Approaches to Participatory Governance with Newcomers

Nurturing the Seeds Cultivated in Community

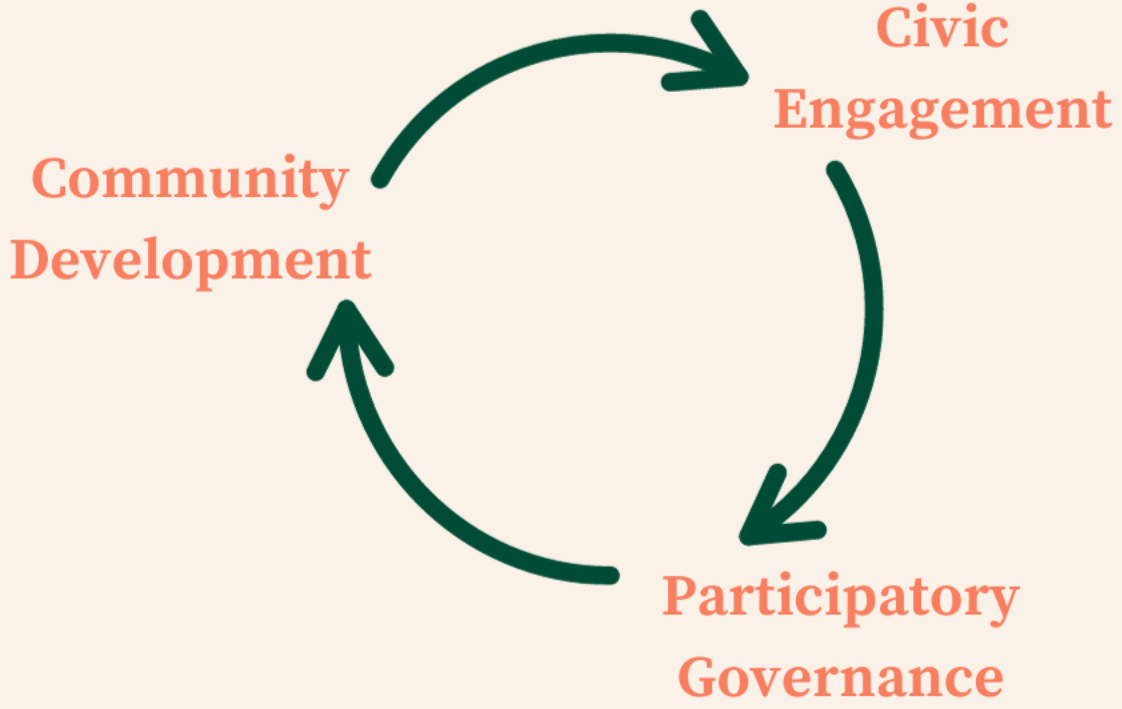
TORONTO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES

WES MARIAM ASSEFA FUND

SNSC
Scarborough Newcomer Settlement Collective

What is Participatory Governance?

People impacted by the decision making, making the decisions.



TORONTO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES

(TNC) is an association of non-profit multi-service organizations dedicated to strengthening local neighbourhoods and enabling diverse communities to work together to promote justice and a healthy life for all.

TORONTO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES

What is People-Centred Civic Engagement?

Community Voices for System Change

Two-year project

Involved 50+ staff across 18 organizations

Community leadership from neighbourhoods we serve

- Definition
- Charter and Checklist
- Agencies as Allies

What is People-Centred Civic Engagement?

A people-centered approach ensures that lived realities of this systemically-driven marginalization and exclusion are at the center of our work and it enables us to help ensure that all individuals in all sectors of society are able to participate fully in the processes that shape their communities.

A people-centered approach supports civic engagement as a basic and fundamental part of what it is to live in Canada and strives to ensure that everyone has a say in decisions that affect their lives.

TORONTO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES

The Fabric of Newcomer Women in Community Building

1) Trust & Relationships
2) Collaboration & Capacity Building
3) Resources & Sustainability

Nita Goswami
- Settlement Counselor, Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services (SAFSS)
- Founder and parent lead for Woburn Jr. Families @ Tuxedo Court

WALKING ALONGSIDE YOUTH

Listen, Empower, and Stand Back

Omar Khan
- Coordinator, Engaged Communities, Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park

UNIFIED DISCUSSIONS

Your Input is Welcomed

AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIFYING RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION

To spark a discussion on your community meeting your religious needs

Some questions to discuss:

Are you able to express your religious identity comfortably?

How could this community do a good job in providing resources for all religions?

Have you ever felt discriminated due to your religion in your community?

Contact me at : humaira[redacted]

TikTok
ART WEEK AT UNIFIED
DISCUSSIONS !!

“A year later, I still think about Unified Discussions as one of the most important and incredible learning experiences I’ve had. It’s given me not only answers to the many questions I’ve held, but made me realize how important it is to find community even through our differences. I felt a sense of ease, and open-mindedness when stepping out into the world, because I knew we were all more alike than we usually think everyone to be. Our differences were also beautiful to learn and share.”

Humaira
- Youth Leader

Building an Evidence-Driven, Participatory Governance Model for Newcomer Services in Scarborough, Toronto

We focus on creating projects that enable citizens to engage in their local community and have a positive impact.

CCS
Catholic Crosscultural Services

SNSC
Scarborough Newcomer Settlement Collective

Toronto East Quadrant Local Immigration Partnership
Working Together for a Diverse & Inclusive Community

Funded by: Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Financé par : Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

The Project

- 2 year SDI (Service Delivery Improvement) project
  - (Jan 2022 - Mar 2024)
- Funded by IRCC, led by CCS in partnership with UTSC and in close collaboration with TEQ LIP

Project Goals

- Developing a community-based participatory model of governance for local decision-making on newcomer service planning and funding.
- Build Community Capacity

Model Goal

To better address gaps and emerging needs in newcomer service provision in Scarborough by providing an inclusive model for collectively making decisions on newcomer service planning and resource allocation

Project Structure

stakeholder leadership

- Advisory committee
- Model development work group
- Partnership with UTSC – research and evidence-based planning

participatory approach

- Topic-based reference groups
- Neighbourhood-based peer groups

project staff & support

- Project Lead
- Communications & Engagement Facilitator

informed by

- Environmental Scan
- Project Evaluation

supported by

- stakeholder engagement
- capacity building

The Project

Engaged all stakeholders impacted by decision making

Service Providers, Newcomers & Immigrants, Funders, Organizations, Grassroots Groups, Community Residents

120+ Stakeholders Engaged

Peer Groups, Focus Groups, Advisory Committee, Model Development Workgroup

Input in Design & Testing

Newcomer representatives as part of every project leadership group;
Monitor membership and frame evaluation in newcomer perspective

Newcomer Engagement: A Timeline

Proposal Setup

Project structure included a range of opportunities for all stakeholders inc. newcomers and immigrants

Mutual Support with Partners

Partnered with newcomer-serving organizations and services

Data Collection

Ensure representation of data from and about the full representation of Scarborough, including non-service users.

Evaluate and Adjust

Monitor engagement and adjust format to engage more people e.g. Community Pop-Ups

Collect More Full Stories

Focus Groups gives newcomers the opportunity to tell their full stories

Build Collaboration & Capacity

Through connecting, formal workshops and integrated capacity building in meetings

Still Learning

Large number of newcomers were ineligible; Still reviewing data from testing to understand more

Questions

Final Thought

Resources

Toronto Neighbourhood Centres

Checkout these resources on People-Centred Civic Engagement:
https://neighbourhoodcentres.ca/focus_areas.php
Community Voices for Systems Change
Raise Our Voices Video Series
Find a wealth of resources on Belonging & Anti-Oppression on TNC's website, including focuses on:

- BIPOC Leadership
- Disability Justice & Intersectionality
- Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation

WES Mariam Assefa Fund

- Fund's webpage: https://www.wes.org/fund/
- Announcement of the Participatory Grantmaking Project in Peel region: https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/latest/fund-partners-with-tamarack-institute-to-launch-a-participatory-grantmaking-project-to-support-immigrants-economic-mobility-in-peel-region

Scarborough Newcomer Settlement Collective

Learn more about the project by visiting the website:
https://scarboroughlip.com/current-projects/snsc-project/
Find helpful resources from the project and our stakeholders on our OneDrive

Thank You

for joining us!