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# PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

Promoting Welcoming Communities in Canada

bulletin

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## Pathways to Prosperity 2020-2021 Stakeholder Annual Evaluation and Future Planning

We are interested in finding out how we did in engaging stakeholders in the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership in 2020-2021 and are also seeking your input for future planning (e.g., Annual National Conference, Promising Practices themes, new activities and products). In order to do so, we have developed a short survey that we ask all interested parties to complete.

We take your feedback and suggestions seriously and use it to continually improve our activities and products. Your input will help us greatly in designing future activities and products to best meet your needs. This survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Please take the time to complete it by July 12.

The survey can be found here: [https://uwopsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3eYYhjZ2RmUtkDI](https://uwopsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3eYYhjZ2RmUtkDI)

## Hold the Date:

### Pathways to Prosperity 2021 National Conference

As mentioned at the Pathways to Prosperity 2020 National Conference, we are pleased to announce that Pathways to Prosperity will hold its ninth annual national conference on Monday November 8 and Tuesday November 9, 2021, with the conference for Local Immigration Partnerships and Réseaux en immigration francophone on Wednesday November 10, 2021.

Depending on pandemic health regulations and your responses to the Stakeholder Annual Evaluation and Future Planning survey, the conferences will be virtual or hybrid (with in-person and virtual sessions). Irrespective of format, the conferences will include plenary sessions, workshops, poster presentations, and opportunities to network with colleagues. Exhibitor and sponsor opportunities will also be available. More details will be announced over the course of the summer.

Twitter: @P2PConnects

Website: [www.p2pcanada.ca](http://www.p2pcanada.ca)

## Call for Nominations: Developing an Evidence Base and Sharing Settlement and Integration Practices that Work (DEB)

Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) is pleased to announce a new Call for Nominations for the project Developing an Evidence Base and Sharing Settlement and Integration Practices that Work (DEB).

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Pathways to Prosperity has been contracted by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to share innovative promising practices in immigrant settlement and integration with an empirical basis for their effectiveness. To date we have produced 31 videos and briefs for this purpose, and over the next four years we will be producing an additional 34 videos and accompanying briefs on promising practices, targeting a range of service areas, providers, and client groups.

### HOW TO NOMINATE A PROMISING PRACTICE

A new Call for Nominations is now open and you are invited to participate in this research project through nomination of one or more promising practices.

Promising practices are innovative practices that have an objective basis for claiming effectiveness in achieving their stated aims and that have the potential for replication. Thus, promising practices are defined in terms of their innovation and effectiveness, which can be empirically measured as successful outcomes of the practice. Our approach focuses not only on identifying truly promising practices, but on analyzing and sharing key features that can be replicated. Of course, promising practices may have faced challenges in their initial implementation, and these challenges are also considered and analyzed so that others can learn from these experiences.

P2P is seeking nominations of promising practices from a variety of stakeholders involved in the settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees across Canada. Practices do not have to be IRCC funded and can be self-nominated. Practices must be able to demonstrate their effectiveness through an external evaluation or within-organization measurement of outcomes that can be shared (e.g., website URL; you would be able to send it).

Promising practices in this round should focus on one (or more) of the following areas:

- ◆ Helping newcomers find safe, affordable, and suitable housing
- ◆ Programs to address gender-based violence
- ◆ Anti-racism initiatives
- ◆ Partnerships with Indigenous-led organizations to create resources/training for newcomers and settlement staff
- ◆ Practices to support Francophone newcomers in a minority environment
- ◆ Practices in LGBTQIA+ settlement services

Nominations will be reviewed by the Consultation Committee (constituting a team of settlement and research representatives across the country) in late July 2021. A set of promising practices from this Call for Nominations will then be selected and featured on the P2P website through videos and accompanying briefs ([click here for examples](#)).

***Note that videos will be shot online or in person depending on pandemic protocols. Videos will feature several individuals who developed and use the practice discussing the essential ingredients that would need to be replicated in order to transfer the successful practice to other locations and to related areas of practice.***

A nomination of a promising practice will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. Feel free to nominate as many promising practices within the areas listed above as you would like. Participation is completely voluntary. You may refuse to participate, refuse to answer any questions or withdraw at any time with no effect on your relationship with P2P, AMSSA, or any of the settlement umbrellas who may be sending out this call. No compensation is provided for submission of a nomination, though the individuals who participate in the video and brief production at a later stage will receive compensation for their time.

Submit one or more nominations here: [https://uwopsych.eu.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV\\_006xFVToERFMa1M](https://uwopsych.eu.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_006xFVToERFMa1M)

(A copy of the nomination form is [available here](#) for your information, but please submit your responses through the online link above.)

By submitting a nomination, you are consenting to participate in the initial nomination stage of the research process and to have the description of your submitted promising practice considered for possible follow-up for video and brief production. This description will be viewed by the members of the Consultation Committee for this purpose. Any information presented or published about the initial submissions will appear in aggregate form only in combination with other submissions. If your practice is selected for follow-up, separate consent will be obtained for the video and brief production, and you will not be obligated to participate in that separate phase unless you choose to do so.

Information collected in this initial nomination phase will have identifying information of your organization (organization name, phone number, website) so that we can potentially obtain further information about the practice. In addition, we will obtain your contact information in a separate link not directly attached to your responses so that P2P can potentially follow-up with you for more details, and can contact you at a later time to invite your participation in video and brief production.

Your responses will be collected through a secure online survey platform called Qualtrics. Qualtrics uses encryption technology and restricted access authorizations to protect all data collected. In addition, Western's Qualtrics server is in Ireland, where privacy standards are maintained under the European Union safe harbour framework. The data will then be exported from Qualtrics and securely stored on Western University's server. Representatives of The University of Western Ontario Non-Medical Research Ethics Board may require access to study related records in order to monitor conduct of research. You do not waive any legal right by consenting to this study.

There are no foreseeable risks of this research and you may not benefit directly from your participation, though the results are expected to benefit the settlement sector as a whole through the sharing of promising practices and the key components that make them work.

### **DEADLINE**

The Call for Nominations will be open from June 28 – July 16, 2021.

### **QUESTIONS**

Should you have any questions about the project or call for nominations, please contact Alina Sutter at [asutter2@uwo.ca](mailto:asutter2@uwo.ca).

We look forward to receiving your nominations.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or the conduct of this study, you may contact The Office of Human Research Ethics at Western University, (519) 661-3036, 1-844-720-9816, email: [ethics@uwo.ca](mailto:ethics@uwo.ca). This office oversees the ethical conduct of research studies and is not part of the study team. Everything that you discuss will be kept confidential.

## New Videos and Briefs Now Available

### Developing an Evidence Base and Sharing Settlement and Integration Practices that Work

*A P2P Project Funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)*

Pathways to Prosperity is pleased to announce that new videos and briefs on promising practices in settlement and integration are now available on the P2P website.

Funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), the project highlights promising practices in immigrant settlement and integration with an empirical basis for their effectiveness. Our approach focuses not only on identifying truly promising practices, but on analyzing and sharing key features that can be replicated. The project is co-led by the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA). The Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance (CISSA-ACSEI) and Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) are central partners.

Pathways to Prosperity will be publishing more videos and briefs in the coming months. If you are interested in nominating new promising practices for consideration, please see the new call for nominations on page 2.

#### Featured Promising Practices

##### **2Gether Youth Mental Health & Wellness Project Association for New Canadians**

The 2Gether Youth project was established out of the recognition that newcomer youth and parents in St. John's, N.L. often face barriers that impact their ability to understand and access the mental health and wellness services available to them. The overarching goal of the project is to break down barriers and to increase awareness and understanding of available mental health and wellness services for newcomer youth and their parents. The project aims to empower newcomer youth and parents to access mental health services, and to share their stories and become mental health champions in their community. The project created and shared resources on mental health and wellness services available to newcomer youth and their parents. The project also built partnerships with mental health and wellness service providers to enhance their capacity to provide services with cultural humility.

[Watch Video](#)

[Download brief](#)

##### **Arrival Advisor PeaceGeeks Society**

Arrival Advisor is a free mobile app that helps immigrants and refugees in British Columbia to find reliable, accurate, and up-to-date information and services so that they can plan their settlement journey. The app provides information based on newcomers' needs and is currently available in eight languages including English, French, Arabic, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, Korean, Punjabi, and Tagalog. Newcomers are able to search through different services in their area, save resources to their phone as offline data, see hours of operation/location of services, and gain information on a variety of topics, all with the touch of a button. Arrival Advisor is constantly updated based on user data, client

feedback, and research. PeaceGeeks conducts regular demonstration sessions to different communities, settlement organizations and universities to increase engagement, as well as marketing campaigns to acquire more users.

Video – Coming Soon [Download brief](#)

### **Bridging Barriers to Newcomer Mental Health Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre**

Bridging Barriers to Newcomer Mental Health is a program designed to bridge the barriers that newcomers experience when accessing mental health services within the Niagara region, to provide mental health relief to eligible newcomers who are experiencing unique challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to serve as a gateway for clients to access long-term or medical mental health attention if needed. The program is made up of five components: one-on-one counselling (virtual and in-person) in the clients' first languages (Arabic, English, Mandarin, and Spanish with interpreters for other languages; up to four sessions); an anonymous chatline; group sessions (including an art therapy program); anti-stigma education campaign; and an educational video series entitled — From Someone Like Me...For Someone Like Me. The program has successfully served newcomer clients and received inquiries from mainstream mental health providers and SPOs to learn more about how they could adopt the program to their organizations.

[Watch Video](#) [Download brief](#)

### **Intentional Connection Allies for Refugee Integration (ARI)**

Intentional Connection is a pilot practice developed by the Allies for Refugee project, which is a collaboration between OCASI and Refugee 613. The goal of the project is to increase and strengthen the collaboration between settlement service providers and refugee sponsorship groups in Ontario and to ultimately improve settlement outcomes of privately sponsored refugees (PSRs). The pilot practice 'Intentional Connection' focuses on two time points in the settlement process of a PSR. A pre-arrival meeting of sponsors and a settlement worker sets expectations, defines roles for the sponsors and settlement worker, and provides sponsors with resources. When the sponsored refugee arrives, a post-arrival meeting intentionally connects the newcomer, sponsors, and settlement worker to ensure that the connection to settlement services is complete. The practice was tested with 23 sponsor groups, 68 PSRs and five settlement workers, and achieved its intended outcomes.

[Watch Video](#) [Download brief](#)

### **Remote Social Support for GARs and Refugee Claimants Together Project: A MakeWay Initiative**

The program 'Remote Social Support for GARs and Refugee Claimants' is an adaptation of the Welcome Group Program that matches groups of volunteers with government assisted refugees and refugee claimants for at least six months to provide social support focused on each household's unique integration priorities (e.g., language learning, service navigation, youth tutoring). Prior to the pandemic, the program delivery was primarily based on in-person support but due to the pandemic, the program pivoted to online delivery. Volunteers are now interviewed and trained online, and newcomers are on-boarded to the program remotely. Once matched, newcomers and volunteers meet remotely at least once a week. Some of these meetings are more focused on addressing the newcomer household's unique integration priorities, whereas other meetings are more social in nature to help alleviate the social isolation that newcomers have experienced during the pandemic.

Video – Coming Soon [Download brief](#)

## South Vancouver Migrant Workers Empowerment Circle South Vancouver Neighbourhood House

The Migrant Workers Empowerment Circle (MWEC) aims to address the needs of migrant workers by bridging the service delivery gap experienced by migrant workers. The goal of the MWEC program is to empower migrant workers by providing them with the tools to build personal strength, by connecting them with other migrant workers, by educating them on employment rights, laws, and responsibilities, and by creating a space where they can use their voice. Migrant workers go through an initial assessment to identify their needs and are then referred to in-house programs and services and/or to partner organizations that address these needs. Then, migrant workers are encouraged to participate in several components and activities of the MWEC. These include the Building Blocks Program, the Restorative Justice Mental Wellness Program, the Mentorship Program, the Peer Navigators Network, and the Migrant Workers Food Distribution Day.

[Watch Video](#)

Brief – Coming Soon

### Other Promising Practices Featured on the P2P Website

- ◆ Academic and Economic Integration of Immigrants — The Refugee Centre
- ◆ Barista Training for Newcomer Youth with Starbucks Canada — ACCES Employment
- ◆ Be Back Soon — Connections Early Years Family Centre
- ◆ Bike Host — CultureLink Settlement and Community Services
- ◆ Community Broker Strategy — Action Dignity Society
- ◆ Cultural Brokerage Program — Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS)
- ◆ Culturally Responsive Accommodations for Family Violence — CCIS
- ◆ Employment First: Workplace Skills for Refugees — CCIS
- ◆ English in the Workplace Program — Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia
- ◆ Entry Program — Altered Minds Inc.
- ◆ Immigrant and Refugee Communities Neighbours, Friends and Family Campaign — OCASI
- ◆ International Student Connect — COSTI Immigrant Services
- ◆ International Student Retention Program (PRÉI) — CAFi
- ◆ IRCOM House — Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba Inc.
- ◆ Knowledge Into Action — Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC)
- ◆ Make It! Social Entrepreneurship for Newcomer Women — Vancouver Community College
- ◆ Newcomer Entrepreneurship Hub (NEH) — Diversity Institute, Ryerson University and Scadding Court Community Centre
- ◆ Orientation to Ontario — COSTI Immigrant Services
- ◆ Our Selves, Our Daughters — Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC)
- ◆ Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention — Centre for Newcomers
- ◆ Refugee 613 Welcomes You to Ottawa: WhatsApp Group for Arabic-Speaking Newcomers and Refugees — Refugee 613
- ◆ United Voices: Immigrant Youth Wellness Summit — Immigrant Services Calgary
- ◆ Welcome Ambassador Program — Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia
- ◆ Welcome Group Program — Together Project - A Tides Canada Initiative
- ◆ WES Gateway Program — World Education Services

[To learn more about these programs and to watch the videos, click here](#)

## Pathways to Prosperity 2020 National Conference Presentations and Videos Now Available on P2P Website

Until recently, the videos and PowerPoint presentations from the Pathways to Prosperity 2020 National Conference and the 2021 Virtual Workshop Series were available only on the conference platform for those who had registered for either event. However, if you were unable to join the Conference and/or Virtual Workshop Series, you can now download the PowerPoint presentations and view the presentation videos on the [P2P website](#).

### Call for New Members

#### P2P Standing Committee on Student and Junior Scholar Engagement

The P2P Standing Committee on Student and Junior Scholar Engagement (SCSJSE) is seeking graduate student and junior researcher applicants to join the committee. The SCSJSE focuses on facilitating the involvement of graduate students and junior scholars in P2P research projects and activities. The purpose of the SCSJSE is to support graduate students/junior researchers who are working and conducting research in the area of immigrant settlement and integration. This is also to collaborate with the P2P Advisory Council and Governance Committee on P2P initiated research and activities by participating in P2P working groups and committees (e.g., Conference Planning Committee, Workshops Planning Committee, Research Project Committees).

Currently, the P2P SCSJSE has student and junior scholar members affiliated at universities across the country from the five regions of Canada: British Columbia, the Prairies, Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic.

The roles and responsibilities of Standing Committee members include:

- ◆ Developing and carrying out annual plans for activities relevant to the committee's area of focus
- ◆ Promoting research and knowledge mobilization by P2P in relation to the focus of the committee
- ◆ Actively supporting the work of the Partnership and advancing its established goals and anticipated outcomes
- ◆ Participating in regular meetings of the Standing Committee
- ◆ Participating in working groups of the Partnership
- ◆ Serving as emissaries of the Partnership, promoting it within their institutions and sphere of activities
- ◆ Actively seeking input on P2P activities relevant to their area of focus from their networks
- ◆ Participating in P2P conferences, workshops, research projects, and related activities
- ◆ Adhering to the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policies
- ◆ Acknowledging Pathways to Prosperity membership as an affiliation in written works and presentations
- ◆ Submitting brief annual reports as to P2P activities, contributions and achievements

**To obtain an application form, please contact the SCSJSE: [SCSE@p2pcanada.ca](mailto:SCSE@p2pcanada.ca)**

## NEW REPORT

## Pathways to Prosperity Funded Project

## Stakeholder Perspectives on the Well-being of Newcomer Young Men in Canada: The Migration, Masculinities, and Mental Health Study

*By Carla Hilario and Bukola Salami, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta;  
Josephine Pui-Hing Wong, Faculty of Community Services, Ryerson University*

### I. Research purpose and objectives

The purpose of this study was to explore the perspectives of community stakeholders, specifically service providers and program leaders, on the mental health and unique mental health care needs of immigrant and refugee young men (under 25 years old) in Canada. Our primary objective was to better understand the mental health and mental health care needs of newcomer young men. In this study, newcomers broadly referred to individuals who moved to Canada within the last 10 years.

### II. Methods

The research team (PI Hilario and a research assistant) conducted in-person individual interviews and focus groups with service providers and program leaders in Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver. These three research sites were chosen because they are the cities with the highest numbers of newcomers in Western Canada.<sup>1</sup> Conducting the research across three sites allowed for comparison of contexts, including racial and cultural diversity, socioeconomic environments, migration and resettlement histories, and pre-migration countries and contexts of the newcomer groups. The research team also had existing networks in the research sites, which facilitated collaboration, recruitment, data collection, and knowledge exchange. Focus groups and individual interviews were guided by open-ended questions, for example, 'what are the key mental health challenges faced by immigrant and refugee young men at your organization?' The responses to these questions were examined and summarized into key findings outlined in this report. Our study received ethical approval from the University of Alberta and Ryerson University research ethics boards.

### III. Key findings

The service provider and program leader perspectives were organized according to six key areas: facilitators of good mental health, challenges to mental health, including risk factors related to migration, priority mental health needs of newcomer young men, opportunities and challenges providers face in service provision, systemic facilitators and barriers to service provision, and practices they have found successful in engaging with and providing care to newcomer young men. These areas are described below.

#### 1. Facilitators of good mental health

Stakeholders discussed facilitators of good mental health as personal skills, relationships, and resources. First, many participants explained good mental health as personal skills to manage daily life. This included being resilient after experiencing trauma. Second, participants explained the importance of relationships to mental health. This included

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1. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (2016). Facts and Figures 2016: Immigration Overview - Permanent Residents. Retrieved from [https://www.cic.gc.ca/opendatadonneesouvertes/data/Facts\\_and\\_Figures\\_2016\\_PR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.cic.gc.ca/opendatadonneesouvertes/data/Facts_and_Figures_2016_PR_EN.pdf)

participating in social and community events, having one's experiences and feelings validated by others, feeling connected to peers, to schools and to families. In addition, participants discussed the importance of balancing social integration in Canada with connection to one's cultural background. A third theme that arose around good mental health was having the resources necessary to foster one's mental health and to address mental health needs when they arise. These resources included basic needs such as access to good food, housing, education, and stable and sufficient income. They also included access to safe or spiritual space, and access to mental health care services. Language skills and the ability to communicate with others were also explained to be key resources. Participants also explained social support as a resource for good mental health.

## **2. Challenges to mental health: pre- and post-migration risk factors**

Participants explained challenges to mental health and risk factors for poor mental health occurring before and after moving to Canada. Participants spoke about how experiences of war and violence may lead, contribute to, or exacerbate trauma and mental health conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), conduct disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), disassociation, and attachment disorders. Several expressed concern about the extent to which mental health care providers and schools are accounting for these pre-migration factors. In addition to pre-migration factors, the participants also spoke about what happens after moving to Canada and some of the factors that they perceive as affecting the mental health and well-being of newcomer young men. These factors included social disconnection and isolation, changing family dynamics, language barriers, financial uncertainties, expectations around masculinity, and mental health stigma.

## **3. Priority mental health needs of newcomer young men**

Participants discussed four priority mental health needs of newcomer young men. First, support of families was reported as very important to mental health for newcomer young men. In order to support newcomer young men, their families need to be supported socially, economically, and emotionally. A second priority need is for newcomer young men and their families to have access to settlement supports and services. These can include courses such as English and parenting classes, as well as connection to settlement services for information and support in housing, recreation, and employment. Third, success in school was perceived as another priority. Stakeholders expressed concern that many newcomer young men are not set up for success for a range of reasons, including language barriers and schools' failures to recognize when attention or conduct problems might be related to traumas or mental health conditions, which may be particularly relevant for young men who have witnessed or experienced violent conflicts. Participants explained the importance of advocacy for supporting these young men in their education. Fourth, because of stigma related to mental illness and expectations around masculinity, participants reported that it is a challenge for newcomer young men to open up about mental health challenges. Stakeholders reported a need to create spaces in which they are able to build trust with the young men and for the young men to build trust with each other.

## **4. Opportunities and challenges in service provision**

Participants discussed how newcomer young men's personal strengths helped organizations to provide support. These strengths include being creative, resilient, curious, and determined, as well as having a sense of humour. Many young men value their relationships, which lead them to support others and also encourages them to care for their own mental health. On the other hand, bringing men to services was cited as a key challenge. Participants spoke about how men often face difficulty recognizing that they need support until their mental health becomes such a problem that it dramatically affects their lives. Often,

young men may fluctuate in their willingness to engage with services, ready to access care one day and resistant on another, largely based on stigma around both mental illness and vulnerability. Many of them experience denial and can express their emotions as anger.

### **5. Systemic facilitators and barriers to service provision**

Participants spoke about how their work was facilitated by formal and informal partnerships with other organizations: newcomer associations, schools, the police, youth clubs, and health services. These partnerships provide additional support to facilitate the ability of stakeholder organizations to provide services to newcomer young men. The most cited challenge was inadequate and inequitable funding, limiting the ability of the stakeholder organizations to fully support the unique needs of newcomer young men. Even in cases where government funding is present it is often provided to mainstream service providers. Funding for those agencies that serve newcomer young men is insufficient. Because of this, in many cases, community organizations are providing services without adequate funding, creating a strain on providers. In some cases, organizations do not have the capacity or resources to provide mental health services and have to refer newcomer young men to other organizations. In addition to inadequate funding, participants reported several other systemic barriers to newcomer young men's mental health and obstacles to service provision. These include: long waitlists for mental health care and settlement and social services, such as housing, misdiagnosis of trauma and the prescription of medicine as first approach, and limited cultural knowledge among mainstream providers.

### **6. Successful practices**

In order to address the challenges above, stakeholder organizations have developed practices to better provide care and engage with young men in accessing services. These practices include providing home visits, using activities such as go-karting or movement to prompt conversations about health, and using the language of well-being instead of mental health. In addition, trust-building is perceived to help break down stigma around mental health and to encourage newcomer young men to ask for support. An inclusive and open approach is seen as integral to building trust. Culturally diverse spaces provide opportunities for young men to learn from one another across differences. Acting as a bridge between clients and mainstream service providers was also cited as an effective practice among services providers working at settlement agencies. Partnerships between organizations can facilitate collaboration and integration of services, which in turn help young men receive necessary support and care.

## **IV. Implications for policy and practice**

Findings show a need for improved policy and practice aimed at supporting the mental health and well-being of newcomer young men. Mainstream mental health care providers can draw on successful practices above. Providers can also practice a greater consideration of trauma in mental health care delivery and in mental health promotion programming. Service provision can also aim to increase awareness and education around mental health, promote mental health care through schools, and provide services in group settings in addition to individualized care. Organizational leaders can aim to increase connections and collaboration between health care and social service providers, and include trauma specialists in settlement programs targeted to youth, and particularly for newcomer young men. Implications for policy include allocated and increased funding for mental health delivery in settlement services, greater support for front line service providers in settlement organizations, and funding for peer-led programming.

[The full report is available here.](#)

## Immigration in the News: Top Stories of the Past Month

Below are links to top stories that P2P is following. These stories and other material can be accessed through the [Media Corner](#) of P2P's website. The Corner provides links to articles appearing in the national and local media. Some international content is also included. Articles are updated weekly.

- ◆ **CBC News — June 27, 2021 — [International Students Coming to Canada Navigate Numerous Barriers as They Look to Begin Fall Classes](#)**: International students coming to Canada this year as COVID-19 cases rise and fall in various parts of the world face numerous barriers such as visa backlogs, lack of vaccinations, quarantine measures and fewer available flights.
- ◆ **Toronto Star — June 26, 2021 — [Canada's Citizenship Study Guide for Newcomers is Getting an 'Unvarnished' Makeover. Here's How it's Evolved — From 1947 to Today](#)**: The guide will include a section outlining the government's attempts to compel Indigenous Peoples to adopt European customs through policies designed to end Indigenous ways of life, languages and spiritual beliefs.
- ◆ **Toronto Star — June 26, 2021 — [Language App Helps Canada's LGBTQ Newcomers Learn Queer Culture and History](#)**: Babbel is offering participants in The 519's New to Canada program free access to its language learning resources, which will cover a range of topics from combating oppressive language to seeking employment and other settlement issues in a culturally inclusive and sensitive learning environment.
- ◆ **Global News — June 20, 2021 — [Canadian Migrants Push for Full Immigration Status, Family Reunification on Father's Day](#)**: The Migrants Rights Network slammed the federal government's initiatives aimed at supporting the flow of more refugees into the country in a release on Sunday, saying they fell "incredibly short".
- ◆ **CBC News — June 18, 2021 — [Canada to Admit 45,000 Refugees This Year, Speed Up Permanent Residency Applications](#)**: This year, Canada will increase the number of protected persons admitted from 23,500 to 45,000 and will also expedite the processing of applications for permanent residency.
- ◆ **CBC News — June 17, 2021 — [Refugees Plead with Ottawa to Bring Their Children, Spouses From War-Ravaged Gaza](#)**: Mohammad Jadallah is one of more than a dozen refugees in Canada who have been separated from their loved ones in war-ravaged Gaza for more than two years, desperate for the federal government to help their families escape the threat of violence back home.
- ◆ **CBC News — June 17, 2021 — [Canada-Led Conference Raises Money for Displaced Venezuelans](#)**: A pledging conference for Venezuelan refugees chaired by Canada today raised about US\$1.55 billion in grants and loans to help countries dealing with the world's largest displacement crisis after Syria.
- ◆ **Al Jazeera — June 17, 2021 — [Rights Groups Urge Canada to End 'Abusive' Immigration Detention](#)**: The indefinite nature of Canada's immigration detention system is causing psychological harm for thousands of people detained every year, including refugee claimants, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said in a new report on Thursday. The report, titled

“Immigration Detention in Canada and its Impact on Mental Health”, said immigration detainees are handcuffed, shackled and subjected to solitary confinement, among other harsh conditions.

- ◆ **CBC News — June 13, 2021 — [Seniors in Vancouver’s Chinatown Manage Fear, Insecurity as Anti-Asian Racism Persists](#)**: Vancouver police have said anti-Asian hate crimes increased 717 per cent during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. And a survey released this week by the Angus Reid Institute suggests more than half of Asian Canadians have suffered discrimination in the past year.
- ◆ **BBC News — June 11, 2021 — [Canada Truck Attack: Loved Ones Describe Family as ‘The Best Among Us’](#)**: On Saturday, London, Ontario’s Muslim community will lay to rest four members of a family killed in what police say was a racially motivated attack. Police say the family were victims of a premeditated attack – singled out for their Muslim faith.
- ◆ **Global News — June 10, 2021 — [Nearly Half of COVID-19 Deaths Were Immigrants at Start of Pandemic: StatCan](#)**: Canadian neighbourhoods where visible minorities live had a COVID-19 death rate about two times higher than areas that had a low proportion of immigrants, says a study from Statistics Canada. The study looked at the pandemic from early March to July last year, when there were more than 8,300 deaths.
- ◆ **CTV News — June 9, 2021 — [Canada Could Help U.S. By Taking in Some Central American Migrants: Minister](#)**: In their first phone call since President Joe Biden’s administration was sworn in, Mendicino and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas last week discussed issues including Central American migration – an area where the Biden administration is struggling to gain control.
- ◆ **Globe and Mail — June 8, 2021 — [Why the Latin American Community in Toronto Has Been Hit Hard by COVID-19](#)**: In a pandemic that has hit marginalized people hardest, Latin Americans in Canada’s largest urban area have been particularly at risk: They’re more likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 than any other ethnoracial group, according to the most recent data available from the city of Toronto. They work front-line jobs, live in often crowded homes, use public transit and are often reluctant to seek out care – possibly because of precarious immigration status, advocates say.
- ◆ **CityNews — June 3, 2021 — [House Expected to Adopt Bill Revising Citizenship Oath to Include Indigenous Treaties](#)**: The House is expected to adopt a bill revising oath of citizenship that will have newcomers swear to observe Canada’s treaties with Indigenous Peoples today. On Tuesday, the House unanimously agreed to fast-track Bill C-8, which would amend the Citizenship Act to align with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s call to action number 94.

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