



# BRIDGING CULTURES:

Insights from West Coast Settlement Agencies' Approaches towards  
Respectful Indigenous-Immigrant Relationships for Reconciliation

NOVEMBER 20, 2023  
PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY, MONTREAL  
DRUMMOND EAST - LEVEL 3



# AGENDA

**Our Commitment to Truth, Reconciliation and Decolonization: A Personalized, Intentional and Reflective Lens**

**Neelam Sahota-**

**DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society**

**Indigenous Journey Project: Starting Point, Wisdom on Journey, What We've Gained**

**Meghan Mergaert-**

**Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria**

**Pathway to Kinship: Building Connections Through Truth- Learnings from the Community-Centered Approach in Creating the Surrey First Peoples Guide for Newcomers**

**Diana Ospina-**

**Surrey Local Immigration Partnership**





A photograph of two individuals walking away from the camera on a wooden boardwalk that winds through a lush, green forest. The person on the left is wearing a bright orange jacket with a white fringe across the chest and a wide-brimmed straw hat. The person on the right is wearing a yellow and white fringed tunic and a similar wide-brimmed hat. The background is filled with tall, thin trees and dense foliage, creating a serene and natural setting.

## Territorial Acknowledgements

The island called Montreal is known as Tiotia:ke and is located on the unceded Indigenous land of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation which have been custodians of this land and water since time immemorial and has traditionally been a meeting place for other Indigenous nations, including the Huron/Wendat, Abenaki, and Anishinaabeg (Algonquin). We are privileged to be invited to continue this tradition of gathering and learning.

DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society and Surrey LIP recognize that our work takes place on the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territories of the SEMYOME (Semiahmoo), q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie), kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem), q̓ʷɑ:ńłəń (Kwantlen), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and the s̓cəwaθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen) First Nations. The knowledge, traditions, and ongoing contributions of these communities are significant in providing context to the work we do, and we recognize the importance that reconciliation has in building truly inclusive and strong communities.

At the Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria, we acknowledge the Coast Salish Peoples on whose territories we do our work to support immigrants and refugees. We are grateful to work and live here, and we honour the Nations who have always cared for these lands, waters and air and continue to do so today.



# BRITISH COLUMBIA



# PROBING QUESTIONS

- 1** Organizations in the social impact space and more pointedly, in the settlement sector are in different points of understanding T&C and responding to some of the 94 calls to action. In your organization, what is your biggest hurdle(s) you face in advancing the work of T&C ?
- 2** How can we advance truth and reconciliation, when newcomers, staff, or board members, may not grasp the value or need for reconciliation?
- 3** Paths to respectful relationships with Indigenous communities are many and varied. How can we prepare ourselves to engage in those relationships?



# THANK YOU!

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