

aboriginal policy studies



Editor's Introduction *aboriginal policy studies*

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Editor's Introduction

Dr. Chris Andersen

We would like to welcome our readers to volume 8, issue 1 of *aboriginal policy studies*. This issue contains four articles, an extended commentary and a foundational document. The contributions to this issue continue to follow the journal's scope, which is to publish "original, scholarly, and policy-relevant research on issues relevant to Métis, non-status Indians and urban Aboriginal peoples in Canada." As we have emphasized in previous introductions—and as we will continue to emphasize—*aps* welcomes relevant submissions from all geographical and political regions of Canada. We still do not receive an adequate number of submissions on issues pertaining to Métis policy, nor do we receive an adequate number of submissions on urban Aboriginal issues in central and eastern Canada. We would also like to make a special shout out of encouragement to submissions that touch on subject matter of importance to Indigenous women and youth and the urban LBGTQ2+ community.

The first article, written by H el ene Pellerin, critically explores the migration literature with an eye for uncovering the ongoing "entanglements" among Indigenous-settler-immigrant communities that have resulted in the marginalization and ongoing invisibility of Indigenous communities in Canada. More specifically, she analyzes administrative policies and programmes geared toward immigrants to demonstrate to the extent to which Indigenous peoples continue to remain marginalized and invisibilized, particularly as it relates to their relationship with Canada's wage economy. This article encourages researchers to think about the connection between Canada's past and present colonial projects, particularly in the context of the relationship between Indigenous and immigrant communities, and the ways in which Canadian administrative policies and practices have considered them.

In the second article, Leon Myles Ferguson undertakes a quantitative analysis of 165 M etis post-secondary students to explore the role of perceptions of employer prejudice in their likelihood of applying for jobs. More specifically, Ferguson undertakes ANOVA analysis to examine a number of key analytical relationships and, in doing so, finds that students with a stronger sense of M etis identity possess higher levels of optimism about being hired than do those with a weaker sense of identity—but that in both cases, students express lower levels of motivation to carry out tasks associated with the employment. Ferguson's research holds important implications for future research aimed at moving beyond historical/structural factors (previous trauma, socioeconomic factors, etc.) to think more complexly about contemporary attitudinal factors as well in the context of migration and immigration.

In this issue's third article, Jungwee Park analyzes data from the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey to examine the population characteristics of respondents from the APS who received income assistance (IA). In the specific context of characteristics relating to sociodemographic, employment and health indicators, Park demonstrates that, in comparison to respondents not receiving income assistance, IA recipients are more likely to have never been married; to possess lower levels of education; and to live in lone-parent

households. Likewise, IA recipients report more precarious employment (temporary or part-time labour) and poorer mental and physical health. Park's analysis encourages researchers and policymakers to consider the complexity of factors associated with income assistance for Indigenous well-being.

In the fourth and final article, Isabel Scheuneman Scott explores the important (and understudied) issue of Indigenous women's experiences of motherhood and its associated caretaking related to the carceral system: mothering from (i.e., child visitations); mothering in (i.e., mother-child programs); and mothering after (i.e. parole) prison. Undertaking analysis from what is essentially a harm-reduction standpoint, Scheuneman Scott explores the patriarchal-colonial roots of Canada's current rates of Indigenous women's incarceration and Indigenous women's experiences while incarcerated. She then concludes with a number of policy-oriented suggestions to assist incarcerated Indigenous women in maintaining relationship bonds with their children.

In addition to our four articles, this issue includes an extended commentary and a foundational document linked to the growing phenomenon of newly identifying "Métis" organizations in parts of Canada with no historical presence of Métis peoplehood. Darryl Leroux begins with an extended discussion and peoplehood-based critique of two recent academic volumes that explore this phenomenon. Leroux's critique is important not simply for his analysis of this work, but for his concluding discussion about how these discourses are attempting to gain a foothold in Canada's courts and in university contexts as well. Finally—and relatedly—this issue includes a copy of the recently concluded Memorandum of Understanding between the Métis Nation (as represented by the Métis National Council) and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia (as represented by the Thirteen Mi'kmaq Saqmaq). This MOU recognizes their mutual nationhood and associated traditional and current territories; includes an agreement to "work collaboratively on the issue of individuals misrepresenting themselves as Métis in Nova Scotia"; and seeks to create a cultural awareness initiative to educate the Canadian public about what Métis nation and Mi'kmaq issues encompass.