



Identifying Local Priorities: Newcomer Settlement and Integration

The Project:

The Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership (RRLIP) is a **community initiative** designed to improve the **integration of newcomers**, guided by the vision of Regina as a welcoming , inclusive community where immigrants fully benefit from and contribute to the social, cultural and economic fabric of the city.

History:

- In collaboration with the Regina Regional Intersectoral Committee (RRIC), Regina Open Door Society (RODS) obtained CIC funding in April, 2014.
- The Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership Project was formed and staffed by September, 2014.

Objectives:

- Examine current newcomer resources and services to identify the community's assets, gaps and opportunities
- Identify local priorities for successful newcomer settlement and integration
- Develop a 'Made in Regina' strategy and action plan, with key community stakeholders, to address the local priorities

Goals:

To engage with key community stakeholders, in a multi-sector approach, to implement the “Made in Regina’ Strategy that will...

- ✓ Improve access, coordination and linkages to resources and services that facilitate newcomer settlement and integration
- ✓ Enhance awareness of newcomer needs and strengths
- ✓ Strengthen local collaboration and capacity to foster a more welcoming, inclusive Regina

Initial Activities:

- High level community scan (asset mapping)
- Community forum consultations

Engagement Strategy:

- 11 Informant Interviews - February to April 2015
- Literature Review - February to July 2015
- 13 Community Forums, 748 participants (675 newcomers) - April to July 2015
- On-line Survey - April to July 2015

Asset Mapping & Community Forums:

Provided Opportunity for.....

- Immediate engagement with community
- Initial identification of local priorities for successful newcomer settlement and integration
- Informed membership to a broad-based Partnership Council

The Process:

The RRLIP adapted information from the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) commissioned report, *Characteristics of a Welcoming Community*, to organize the information for both the asset mapping and community consultation process.

17 Welcoming Community Characteristics

Findings:

Community Forums: (748 participants)	On-line Surveys: (20 participants)	Asset Mapping (11 informant interviews, literature review) Many local strengths and assets were noted. However, some gaps were identified, including:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education (11.7%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Needs (Food Security, Housing, Child Care) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing (affordability), walking access to food stores, long waiting lists for child care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing (11.5%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education - mainly centering around language acquisition and advanced language skills for employment and availability/supports to access educational opportunities (such as childcare, adequate transportation).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare (10.7%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare - lack of language translators, access to health services and family physicians, and growing mental health issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment (10.4%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment - job fit, language barriers, lack of soft skills, childcare supports to enable full time employment, workplace understanding of cultures, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Security (7.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Attitudes towards Diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful long-term connections and friendships with Canadian born citizens
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Transportation (5.4%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable, culturally sensitive recreation opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcomer Services (5.2%) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative media fostering false perceptions

Other notable findings...

Forum participants also noted the importance of:

Social Belonging

- Community groups
- Welcoming schools
 - Neighborhoods
 - Church groups

Next Steps:

- **Establish** an initial Partnership Council and **conduct** the first Council meeting (November 2015).

The RRLIP Project will be directed by a **broad-based** Partnership Council, representing many sectors in the city.

Next Steps:

- **Conduct** additional research and consultation – ensuring priorities to successful newcomer settlement and integration are well defined for Regina (2016).
- **Develop** a local strategy and action plan – aligned with the locally identified priorities (2016).
- **Implement** the action plan – with specific, measureable, achievable, realistic and timely tasks (beginning later in 2016).

On-Going Community Engagement:

Future engagement opportunities will include...

- Focus Group involvement—to further delve into the local priorities to successful newcomer settlement and integration
- Working Group opportunities
- Immigrant Advisory Table membership
- Community Table membership



Thank you to our project partners



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