



# YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs

## Initiatives to support newcomer children & youth across Nova Scotia

Fadi Hamdan, Kathryn Bates-Khan, and Inhae Park



### 2017 marks our 25th Anniversary of providing settlement services for children & youth!

Since 1992, the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth has been working in partnership with schools and in the community to support the settlement of children, youth and families new to Canada. The service has grown to include 34 schools in metro and 29 schools in smaller centres across Nova Scotia.

Other child and youth programs in YMCA Immigrant Services are Youth Outreach and Saturday Study Skills. Our Youth Outreach program provides leadership and volunteer opportunities for newcomer youth aged 13 to 25 in the local community. Newcomer children gain study skills and practice english in a fun, safe and interactive environment. This is our Saturday Study Skills program.

### Challenges & Barriers

Newcomer Youth are entering the settlement process at a time when their emotional and physical development is already in upheaval. These challenges are compounded by occurring at a point in time when their sense of identity, relationships with others and view of the world are being formed in the most basic ways.



- \* Language Barriers
- \* Racism
- \* Balancing Cultural Identities
- \* Parental Conflict
- \* Academic Challenges
- \* Isolation
- \* Shifting familial roles

### Strategies & Approaches

- \* Recognizing children and youth have unique settlement needs that are different from adults.
- \* Providing specific and age appropriate services that support successful settlement and engagement.
- \* Working with families holistically.
- \* Facilitating involvement of community partners in child and youth settlement.
- \* Supporting achievement of individual potential.
- \* Providing local services in smaller communities across the province.

### What does that look like?

- \* Organizing a Friendship Club or Youth Drop-in so children and youth can create connections and establish a peer network.
- \* Developing relationships of trust through meeting needs. Ex. Academic support in schools.
- \* Planning intergenerational activities where families can come together.
- \* Getting parents involved in their children's school (events, volunteering, parent-teacher nights)
- \* Talk and educate, about racism and inclusion with community partners. Organize special events, workshops and panels.
- \* Place based delivery - go to where newcomer children and youth are such as in their schools, clubs, places of worship and sports teams.
- \* Discuss Y programming feedback and development with clients.
- \* Community participation in local events and seasonal outings ex. tobogganing, snowpeople building.

### YMCA Initiatives

### Creating Community Partnerships

### YREACH

Our provincial YMCA YREACH Program provides information, orientation, and settlement /integration support to Immigrants, Refugees, and their families who are new to communities outside of HRM.

We are at 9 main locations

For more information about the YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs contact us at: (902) 457-9622 104-7071 Bayers Rd Halifax, NS B3L 2C2 www.ymcahfx.ca

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Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

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