

**Workshop:  
Cultural Brokers'  
Support to Newcomer  
Families Facing  
Systemic Barriers:  
Before, During and  
Post COVID-19  
pandemic**



# Land Acknowledgement

*Laurentian University* is located in Sudbury, Ontario, the unceded territory of the **Atikameksheng Anishnaabeg** peoples



The Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op is located Edmonton, Alberta on **Treaty 6 territory**, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the **Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/ Saulteaux/Anishinaabe** and Inuit peoples.



*Umbrella Co-op* is located in New Westminister, British Columbia, the traditional and unceded territories of the **Qayqayt First Nation** and the **Coast Salish** peoples



# Cultural Brokers' Support to Newcomer Families Dealing with Child protection Issues: Before, During and Post COVID-19 Pandemic

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Pathways to Prosperity Virtual Workshops,

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Université **Laurentienne**  
**Laurentian** University



# Presentation Objective

## To discuss...

- Cultural Brokers' responses supporting newcomer families and providing culturally appropriate services before, during and post COVID-19 Pandemic



# Exploring the role of cultural brokers as intermediaries between immigrant and refugee families and child welfare workers



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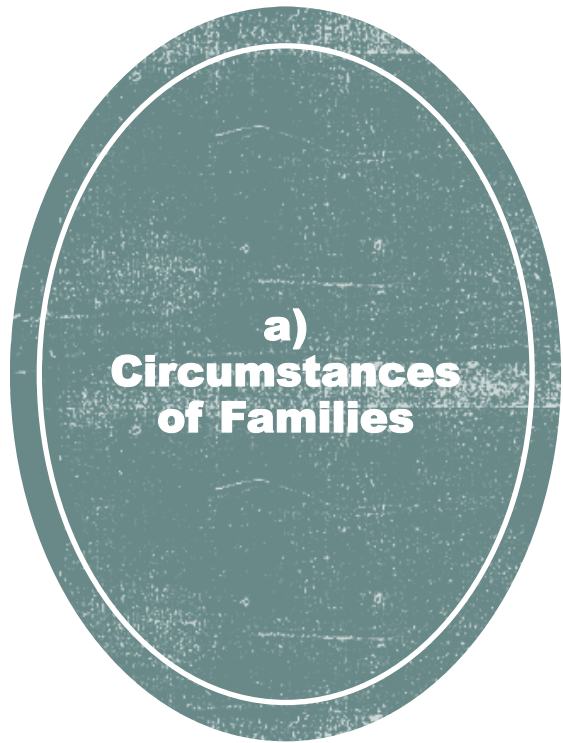
## Ongoing Research

**(2018-2023, Funded by SSHRC)**

- **5 Canadian Universities**
  - Sara Torres, **Laurentian University**
  - Sophie Yohani, **University of Alberta**
  - Henry Parada, **Ryerson University**
  - Nancy Ross, **Dalhousie University**
  - Caroline Andrew, **University of Ottawa**
  
- **2 Community Partners**
  - Kathy Campbell, **the Edmonton Region Child & Family Services (CFS), Children's Services**
  - Yvonne Chiu and Monique Nutter, **the Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative (MCHB-Coop), Edmonton**



# Preliminary findings



- Pre-migration experiences of families
- Becoming involved with Children's Services
- Traumas and fears
- Discrimination and racism

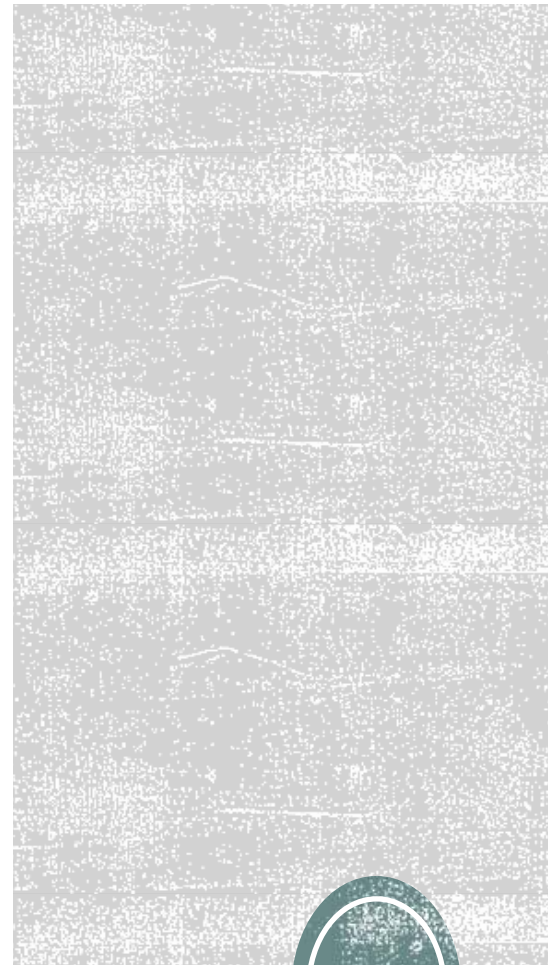
## b) Life in Canada

-Families need time to learn about life in Canada. The family may be unfamiliar with the surrounding environment in Canada, and the way in which systems in Canada work

-It can be difficult to access culturally appropriate resources in Canada

-It can be difficult to find a sense of community in Canada

-Families have various parenting styles that differ from Children's Services

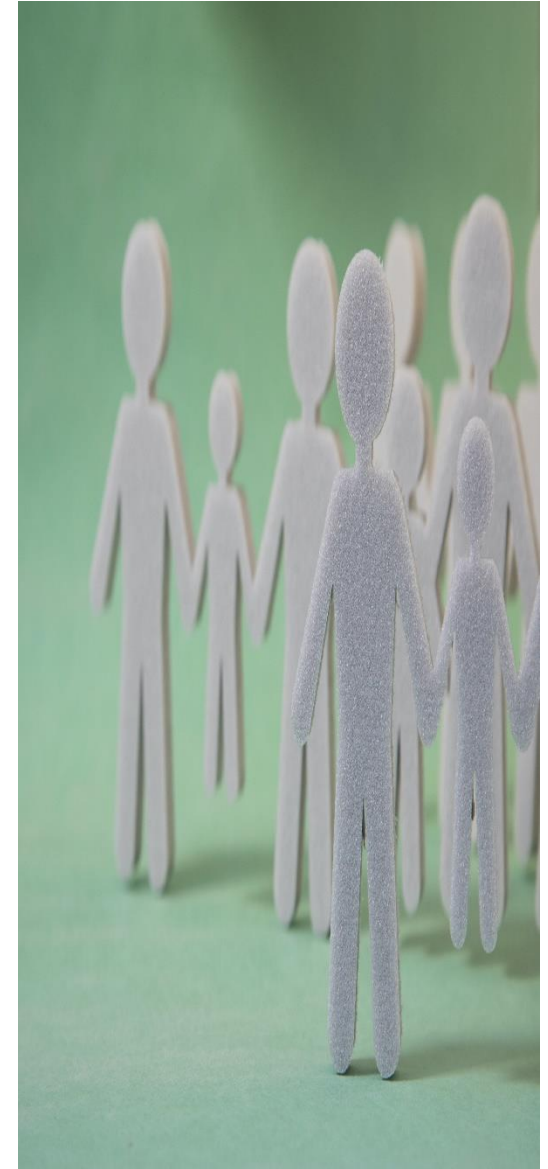


(Torres, Jhinger, Fernandez, 2022)



## c) Working Relationship with Cultural Brokers

- Improving understanding through the Cultural Broker
- Power imbalances
- Collaborative practice
- Signs of Safety
- Collaborating with other agencies
- Collaboration during child apprehension



(Torres, Jhinger, Fernandez, 2022)





# Conclusion

- Cultural Brokers coordinating responses to support newcomer families (dealing with child protection issues) before, during and post COVID-19 pandemic is crucial because they provide help in maintaining families' longterm wellbeing.



# Acknowledgements

- Immigrant and Refugee Families
- Cultural Brokers
- Children's Services Workers
- Laurentian University
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)



# Questions

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Thank you

