

**OTTAWA LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP  
AND  
ONTARIO WELCOMING COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE**

**Mutual Gains, Linkages,  
And Collaborations**

**By Hindia Mohamoud and Caroline Andrew**

**OWCI Meeting  
November 27, 2009**

# Content

- Mutual Gains and Opportunities
- Joint Research
- Formal Relationship
- Informal Connections

# Mutual Gains and Opportunities

- **OLIP gets**

- Access to sources of research and information
- Access to expertise in developing research and planning tools
- Strengthened legitimacy in articulation of ‘what is’, ‘what is needed’ and ‘what is missing’
- Support and advice in Strategy development processes
- New opportunities for policy learnings for civil society actors

- **OWCI gets**

- Access to new understandings on community knowledge, actors, organized dynamics and history
- New opportunities to have input in community vision and planning
- Strengthened legitimacy in articulation of research questions and policy recommendations
- Support and advice in research design and implementation

# Joint Research

- **Can we link the base-line projects with the OLIP research activities?**
- **Same general goals: understanding**
  - The immigrants – a constant change in the profile of immigrants (both in terms of categories of arrival and in source countries)
  - The breadth, depth, and role of settlement investments
  - Extent of access to social services available to immigrants (employment, health, education)
  - Extent of linkages between settlement and social services
  - Roles, mandates, structures, and approaches of different agencies involved in immigrant services
  - Policy levers and frameworks, and funding frameworks
- **Now exploring ways to leverage each others research resources and processes**
  - Need to pay attention to the tight timelines set for the OLIP process
  - Tensions/pressure coming from desire to ensure sustainability

# Formal Connections

- Cross representation
  - OWCI in OLIP's main governance bodies (Steering Committee and Council)
  - OWCI and OLIP collaboration in organizing the OLIP Reference Group
  - OLIP on OWCI Local Committee
  - OWCI Local Committee also includes other OLIP partners (LASI, City, Colleges)

# Informal Relationships

- even more important than the formal relations
  - the formal relations ensure the circulation of information
  - the informal relations enable effective coordination and joint work
  - the informal relations can work rapidly and flexibly - through a variety of networks with different players for different issues
  - the informal relations build on trust and develop trust