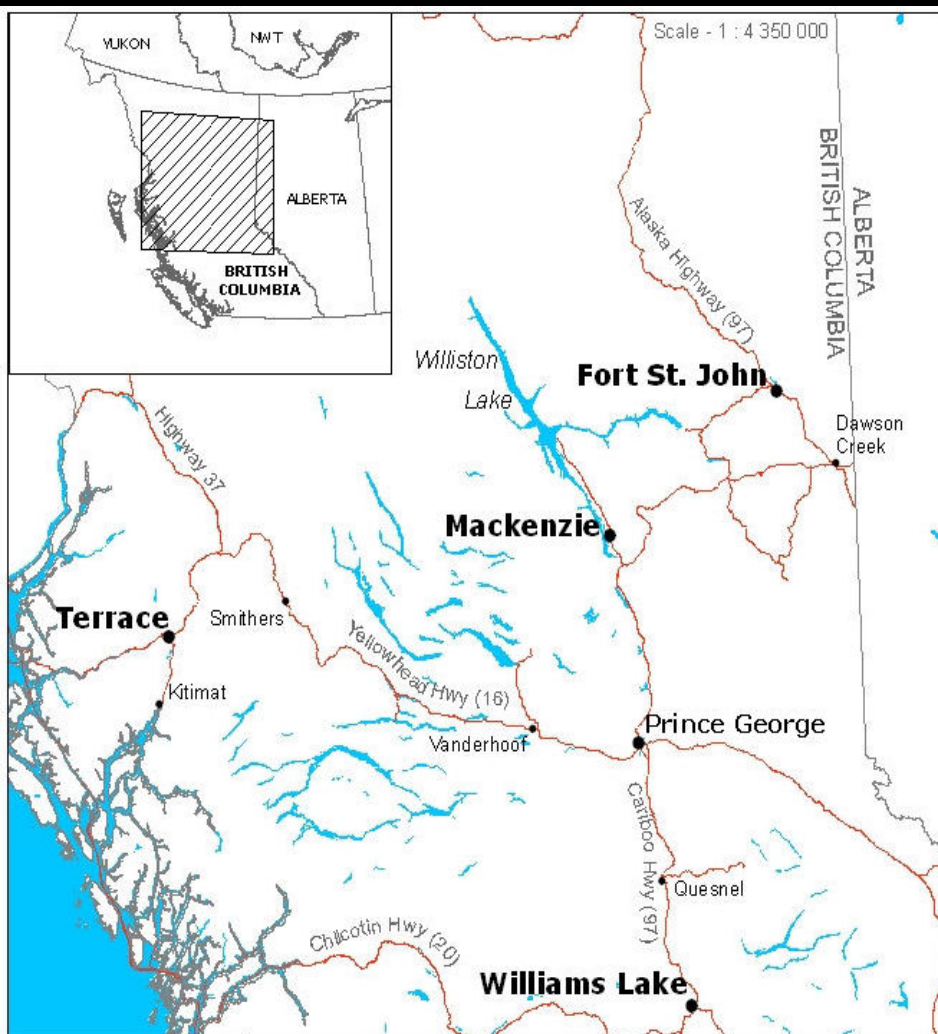


'Warmth of Welcome'

Primary investigators: Catherine Nolin & Greg Halseth

Summer 2007

- Prince George
- Terrace
- Fort St. John





'Warmth of 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 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 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

- Joint research agenda with IMSS
- First endeavor of its kind in northern BC
- Long-term community – university research collaboration



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 immigration
- A new initiative
 - Provincial Nominee Program
- Research needed
 - Ethnographic work – Summer 2008



Photo by: Katie McCallum



Photo by: Katie McCallum



Photo by: Katie McCallum



Photo by: Anisa Zehtab-Martin