Informing Minority Communities
[Abstract only]

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Abstract

October 2001, The McGill Consortium for Ethnicity and Strategic Social Planning issued a report on the Black Community of Montreal, “Evolution of the Black Community of Montreal: challenge and change.” While the Report is very informative about the position of Blacks in Quebec and Canada, it does not specify the indicators of change, the measurement and rate of change. However, the Report’s primarily cross sectional data paints a convincing picture of the challenges Blacks in Quebec face, and their disturbing under-representation in the economic, political, and decision making spheres of the society. A paper present at ISRI Conference, Barcelona, July 2008, shows that over the years opportunities presented for the survival and well-being of these groups were minimal and bleak. Yet they have managed to survive and shown some progress and growth over the last forty years. In the face of these challenges, what has sustained these minority communities and more importantly, in what areas, if any, have they moved to higher levels on the fitness landscape index? Both Bayne and Torczyner have indicated that there has been growth in some areas, but are deeply concerned about the sustainability of any observed development that has taken place. In our endeavour to understand minority immigrant entrepreneurship, we pose the following question: do certain immigrant or minority groups have the kinds of structures and capacity for producing sufficient ingenuity that will enable them to create search procedures that will move them to higher levels of existence and/or better lifestyles?

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