



The Roles of LIPs During the Pandemic and Post Pandemic Recovery

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE NATIONAL LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT

The roles for LIPs

- Responding to an emergent crisis
 - Navigating the early months of the pandemic
- Adjusting to the new normal
 - LIPs role on fostering long-term social transformation

The specific roles played by LIPs depended on contextual factors

- Geographical factors:
 - Large vs. Small Centres
 - Provincial responses
- Partnerships and Stakeholders
- Municipal vs. Non-Profit-housed LIPs

A global emergency

- LIP overall role has increased since the start of the pandemic.
- First few weeks of pandemic marked by frequently changing public health and other info, combined with a sense of isolation from partners who were suddenly working from home and felt cut off from networks.
- LIPs were well positioned to step into that gap as knowledge translators/knowledge hubs.

A Range of Initial Responses

- Collection and disseminated public health and other info
- Joining local decision-making and advisory/coordinating pandemic tables
- Assisting partners in transition to virtual service delivery
- Created and maintained resources, including program lists and translated materials
- Supporting professional development and capacity building
- Conducted scans of newcomer and partner needs

New roles for LIPs in addressing emergent challenges

- “Our LIP has shared COVID 19 materials with multicultural groups, in a public newsletter and on our website. We have connected with groups to coordinate resources local to our community.”
- “[we] joined regional pandemic response and control working groups to bring forward the concerns of immigrants and community partners.”
- “We have taken new roles in terms of research by applying for grants that are specific to helping our communities deal with the pandemic.”

The Role for LIPs in Community Development

- Due to their community development role LIPs are well positioned to support pandemic recovery efforts that require broader social and sector transformation.

The New Normal

- Covid-19 highlighted long standing inequalities in Canadian society
 - Racism
 - Unequal access to technology & digital literacy
 - Food and housing insecurity
 - Isolation and mental health
 - Accessing to services (including language training)
 - Higher rates of COVID 19 infection in the newcomer population
- A hastened shift in the newcomer serving sector

Underscored Inequalities

- Racism towards a specific community has grown exponentially due to COVID 19 and has prompted more conversations about systemic racism and how this presents in the community.”
- “Recent Immigrants were more likely to lose jobs as the pandemic took hold and are returning to work at a lower rate than Canadian-born – leading to house, food and other insecurities.”
- Digital access has disproportionately affected newcomers (and seniors) in our area, especially refugees and pre-benchmark ELLs.”
- “Significant increase in mental health issues involving individuals with no signs of previous mental health concerns due to isolation and fear.”

LIPs' roles in
post-pandemic
recovery: the
example of
anti-racism

- Social Media campaigns
 - Essential Immigrants – Halton Immigration Partnership Council
 - Calgary for All - CLIP
- Conventional media/video
 - See Me As I Am – Immigration Partnership Saskatoon
 - One Community. One World – South Okanagan-Similkameen LIP
- Creating Anti-racism subcommittees/working groups
- Reporting tools/maps
 - Surry LIP Racism Mapping Project

The Role of the NLS

- The NLS has endeavored to support some of this work
 - Engagement with the NSIC
 - Anti-racism initiatives
 - Anti-Racist Recovery Project
 - LIP Anti-Racism Working Group
 - Repository of Anti-racism resources