

RIFs and LIPs: From Evaluation to Future Directions

Pathways to Prosperity Preconference
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Presentation Outline

- Evaluation of the Immigration to OLMC Initiative
 - Scope
 - Selected Findings
 - Recommendations
- RIFs
 - Overall Context for Francophone Immigration
 - Questions on IRCC's Radar for Policy
 - Next Steps
- LIPs
 - Findings from the Settlement Program Evaluation, LIPs Case Study
 - What's Next for LIPs?
 - Community of Practice



Evaluation of the Immigration to OLMC Initiative

Evaluation scope

- Assessed the relevance and performance of the Immigration to Official Language Minority Communities (OLMC) Initiative
- Focused on immigration and integration outcomes for French-speaking immigrants in Francophone Minority Communities (FMCs) outside of Quebec.
- English-speaking Communities in Quebec (ESCQ) considered in relation to results for IRCC knowledge development and awareness activities.
- Follow-up on results and recommendations from the 2012 evaluation.
- Reporting period: 2012 to 2016.

Selected Findings from the Evaluation Immigration of French-speaking Immigrants

- While the numbers of French-speaking immigrants settling in FMCs increased in many of the years since 2003, their relative weight within the overall immigrant and economic immigrant populations outside of Quebec has remained below IRCC's targets.
 - Target of 4% of economic immigration – Finding of 1.13% between 2003 and 2016.
 - Target of 4.4% of overall immigration – Finding of 1.47% between 2003 and 2016.
- Characteristics of French-speaking immigrants outside of Quebec (2003 to 2016):
 - A total of 42,831 French-speaking immigrants:
 - Generally similar to the overall population in terms of gender and age distribution.
 - Greatest percentage destined to Toronto (31% compared to 42% for the overall population), then Ottawa (21% compared to 3% for the overall population).
 - Source countries: France (21%); Democratic Republic of Congo (13%); Haiti (9%); Federal Republic of Cameroon (6%); Morocco (4%).
 - A little over half (53%) indicated a mother tongue of French, 9% indicated a mother tongue of Arabic and 7% indicated a mother tongue of Creole.
 - A greater percentage of French-speaking immigrants became permanent residents under the refugee programs (25% compared to 11% for the overall population).
- FMCs gained more French-speaking Principal Applicants from Quebec out-migration than they lost between 2003 and 2014.

Selected Findings from the Evaluation Integration of French-speaking immigrants

- French-speaking immigrants are participating in the labour market at rates comparable to other immigrants in FMCs outside of Quebec.
 - Incidence of employment averaging 68% one to ten years after admission, compared to 66% for other immigrants.
 - Average employment earnings ranging from \$32,000 one year after admission to \$51,000 ten years after admission, compared to \$29,000 to \$49,000 for other immigrants.
- Many French-speaking newcomers are participating in social/community activities and feel a sense of belonging to their communities, the Francophone community, and Canada.
- French-speaking newcomers residing in FMCs are using both of Canada's official languages. While they value the ability to use French and to have access to services and resources in French, they also use English to function and participate in Canadian society.
 - 83% indicated using English most of the time when going to stores/restaurants and using public transportation, while 40% indicated using French most of the time when talking to their friends.
 - 58% reported using English most of the time at work and 24% English and French equally often.
 - Many reported that it was important to be able to use French in their daily life, to connect with French-speaking people in the Francophone community, and to have access to services, resources and education in French.
 - Most indicated that it was important for their children (or future children) to speak French as well as English.

Selected Findings from the Evaluation

IRCC-Funded Settlement Services and French-speaking Clients

- Many French-speaking newcomers are accessing IRCC settlement services in FMCs, primarily obtaining information and orientation services. Most of those accessing language training are doing so to learn English.
- Many French-speaking clients in FMCs are receiving settlement services that are addressing their needs; however, some issues related to awareness of these services persist. Challenges were also identified in relation to the adoption of a Francophone integration pathway and a lack of supports for temporary residents.
 - 84% of French-speaking newcomers surveyed reported not having any problems or difficulties getting the settlement services they needed.
 - 72% of French-speaking clients, for whom an official language preference of French had been identified, had had their language needs met on all services, and another 7% had had their language needs met on more than three-quarters of their services, but not all.
- The evaluation identified a total of 39 Francophone or bilingual organizations delivering IRCC-funded settlement services to French-speaking newcomers in FMCs.
 - 18% of French-speaking clients had received all of their settlement services from these organizations, 32% had received a portion of their services, and 50% none of their services.
 - 32% received services from a Francophone or bilingual SPO on their first service date recorded in iCARE.

Selected Findings from the Evaluation

Contribution of the Réseaux en immigration francophone (RIFs)

- The RIFs are an important part of the national strategy to strengthen FMCs, with the aim to enhance community capacity to recruit, welcome, integrate and retain French-speaking immigrants.
 - 14 RIFs, covering all provinces (including three RIFs in Ontario) and territories (except Nunavut) outside of Quebec and an umbrella RIF for the Atlantic region.
- The RIFs have developed a wide range of partnerships, among non-governmental and governmental stakeholders, raised awareness of francophone immigration, as well as facilitated information sharing, thereby contributing to the attraction, integration and retention of French-speaking immigrants in FMCs.
 - RIFs provide a unique place for exchange.
 - RIFs have undertaken activities to identify the needs of immigrants, as well as awareness activities with different community stakeholders, such as employers and service providers. However, they indicate that more research is needed at the local level.
 - While difficult to measure, findings suggest that the RIFs contribute indirectly to the provision of appropriate services and help facilitate coordination and collaboration among partners through their awareness activities and the opportunities for information sharing generated through these activities.
- Challenges identified:
 - The lack of financial and human resources, performance measurement, competition/tensions among partners, and the need for further clarification of roles and responsibilities.

Evaluation of the Immigration to OLMC Initiative Recommendations

- *Recommendation 1:* IRCC should review and revise the governance and accountability framework supporting the OLMC Initiative. The review should consider roles and responsibilities within IRCC, as well as leadership, and identify a clear policy lead within the department with overall management responsibility and accountability for the Initiative as a whole.
- *Recommendation 2:* IRCC should develop and implement a unified and horizontal strategy for the OLMC Initiative.
- *Recommendation 3:* IRCC should update the performance measurement strategy for the OLMC Initiative to be aligned with the horizontal strategy, as per Recommendation 2, and to address results monitoring and reporting challenges.

Evaluation of the Immigration to OLMC Initiative: Selected Findings Final Evaluation Report

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/evaluation/immigration-official-language-minority-communities-olmc-initiative.asp>

**At IRCC, it's moving a lot in
francophone immigration!**



A Minister and a Parliamentary Secretary who support Francophone immigration



"Francophone immigration is a high priority for our government."

"We want to reach our targets, in fact, we want to exceed the targets."

– The Honourable Ahmed D. Hussen

Increased interest from the provinces and territories

- **Historic Ministerial Forum on Francophone Immigration, March 2017**
- **Key commitments:**
 - An FPT action plan on Francophone immigration under development
 - A second FPT Ministerial Forum is scheduled for March in Toronto, co-led by Ontario
 - A national symposium with the community is planned for Spring 2018
- **Ontario is following the steps of Nouveau-Brunswick and negotiating an annex on French-speaking immigrants**

New Policy Hub on Francophone immigration

- In place since August 2017, the team is responsible for :



Photo du CAFI, Moncton

- Defining a **Francophone immigration strategy**;
- Contributing to the future **Action Plan on Official Languages 2018-2023**;
- Contributing to the **commitments related to the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministerial Forum on Francophone Immigration**.

On IRCC's radar for policy development

The Francophone integration pathway and the "by and for" Francophone approach in settlement:

- How can the capacity of Francophone organizations to welcome a larger number of immigrants be strengthened?
- How to ensure a positive experience for immigrants who choose a Francophone integration pathway (to foster retention and a sense of belonging)?
- How to better equip small regions to provide services to immigrants?
- How to generate better complementarity between community partners rather than competition (in a context where there is a small volume of clients)?
- As part of a "by and for" approach for Francophones, what role for non-Francophone providers and bilingual suppliers?
- How to make funding more flexible to support community initiatives?

...and the *Réseaux en immigration francophone*?

- After more than 10 years of existence, and in a context where Francophone immigration is becoming increasingly important, how can IRCC better support and benefit from the contribution of the RIFs to the objectives of Francophone immigration?
- How can the strategic plans developed by the RIFs better inform IRCC's priorities?



Next Steps

- Francophone Immigration Strategy: Upcoming consultations with RIFs
- Upcoming Study on RIFs
- Explore new themes for the Exchange Forum on Francophone Integration Pathway (in anticipation of the 2019 National Call for Proposals)
- Stay tuned: PCH's Future Official Languages Plan (2018-2023) and future FPT Action Plan on Francophone Immigration
- On the road towards the 4.4%: Articulate a model of welcoming communities to attract, integrate and retain an increasing number of French-speaking immigrants

LIPs Evaluation - 2017

- The Settlement Program Evaluation findings show that overall, LIPs are working well and are successful at achieving key outcomes.
 - LIPs are successfully meeting the needs for service coordination, information sharing, research on community needs, and community strategic planning related to immigrant integration; and
 - There is a clear and continuing need for cross-sector collaboration and LIPs are effective here.
- The findings also indicate areas for improvement:
 - performance measurement; and
 - implementation of action plans due to lack of funding and challenges with leveraging funding.



What's next for LIPs policy?

- Review LIPs Policy:
 - Evaluation findings
 - Annual Performance Report for Community Partnerships
 - Engaging with LIPs
- Areas that will be examined:
 - Explore improvements to reporting tools
 - to streamline how information is collected by IRCC (e.g. Annual Performance Report For Community Partnerships) and to help simplify reporting.
 - Challenges that LIPs face in implementing Actions Plans, such as leveraging funding



Focus on strengthening how we work together

Areas that will be explored:

- Sharing IRCC data to support LIP research
- Increasing IRCC participation in LIPs – joining regional calls
- Sharing success stories with broader audience



Next steps – National Online Community of Practice

- LIPs have raised with IRCC the importance of peer support from other LIP coordinators.
 - There is no easy way for all LIPs to connect.
- Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) will be creating a bilingual national online Community of Practice (CoP) where settlement sector staff, leaders and professionals in related sectors can connect, share, collaborate, and learn.
- This will allow LIPs to discuss important issues with colleagues and ask for advice; share their materials including handouts, agendas, and other resources for clients; and create spaces and groups to connect on topics of interest.



Thank you

