



# Early Childhood in Focus

A project for immigrant families to share photos and stories of their experiences with early childhood programs and supports



## Early Childhood Collaborative Research Centre

### **Overarching Goal:**

- *Enhance well-being during early childhood* by ensuring policy and practice is informed by the knowledge and lived experiences of families who experience inequity

### **Approach:**

- Engage families, community, policy-makers, practitioners and research partners to develop, conduct, and share meaningful research

# SCOPING REVIEW

What is known about immigrant families' experiences with programs and services to support early childhood development in Canada?

## Preliminary results

Examined 54 articles (after initial search yielded 2498)

- Experiences of discrimination, mistrust, loneliness/social isolation
- Key barriers: language, financial, administrative, transportation
- Identified needs:
  - Timely, relevant provision of information about available supports
  - Collaboration among agencies
  - Stronger cultural competence among service-providers



# RESEARCH PROJECT RATIONALE

- Newcomer families face unique challenges and experiences as they navigate systems for support.
- Little research examines experiences of early childhood supports from the perspective of newcomer families.
- ECCRC and ISANS committed to engage newcomer families in meaningful research that could amplify those experiences and inform action towards improvements in early childhood programs and services.

SSHRC  CRSH  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada  
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada



# Illustrating the experiences of immigrant families in Nova Scotia

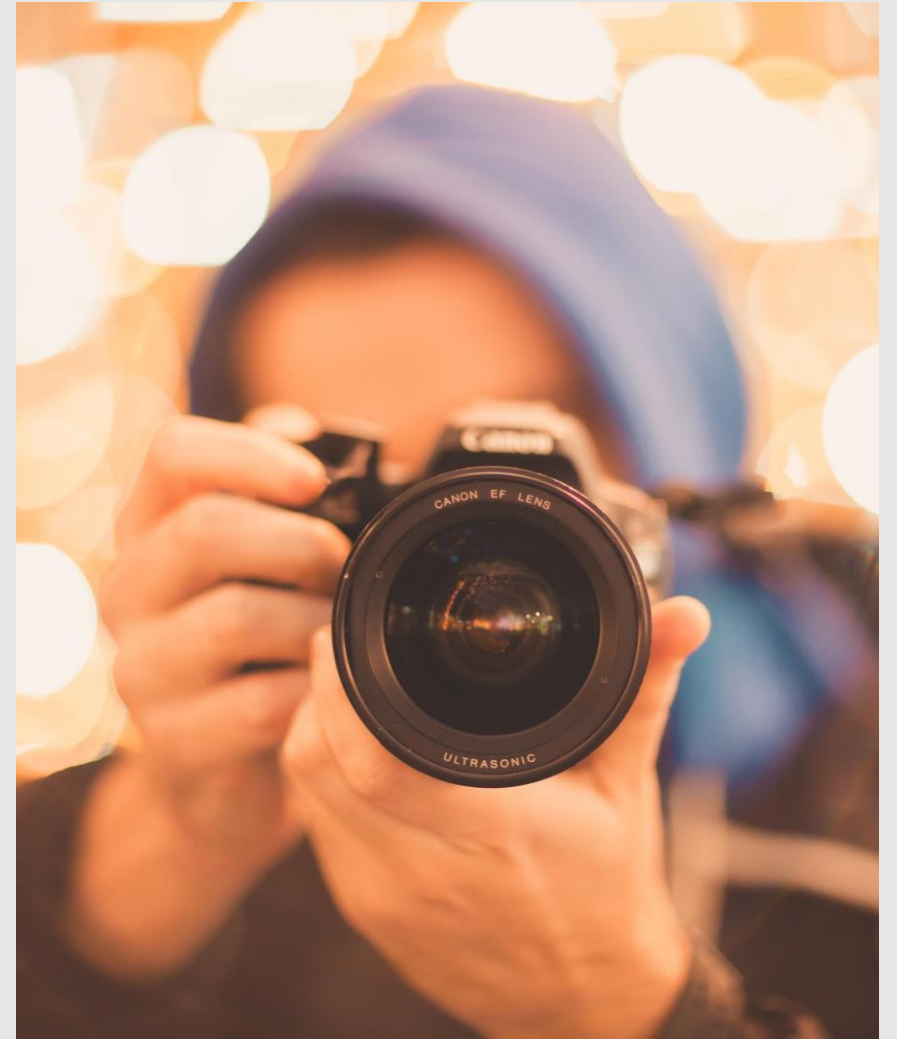


## Research Objectives:

- Enable immigrant families to record and reflect on the assets and concerns they have regarding early childhood programs and services.
- Promote critical dialogue about early childhood programs and services as immigrant families use visual methods to share their experiences and ideas with family, friends, service providers, and decision-makers.

# PHOTOVOICE

- Prioritizes experiences of those who have been systematically excluded from traditional research
- Participants are given cameras to document their experiences, reflect on the forces that influence those experiences, and promote systemic change
- Families will be invited to take part in three interactive workshops to learn about photography, collaboratively analyze their photographs, and decide how, where and with whom to share them





## THROUGH THE LENS OF CHILDREN

- Workshops with children will consist of fun, engaging games and activities
- Children will have the opportunity to bring greater community awareness to their experiences, needs, and ideas through photographs, art, and stories



## SHARING THE STORIES

- Participant-led knowledge mobilization is a key component of this project
- Families will decide how, where, and with whom to share their photos and shared analysis
- Possibilities include a public exhibit, book, website





# Thank you!

[Alison.Brown10@msvu.ca](mailto:Alison.Brown10@msvu.ca)  
Research Associate

[Jessie-Lee.Mcisaac@msvu.ca](mailto:Jessie-Lee.Mcisaac@msvu.ca)  
Director

