

# Welcoming Communities Initiative



WELCOMING  
COMMUNITIES  
INITIATIVE



INITIATIVE DES  
COMMUNAUTÉS  
ACCUEILLANTES

# Major Project Goals

- 1) Strengthen municipal capacity to attract and benefit from diversity, particularly in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier Ontario cities
- 2) Strengthen the capacity of the voluntary sector to contribute to equitable and inclusive communities
- 3) Maximize the economic benefits of diversity, particularly for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier Ontario cities
- 4) Contribute to policy and program development by federal and provincial ministries

- 5) Understand barriers to social cohesion, and test and implement strategies for creating and sustaining communities in which all members feel comfortable and valued
- 6) Share findings and recommendations widely
- 7) Train highly skilled personnel: training opportunities for students, postdoctoral fellows, community personnel, faculty

# Key Players

- Researchers at 17 Ontario Universities
- Universal Service Providers
- Immigrant-Serving and Ethnocultural Agencies and Associations
- School Boards
- Municipal and Regional Government Departments
- Association of Municipalities
- Business and Employment Associations and Networks
- National Associations
- National Research Organizations
- Provincial Government Departments
- Federal Government Departments

# Initial Projects

- City Profiles, and Inventories and Audits of Local Resources, Services, and Structures
- Characteristics of a Welcoming Community: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Integration Branch
- Making Ontario Home - Newcomer Settlement Services Needs and Use: OCASI and MCI

# **Projects Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Ontario Region**

- WCI Action-Research on Local Immigration Partnership Councils (LIPs)
- Opinion Leader Interviews: Views on Cultural Diversity and Immigration
- Antiracism and Antidiscrimination Observatory
- Policing Newcomers: Policy, Training and Practice
- Perceptions of Discrimination in Health Services Experienced by Immigrant Minorities in Ontario
- Barriers to Health Service Utilization by Immigrant Families Raising a Disabled Child

# Working with the LIPS

- Partnering on development of City Profiles, and Inventories and Audits of Local Resources
- Research support for LIP Councils
- Working together toward mutual goals