



# SETTLEMENT SERVICES IN A LARGE URBAN COMMUNITY

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- Toronto population: 2.7M
- Destination of recent immigrants:
  - 2001: MTV received 73% (Toronto 43%)
  - 2016: MTV received 56% (Toronto 29.4%)

## 142 OCASI member agencies in Toronto:

- some **multi-service** and multi-cultural
- **Language or ethno-specific:** Afghan, Arabic, Chinese, Francophone, Hispanic, Jamaican, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Filipino, Portuguese, Somali, Tibetan, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, etc.
- **Service target focus:** women, refugees, people with disabilities
- **Service focus:** employment, legal, mental health (sub group: victims of torture), community health, interpretation and translation.

## Main reasons immigrants chose Toronto (*Stats Can*):

1. Family or friends: 49.7%
2. Job prospect: 23.4%
3. Lifestyle: 4.9%

## Cultural and Social Supports

- Hundreds of ethnic associations and social clubs plan activities to stay in touch and retain culture
- Toronto Italian community has 85 social clubs

# CHALLENGES OF LARGE URBAN CENTRES

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- Magnet for immigration creates dynamism: constant change and even turmoil: Kosovars, Syrian, Yazidi, Refugee Claimants
- Political battleground because ground zero: refugee claimants focus of left/right battle : extremism.

## **Lack of affordable housing:**

- GAR housing – take 2 -3 weeks (2014)
- Syrian refugees – 5.5 weeks – move to surrounding region (2016)
- Refugee claimants – 4.5 months (2018)

## **Intersecting opportunity:**

GARs in Leamington and Peterborough - 400 refugees, still there, critical mass and community involvement to support.

Refugee claimants – Chatham-Kent pilot

- Moncton, NB
- Thunder Bay



# WELCOMING COMMUNITY

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