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# PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

Promoting Welcoming Communities in Canada

**bulletin**



*Happy New Year!*

From the Pathways to Prosperity Team



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## Call for Nominations

### Developing an Evidence Base and Sharing Settlement and Integration Practices that Work (DEB)

Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) is pleased to announce a new Call for Nominations for the project Developing an Evidence Base and Sharing Settlement and Integration Practices that Work (DEB).

#### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Pathways to Prosperity has been contracted by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to share innovative promising practices in immigrant settlement and integration with an empirical basis for their effectiveness. To date we have produced 25 videos and briefs for this purpose, and over the next five years we will be producing an additional 40 videos and accompanying briefs on promising practices, targeting a range of service areas, providers, and client groups.

#### **HOW TO NOMINATE A PROMISING PRACTICE**

A new Call for Nominations is now open and you are invited to participate in this research project through nomination of one or more promising practices.

Promising practices are innovative practices that have an objective basis for claiming effectiveness in achieving their stated aims and that have the potential for replication. Thus, promising practices are defined in terms of their innovation and effectiveness, which can be empirically measured as successful outcomes of the practice. Our approach focuses not only on identifying truly promising practices, but on analyzing and sharing key features that can be replicated. Of course, promising practices may have faced challenges in their initial implementation, and these challenges are also considered and analyzed so that others can learn from these experiences.

P2P is seeking nominations of promising practices from a variety of stakeholders involved in the settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees across Canada. Practices do not have to be IRCC funded and can be self-nominated. Practices must be able to demonstrate their effectiveness through an external evaluation or within-organization measurement of outcomes that can be shared (e.g., website URL; you would be able to send it). Because the areas of practice we are profiling in this round are focused on responses to the pandemic and the changes it has required, preliminary evidence of effectiveness will be accepted in this round.

**Promising practices in this round should focus on one (or more) of the following areas:**

**Providing Settlement Services Online**

Most agencies had a week or less to suddenly shift their entire organization to a remote and digital service delivery model as a result of the pandemic. There have been challenges and successes. You may have been more, or less, ready to make this move. What were you doing with technology before the pandemic that made this shift fairly easy? If you were caught less prepared, but feel you have been successful in the shift online, what does your service delivery model look like now, and how will you maintain what you have learned post-pandemic in a hybrid or blended service delivery model?

**Providing Information to Newcomers During the Pandemic**

Settlement agencies, LIPs and RIFs, and other organizations working with immigrants are often system navigators and points of reference for newcomers and local communities. During the pandemic and the shift to remote/digital work, what role did you play in helping newcomers to understand the supports available to them from the government and understand how they could access supports from agencies? In addition, what role did you play in providing useful, authoritative, up-to-date, and relevant information about COVID itself, and how to deal with the pandemic?

**Collaboration Among Service Providers During the Pandemic**

How did you step up your collaboration with other agencies in your community to ensure that client and community needs were met? What role did technology play in helping you to do that?

**Pandemic Supports Provided by LIPs and RIFs**

LIPs and RIFs are by design community convening and research bodies. While agencies were busily and hastily trying to figure out the shift to remote/digital service delivery, what role did you play in helping them do that? What role were you able to play to identify the technical literacy and digital equity challenges and opportunities among newcomer communities in your city or region?

## Addressing Digital Equity

Throughout the pandemic the sector has become more aware of and is working to address digital equity/inclusion and the digital divide in our communities. It is clear that digital equity intersects with other systemic equity issues, such as racism, poverty, discrimination, etc. How have you been working to address this challenge in your work with newcomers and communities you serve? What projects or solutions have you come up? Where have you been innovative and inclusive?

Nominations will be reviewed by the Consultation Committee (constituting a team of settlement and research representatives across the country) in late January 2021. A set of promising practices from this Call for Nominations will then be selected and featured on the Pathways to Prosperity website through videos and accompanying briefs ([click here for examples](#)).

Note that videos will be shot online in January - March 2021. Videos will feature several individuals who developed and use the practice discussing the essential ingredients that would need to be replicated in order to transfer the successful practice to other locations and to related areas of practice.

A nomination of a promising practice will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. Feel free to nominate as many promising practices within the areas listed above as you would like. Participation is completely voluntary. You may refuse to participate, refuse to answer any questions or withdraw at any time with no effect on your relationship with P2P, AMSSA, or any of the settlement umbrellas who may be sending out this call. No compensation is provided for submission of a nomination, though the individuals who participate in the video and brief production at a later stage will receive compensation for their time.

### Submit one or more nominations here:

[https://uwopsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3E4J6EuGBp8zK2V](https://uwopsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3E4J6EuGBp8zK2V)

(A copy of the nomination form [is available here](#) for your information, but please submit your responses through the online link above.)

By submitting a nomination, you are consenting to participate in the initial nomination stage of the research process and to have the description of your submitted promising practice considered for possible follow-up for video and brief production. This description will be viewed by the members of the Consultation Committee for this purpose. Any information presented or published about the initial submissions will appear in aggregate form only in combination with other submissions. If your practice is selected for follow-up, separate consent will be obtained for the video and brief production, and you will not be obligated to participate in that separate phase unless you choose to do so.

Information collected in this initial nomination phase will have identifying information of your organization (organization name, phone number, website) so that we can potentially obtain further information about the practice. In addition, we will obtain your contact information in a separate link not directly attached to your responses so that P2P can potentially follow-up with you for more details, and can contact you at a later time to invite your participation in video and brief production.

Your responses will be collected through a secure online survey platform called Qualtrics. Qualtrics uses encryption technology and restricted access authorizations to protect all data collected. In addition, Western's Qualtrics server is in Ireland, where privacy standards are maintained under the European Union safe harbour framework. The data will then be exported from Qualtrics and securely stored on Western University's server. Representatives of The University of Western Ontario Non-Medical Research Ethics Board may require access to study related records in order to monitor conduct of research. You do not waive any legal right by consenting to this study.

There are no foreseeable risks of this research and you may not benefit directly from your participation, though the results are expected to benefit the settlement sector as a whole through the sharing of promising practices and the key components that make them work.

### **DEADLINE**

**The Call for Nominations will be open from January 4 – 22, 2021.**

### **QUESTIONS**

Should you have any questions about the project or call for nominations, please contact Alina Sutter at [asutter2@uwo.ca](mailto:asutter2@uwo.ca).

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or the conduct of this study, you may contact The Office of Human Research Ethics at Western University, (519) 661-3036, 1-844-720-9816, email: [ethics@uwo.ca](mailto:ethics@uwo.ca). This office oversees the ethical conduct of research studies and is not part of the study team. Everything that you discuss will be kept confidential.

We look forward to receiving your nominations.

## **Pathways to Prosperity 2021 Virtual Workshop Series**

Due to the large number of high-quality workshops submitted for presentation at the P2P 2020 National Conference, we will be launching the new Pathways to Prosperity Virtual Workshop Series commencing in mid-January 2021. The series will include up to two virtual workshops a week over the course of several months on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:00 – 2:15 PM EST. The workshops will take place on the same conference platform as was used for the P2P 2020 National Conference, with poster presentations, exhibitors, and networking functions still available, as well as videos from all plenaries and workshops. Full details of the workshop series will be released in early January 2021.

The series is being offered at no cost to conference registrants and for a small fee to those who did not register for the Pathways to Prosperity 2020 National Conference. Registration for those who did not participate in the P2P 2020 National Conference but would like to attend the workshops [is available here](#).

Schedule for the workshop series [will be posted here](#).

## The Pathways to Prosperity 2020 National Conference a Success

On November 23-25, Pathways to Prosperity held its eighth annual, and first virtual, conference – *The Future of Immigration and (Re)Settlement in Canada*. More than 1300 service providers, LIPs and RIFs, government representatives, researchers, and other stakeholders from across the country were in attendance. The feedback received on the conference indicates that by all counts it was a great success, with comments such as:

- ◆ Thank you for putting together such a great conference, it was the highlight of my fall semester. It was wonderful to be able to engage in meaningful exchange with the P2P community, learn from so many colleagues and friends from across the country, and gain useful insights - especially in relation to the impacts of COVID-19...
- ◆ The P2P Conference was AMAZING. Every session was so relevant, inspiring, on trend and timely given our current and rapidly changing landscape...
- ◆ My experience has been positive with the P2P conferences over the past years. P2P organizers have been the eyes and ears of all that impacts immigration. They are the experts and I congratulate them.
- ◆ I think this year's conference will go down in history as the most unique, creative, and logistically challenging (especially from an IT standpoint). Congratulations for pulling it off, P2P Team.

The first day kicked off with opening remarks and a land acknowledgement by Patrick Hunter, a 2-Spirit Ojibway Artist and Graphic Designer, and an opening address by the Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. The theme for this first day was *Immigration and (Re)Settlement in the Time of a Pandemic*. It included two plenary sessions – *The Royal Society of Canada Report on COVID-19 and Immigration: Vulnerabilities Revealed and Recommendations for the Future* and *The Impact of COVID-19 on Marginalized Communities* – as well as nine concurrent workshops and two open discussions on research and strategies required for a post-COVID-19 world. The first day ended with live music and spoken word poetry.

The second day of the conference focused on the theme of *Toward a Racism and Discrimination Free Canada* and was kicked off by Fraser Valentine, Assistant Deputy Minister of Settlement and Integration, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. This was followed by a very engaging and thought-provoking special keynote address by Dr. Christopher Stuart Taylor on *Confronting Racism Toward Immigrants to Canada: Links to the Past and Future Prospects*. This day also included a plenary on *An Intersectional Approach to Understanding and Reducing Discrimination Toward Immigrants* and nine concurrent workshops. At the end of the second day, the poster award winners were announced from among more than 30 poster presentations:

- ◆ First Prize: Charlotte Carrie and Jason Brown, University of Western Ontario, and Rajaa Al-Abed and Mohamed Al-Adeimi, South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre, for their poster: Barriers and facilitators to accessing mental health services for migrant youth – Perspective of service providers
- ◆ Second Prize: Xiaohao Wu, Luisa Veronis, and Rachel Walker, University of Ottawa, for their poster: English-speaking and French-speaking international students' agency and experiences at a bilingual university
- ◆ Third Prize: Idil Ali and Elena Neiterman, University of Waterloo, for their poster: The experience of immigrant informal caregivers navigating healthcare and social services for their child with a developmental disability

On November 25, Pathways to Prosperity held a full-day conference for Local Immigration Partnerships and Réseaux en immigration francophone, focusing on upcoming priorities set by these collaborative enterprises. Entitled *The Evolution of Local Immigration Partnerships and Réseaux en immigration francophone in Effecting Change*, the day included two plenary sessions: *LIPs and RIFs Combating Racism and Discrimination: What is Our Role and What are Our Boundaries?* and *The Evolving Role of LIPs and RIFs in Responding to Crises and New Challenges*, as well as six breakout sessions.

We would like to thank all presenters and chairs who worked so hard to ensure that the conference was a success. We also thank all of the sponsors for their support:

- ◆ [Calgary Catholic Immigration Society](#),
- ◆ [Immigrant Services Calgary](#),
- ◆ [The Royal Society of Canada](#),
- ◆ [Windmill Mircolending](#), and
- ◆ [YMCA of Greater Toronto – Immigrant Services](#).

Additionally, this conference would not have been possible without the generous support of our main funder – Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada.

**Recordings from all plenary sessions and workshops are available on the virtual conference platform, which remains open to all registered attendees using your personal password.** We also encourage you to visit the posters and the exhibitors at your leisure. Exhibitors include:

- ◆ AMSSA
- ◆ Bikes & Belonging: Cycling programs at CultureLink Settlement & Community Services
- ◆ Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS)
- ◆ Community Health Workers Network of Canada
- ◆ Compass to Connect
- ◆ Immigrant and Refugee Mental Health Project
- ◆ Immigrant Services Calgary
- ◆ International Student Connect (ISC) - COSTI Immigrant Services
- ◆ Intercultural Skills Lab - University of Toronto - Rotman School of Management
- ◆ Language Assessment and Referral Centre (CLARS) - YMCA Greater Toronto
- ◆ MA in Research for Policy and Evaluation at Western University
- ◆ N4 – National Newcomer Navigation Network
- ◆ National GAR Case Management – Client Support Services - YMCA of Greater Toronto
- ◆ New Canadians
- ◆ Newcomer Information Centre - YMCA of Greater Toronto
- ◆ Newcomer Youth Leadership Development Program - YMCA of Greater Toronto
- ◆ Next Stop Canada - YMCA of Greater Toronto
- ◆ OCASI's Accessibility Initiative
- ◆ Orientation to Ontario (O2O) - COSTI Immigrant Services
- ◆ Refugee 613
- ◆ SettleNet.org
- ◆ Skills for Change

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