

Local Immigration Partnerships: Systems Planning to Help People

- **Victoria Esses:** Background on the Local Immigration Partnership Program
- **Elisabeth White:** London and Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership
- **Laureen Rennie:** Peel Newcomer Strategy Group
- **Victoria Esses:** The Welcoming Communities Initiative

The Local Immigration Partnership Program

Victoria Esses

Welcoming Communities Initiative



WELCOMING
COMMUNITIES
INITIATIVE

- In 2005, Ontario signed the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) with the federal government
- First federal-provincial agreement to include a provision to involve municipalities and community stakeholders in planning and discussions on recruitment, settlement and integration of immigrants
- Federal funds are provided for settlement and integration programs in Ontario communities, and for the promotion of innovation to improve outcomes for immigrants
- The Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) program was initiated in 2008 with a call for proposals aimed at communities throughout Ontario and neighbourhoods in Toronto

Goal of the LIPs

- To facilitate the settlement and integration of immigrants in communities, through the coordination of mainstream and settlement services including language training, health, education, and labour market integration programs

Stages

- Establish Partnership Council with wide range of community stakeholders
- Develop comprehensive strategic plan to be implemented over a three-year period: designed to fit the needs of the community, must include improved access and coordination of services, improved immigrant labour market outcomes, and strengthened local awareness and capacity to successfully integrate immigrants
- Develop annual action plan and implement initiatives prioritized for that year
- Provide progress reports and outcome evaluations

- There are now 45 Local Immigration Partnerships throughout Ontario, with 30 in communities outside of Toronto and 15 in Toronto, including a Toronto-wide LIP

Innovative Features

- Multi-level collaborative governance: federal, provincial, and municipal governments
- Breadth of stakeholders: municipal and/or regional government, settlement agencies, universal service providers, ethnocultural organizations, local associations, school boards, hospitals, police departments, seniors services, language instruction providers, employment networks, health associations, legal services

- Increased flexibility
 - LIPs are variously chaired by representatives of municipalities, universal service providers, settlement organizations
 - community-driven priorities and solutions
- Place-based program: Based on a recognition of the value of community-level planning and local solutions attuned to the needs and capacities of the community
- Community consultation: Involvement of immigrants and members of the host community in identifying needs, gaps, and strengths of the community, as well as possible solutions



Welcoming Communities Initiative



- A multidisciplinary alliance of universities, colleges and communities aimed at developing and testing measures to attract and fully integrate immigrants and minorities in cities across Ontario
- Base funding from a Community-University Research Alliance Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- Focuses on research that combines local expertise with academic scholarship in order to address practical concerns and challenges
- Aim is to work with stakeholders to identify strategic priorities, conduct analyses, and shape policy guidance and practical advice

Key Players

- **Researchers at 18 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**

Important Feature:

Collaborative arrangement with Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Councils: designed to optimize efficiencies and effectiveness

Domains

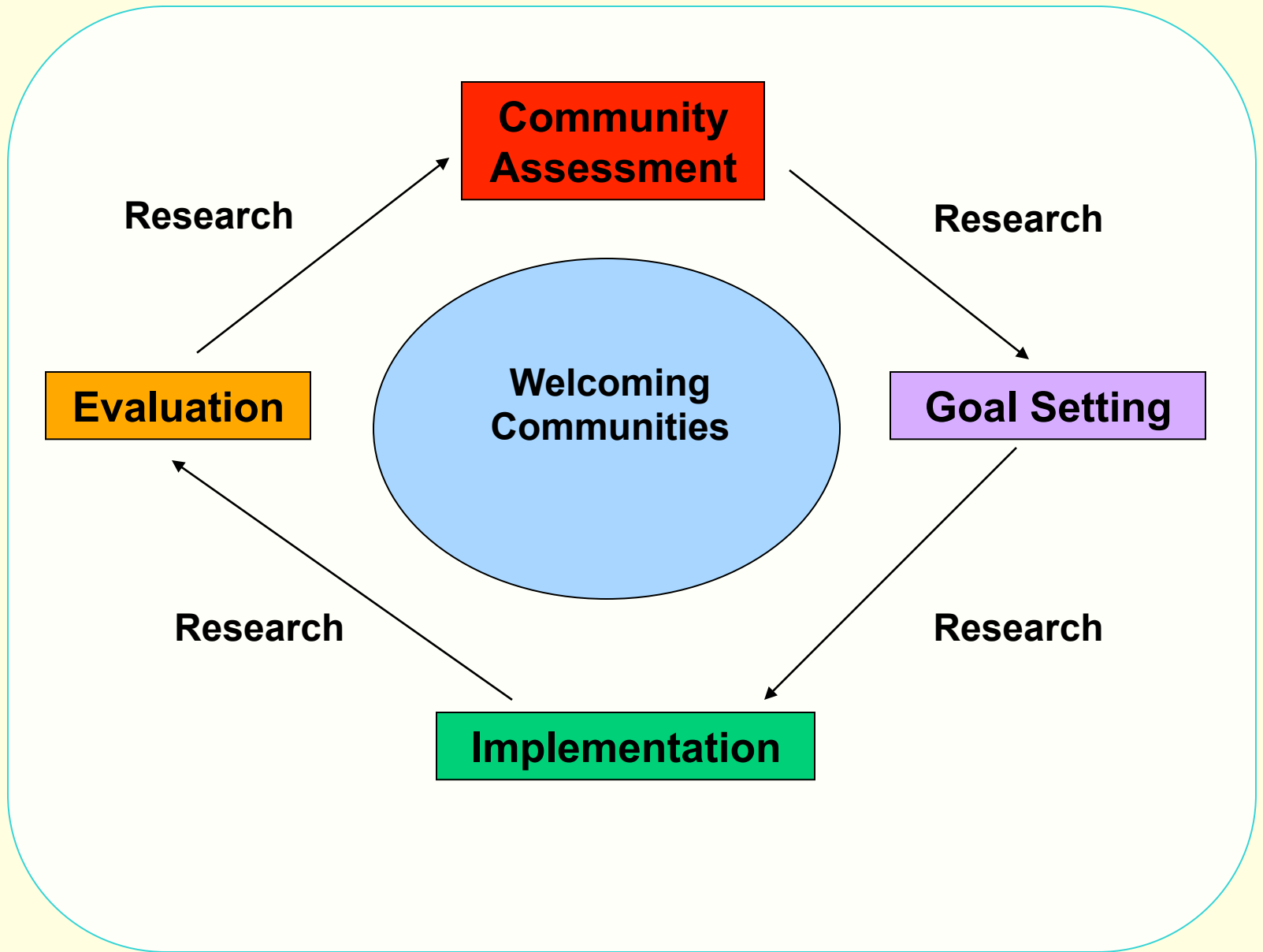
- 1. Community Civic Resources and Initiatives**
- 2. Health and Healthcare**
- 3. Education and Education Policy**
- 4. Children and Youth**
- 5. Optimizing Social, Cultural, and Political Integration**
- 6. Attraction and Recruitment of Workers and Entrepreneurs**
- 7. Workplace Integration**

Cross-cutting issues: francophone communities, gender, poverty

Research Strategies

- ✓ **Comparative studies**
- ✓ **Multidisciplinary, multi-method**
- ✓ **Iterative process with continual refinement as new knowledge and questions are generated by the research process and by new interests and events**
- ✓ **Scholarship of engagement**
- ✓ **Share findings and recommendations widely**

- ✓ **Focus on promising practices and strategies for conducting evidence-based programming**
- ✓ **Research to assess the impact of interventions and for determining the factors that make them more or less effective, and transferable to other locations**



Communication and Education Strategies

- **Annual Conference**
- **Workshops**
- **Website and Monthly E-Bulletin**
- **Policy Briefings and Presentations**
- **Summer Institute**
- **Best Practices Training Modules**
- **Tool Kits**
- **Curriculum Resources**
- **Public Speaker Series**
- **Community and Academic Publications**

Recent and Current Projects

- ✓ City Profiles, and Inventories and Audits of Local Resources, Services, and Structures
- ✓ Making Ontario Home - Newcomer Settlement Services Needs and Use (OCASI and MCI)
- ✓ Newcomer Settlement Information Testing, e.g., Welcome to Canada (CIC, Integration Branch)
- ✓ Opinion Leader Interviews: Views on Cultural Diversity and Immigration (CIC, Ontario Region)

- ✓ Characteristics of a Welcoming Community (CIC, Integration Branch)
- ✓ Tools to Assess Indicators of a Welcoming Community (CIC, Ontario Region)
- ✓ Antiracism and Antidiscrimination Observatory (CIC, Ontario Region)

- ✓ Organizational Best Practices for the Local Immigration Partnership Councils (CIC, Ontario Region)
- ✓ Sectoral Best Practices and Cross-Sectoral Best Practices for the Local Immigration Partnership Councils (CIC, Ontario Region)
- ✓ Assessment and Learning-Dissemination Tool for the Local Immigration Partnerships (CIC, Ontario Region)

**For More Information About the
Welcoming Communities Initiative:**

www.welcomingcommunities.ca

Thank You



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