



PEEL

NEWCOMER

STRATEGY GROUP

Peel Region Case Study

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CENTRE FOR
COMMUNITY
BASED RESEARCH

Between 2003 and 2012, Peel welcomed over 14,000 (14,890) refugees with the majority of them making Mississauga home (9,830)

**OUT OF 76 PEOPLE
ARRIVING DAILY
TO PEEL REGION...
53 ARE
NEWCOMERS**

310,410



151,825



Of the **310,410** immigrants
from India in Ontario,
151,825 (48.9%) live in Peel

**PEEL REGION
CONTINUES TO
WELCOME OVER
27,740 NEW
RESIDENTS EACH
YEAR**

**DID YOU
KNOW ?**

- > **66.4%** OF BRAMPTON'S POPULATION IS
MADE UP OF VISIBLE MINORITIES
- > THE TOP HOME LANGUAGES IN PEEL ARE
**PUNJABI IN BRAMPTON, URDU IN
MISSISSAUGA, AND ITALIAN IN CALEDON**

**Mississauga is the third most attractive
Canadian city (after Montreal and Toronto)
for recent immigrants born in Syria.**

Faith and Settlement Partnerships in Peel



PNSG actively engages and brings together multiple stakeholders from all sectors to address the need of newcomers, immigrants and refugees.

- Interfaith Council of Peel (ICP) is a regional network of diverse faith groups consisting of religious/spiritual leaders, congregation members and/or designated representatives from faith communities, and non-profit organizations working together for greater social justice.

- Peel Newcomer Strategy Group (PNSG) is the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) in Peel designed to develop a coordinated and integrated settlement services model to enhance the social and economic inclusion of newcomers, immigrants and refugees to the Peel community.



Methodology

Three Focus Group Discussions

- Two focus group discussions with faith leaders from the Interfaith Council of Peel
- One focus group discussion with settlement agencies from Peel Newcomer Strategy Group Service Delivery Network

Two sets of key informant interviews

- Two key informant interviews with Peel Newcomer Strategy Group staff members
- Five key informant interviews with newcomers in Peel Region



Results: Views on faith-settlement partnerships

Vision: To what extent are faith-settlement partnerships viewed positively?

- **Need for a common language:** the partnerships developed through the mediation of *PNSG* have facilitated the creation of a common language that provided a platform for referrals, ongoing information sharing among community organizations
- **Value of networking:** the networking that happens at the *PNSG* and the *ICP* tables has led to the creation of a system of informal referrals and one-on-one connections that facilitate successful settlement.
- **Trust:** Partnerships that built upon trusting relationships are lasting, successful, can overcome challenges, and benefit settlement immensely.



A decorative background featuring a network diagram with nodes and connecting lines. The nodes are represented by circles of varying sizes and colors, including light gray, dark gray, and blue. Some nodes are highlighted with a blue outline. The lines connecting the nodes are thin and light gray, creating a complex web-like structure. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on connectivity and relationships.

“One of the main barriers to partnership is language, therefore common terminologies between faith/settlement organizations can be useful in establishing and maintaining successful relationships.”

Results: Existing Partnerships

Structure: What type of partnerships currently exist and how could they be improved?

- **Multiplying effects of partnerships:** government-funded agencies and faith-informed groups revealed a multiplying effect in their partnerships through personal connections and community meetings.
- **Faith-settlement, a “triple threat”:** Faith-Settlement partnerships are often built upon existing networks of formal and informal collaborations of: (1) Government-funded agency to government-funded agency; (2) faith group to faith group; and (3) personal collaborations.
- **Informal structure responds to current needs/formal structures provide longevity:** Various community organizations learned from the Syrian refugee crisis that informal or flexible collaborations are more effective in responding to crisis.



A decorative background featuring a network diagram with nodes and connections. The nodes are represented by circles of varying sizes and colors (blue, grey, white), connected by thin lines. The diagram is positioned in the corners of the page, with a larger concentration of nodes in the top-left and bottom-right corners.

“There are some suspicions around the motivations of faith-based groups. There is a need to develop strategies of trust between faith/settlement.”

Results: Facilitate Effective Partnerships

Process: How can effective partnerships be better facilitated?

- Member and resource sharing is a good practice because cross-appointed members significantly aid the translation and information sharing fronts.
- Creating common terminologies
- Designing and implementing tools such as Memoranda of Understanding creates strong partnerships.





“I think we should continue to explore the possibility of partnerships, because based on what I see, that's how it works. We get people from the church, the mosque, the temple. They're very much compelled to going there. And sometimes, new families, they would go to there first. They would address their faith community before addressing anyone else in the community, because of that's who they trust”

Recommendations

- **Government:** develop policies that facilitate the emergence of conversation tables such as those led by *PNSG*.
- **Settlement Sector:** to understand the significance of religious groups for newcomers is necessary to provide an integrated approach to settlement.
- **Faith Groups:** further encourage and foster interfaith corporation, and step towards cultivating new partnerships with other community organizations.
- Foster open conversations in the local communities, where diverse stakeholders can openly share their fears, hesitations, and hopes for partnerships.

