



TORONTO NORTH
Local Immigration
Partnership

UNITING FOR IMPACT: FOSTERING EFFECTIVE FAITH AND SETTLEMENT INTER-SECTORAL COLLABORATIONS TO FILL GAPS IN NEWCOMER SERVICES





What Are We Going To Talk About?

Learnings and reflections from a Local Immigration Partnership's effort to support collaboration between faith organizations and settlement service providers in Toronto, Ontario over past 6+ years.

AGENDA

- What are LIPs?
- How it all started?
- Immigrant landscape in Toronto
- Faith and settlement service landscape in Toronto
- What research says about faith-settlement sector partnerships
- Our journey to date
- What we accomplished
- What we learned
- Where do we go from here



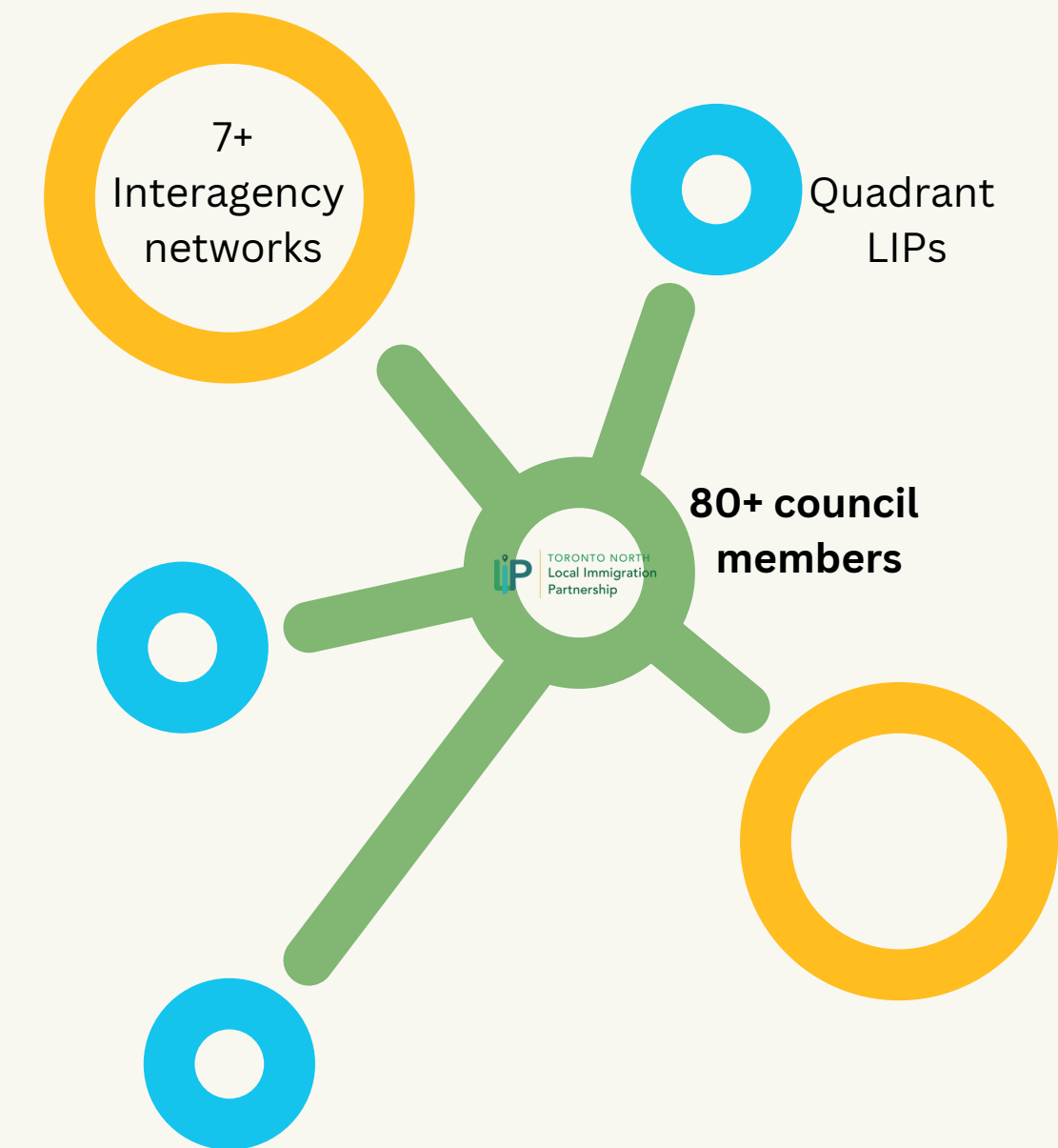
What Are LIPs? And Who is TNLIP?

Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) work to improve the successful integration of immigrants in their communities. They **convene partners from across key sectors** in a city or region. Together, the partners work to strengthen the community's ability to address the needs of newcomers—and enables them to settle into their new homes. LIPs are funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and can be found in 87 communities across the country.

To begin, it is important to note the **vital role of community engagement in establishing credibility and trust with partners** with aligned interests and diverse stakeholders.

Who is TNLIP?

A LIP led by three consortium partner agencies serving Toronto North region since 2012 and convening a Partnership Council of over 80 organizations. Our LIP also works closely with other 3 Quadrant LIPs, The Newcomer Office and 7 interagency networks and community tables!





How It All Started!

A survey of interagency networks in our quadrant, their work, and alignment with our LIP settlement strategy!

Interviews conducted with 25 place-based and thematic networks all of which had supporting newcomers on their agenda.

What we learned? Networks in Toronto North often operate in isolation, with limited or no connections to each other due to constraints on time and funding, as most networks rely on voluntary participation.

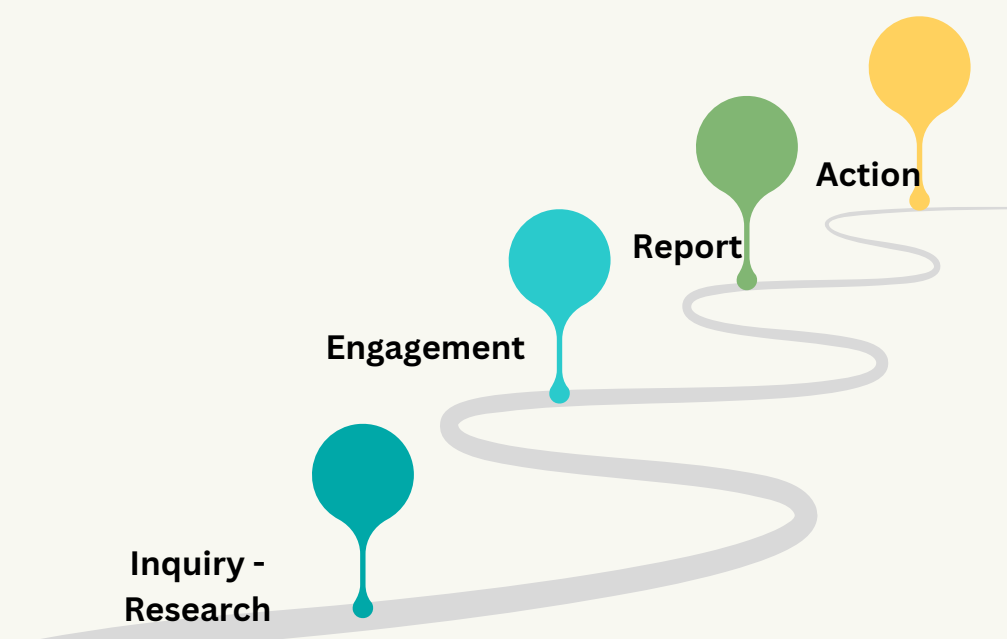
Networks share common challenges:

- developing leadership, building a shared purpose, and planning for sustainability

And common desires:

- **building capacity to connect with faith groups**, conducting community outreach, and understanding cultural differences

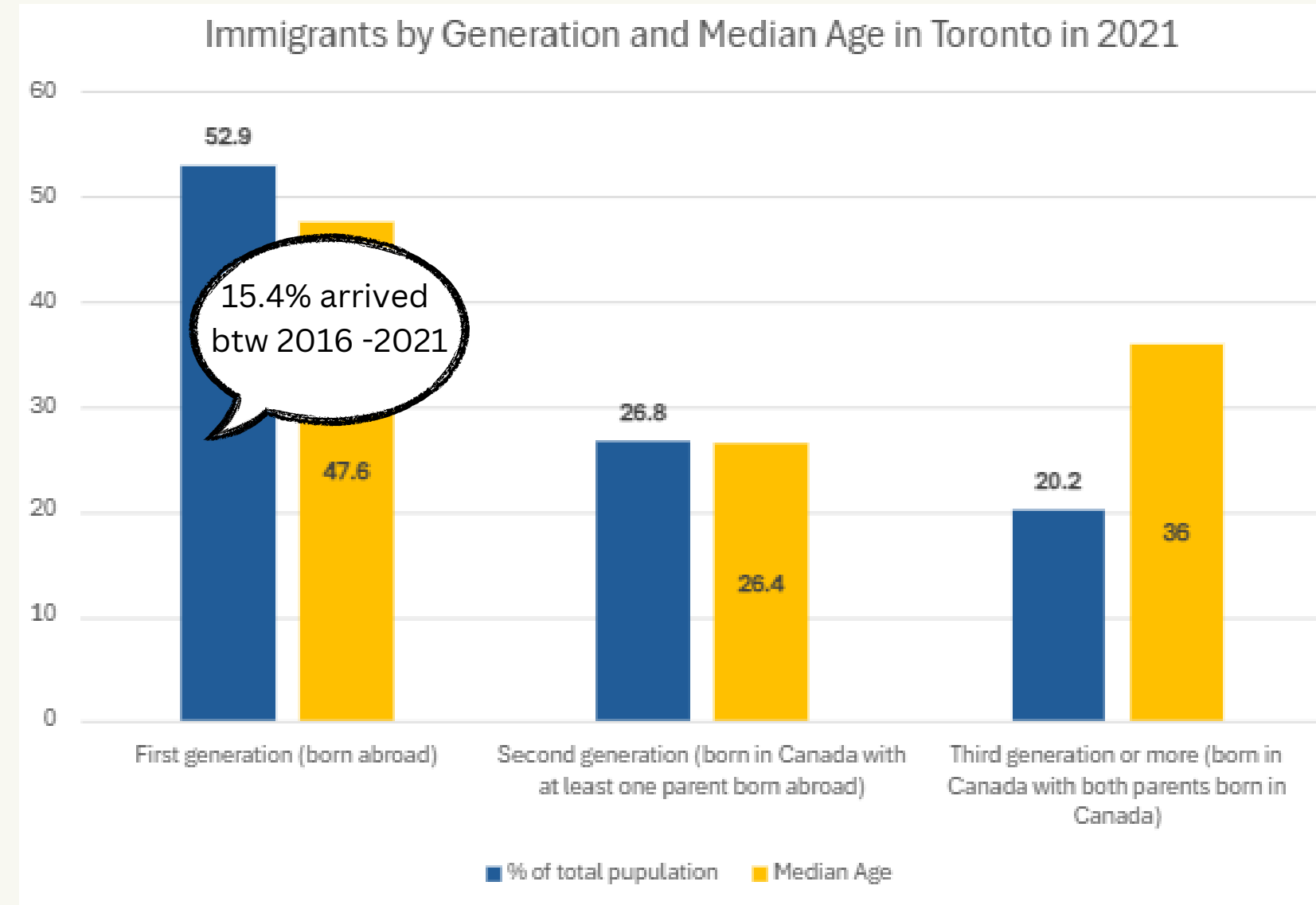
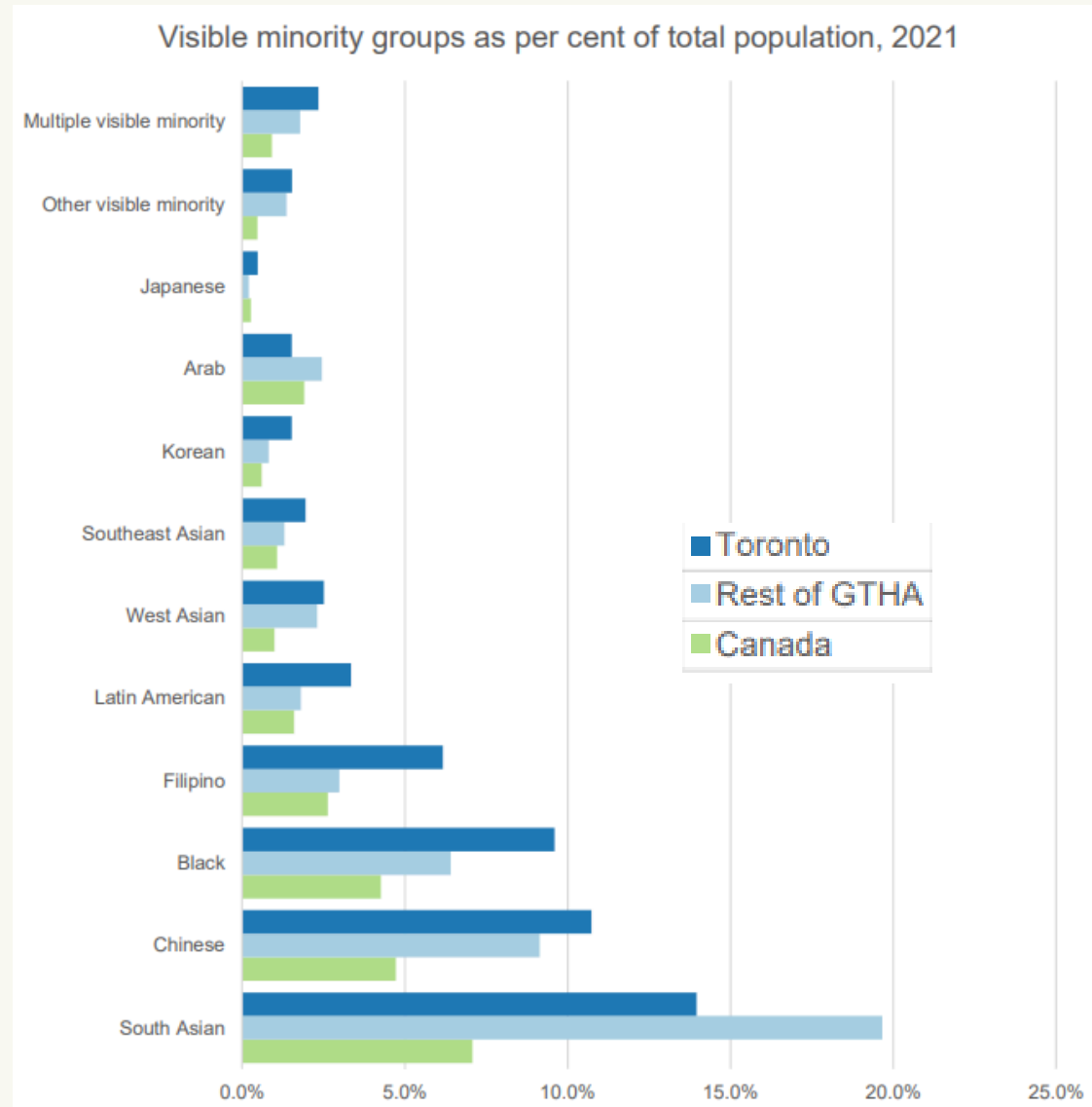
Therefore engaging faith leaders by hosting an interfaith panel focused on community development and approaches to mental health as a starting point for building relationships and learning from faith leaders was recommended by the report.



Immigration Landscape in Toronto



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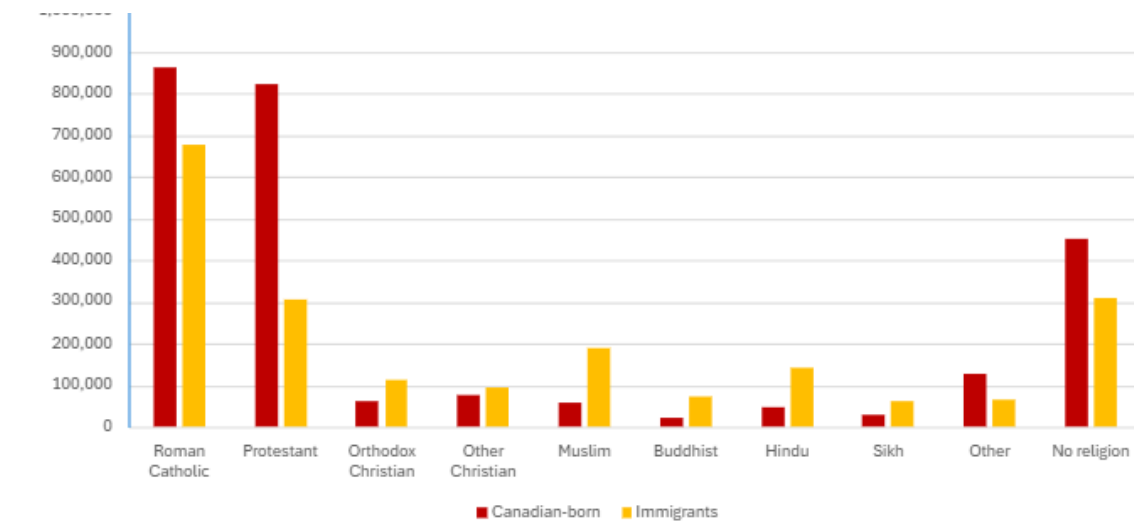
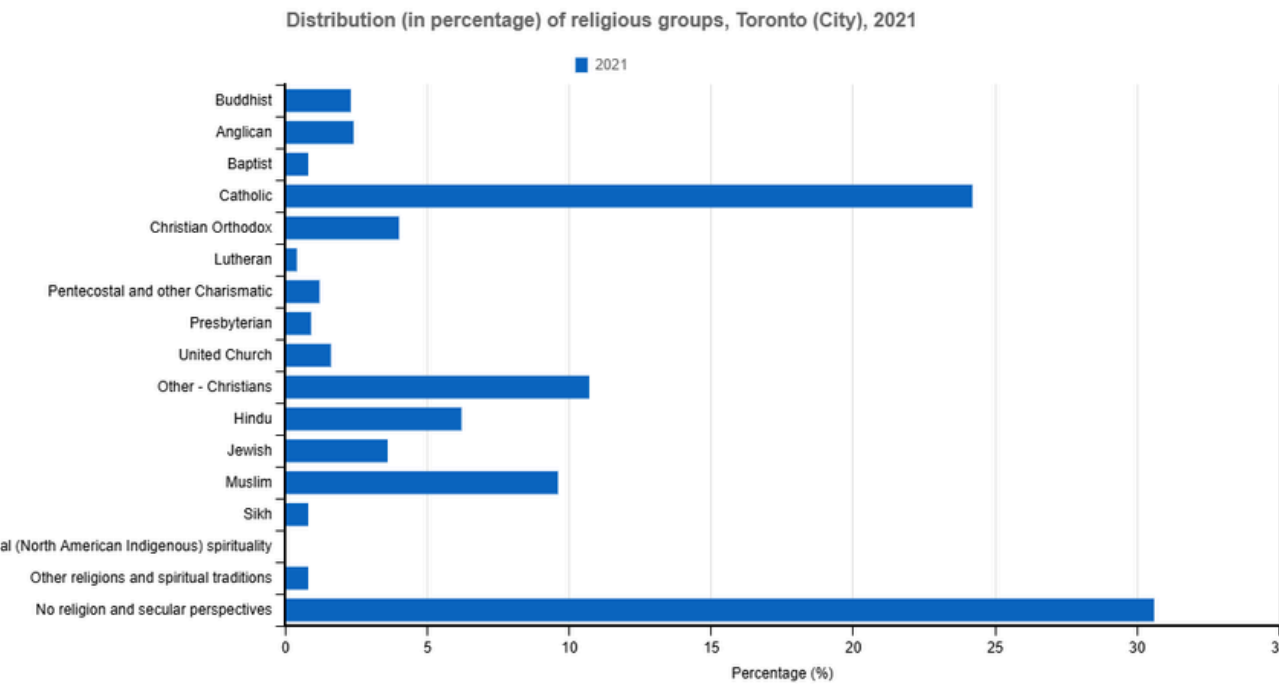
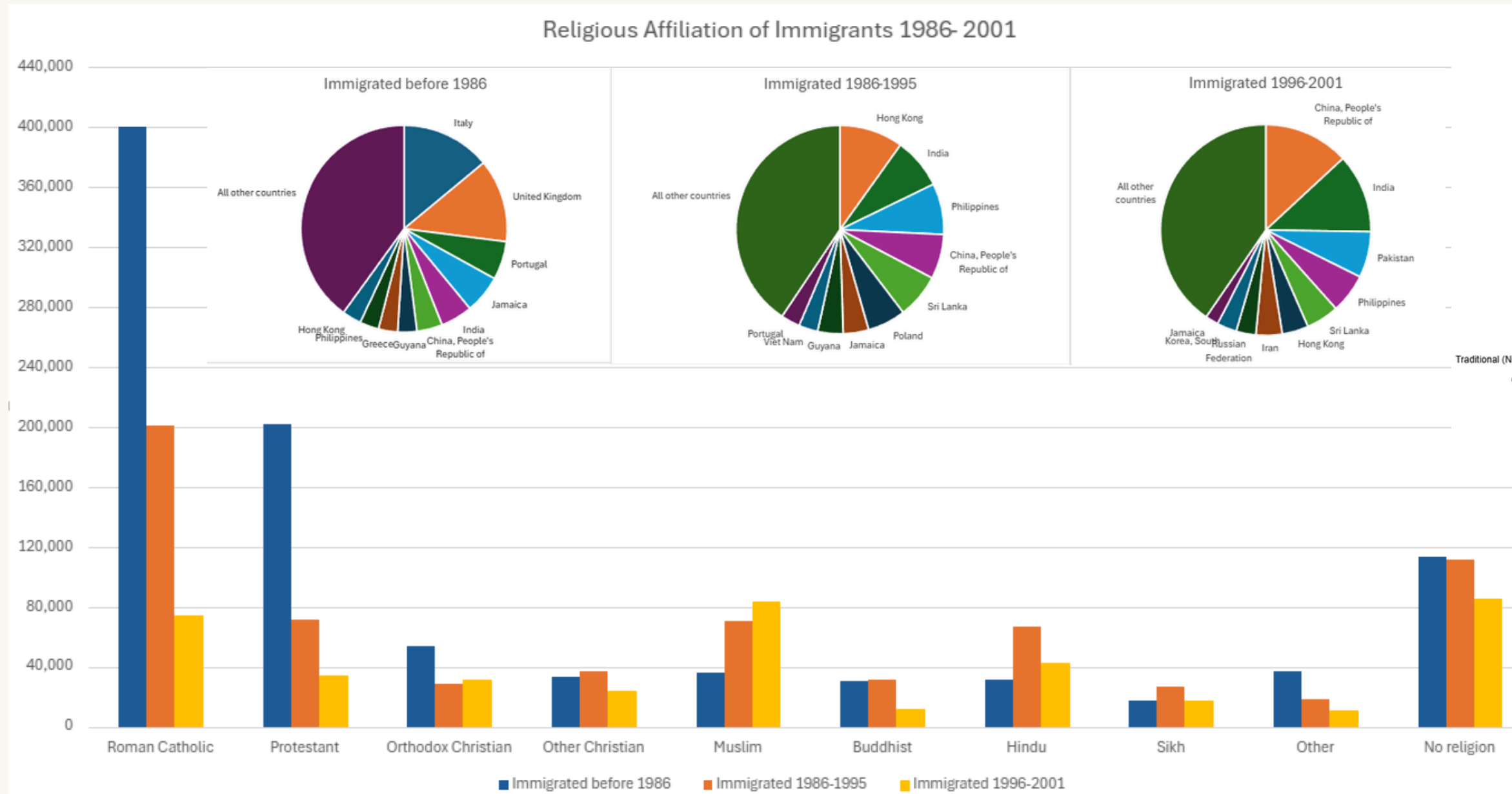


5.3% Non PRs
TFWs,
International Students,
Asylum Seekers

Jan 2021: 995 asylum seekers in TO Shelters
Oct 2024: 6075 asylum seekers in TO Shelters
600+% increase



Immigration & Religious Landscape in Toronto



Angus Reid & Cardus
Interfaith Survey,
April 2022

- Immigrants coming from countries where religion is a much more public reality than in most western democracies
- Religion plays a larger role of in the lives of newcomers compared to those born in Canada
- New immigrants are more likely to express their religion publicly
- 47% of immigrants strongly believe in God vs 32% Canadian born

Faith and Settlement Service Landscape in Toronto

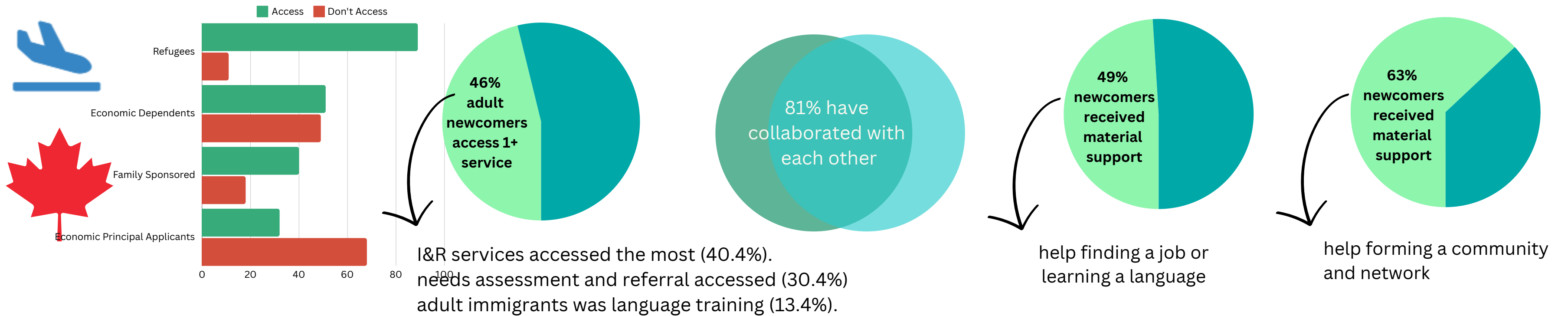


- \$14 billion in annual revenue > 8% of Toronto's GDP
- 7% funding from municipal gov't; 93% from other sources
- > 105,000 FT jobs & >100,000 PT jobs
- 1.7 million volunteer hours
- 14,000 organizations
- 2,450 organizations providing services **specifically for newcomers to Toronto**

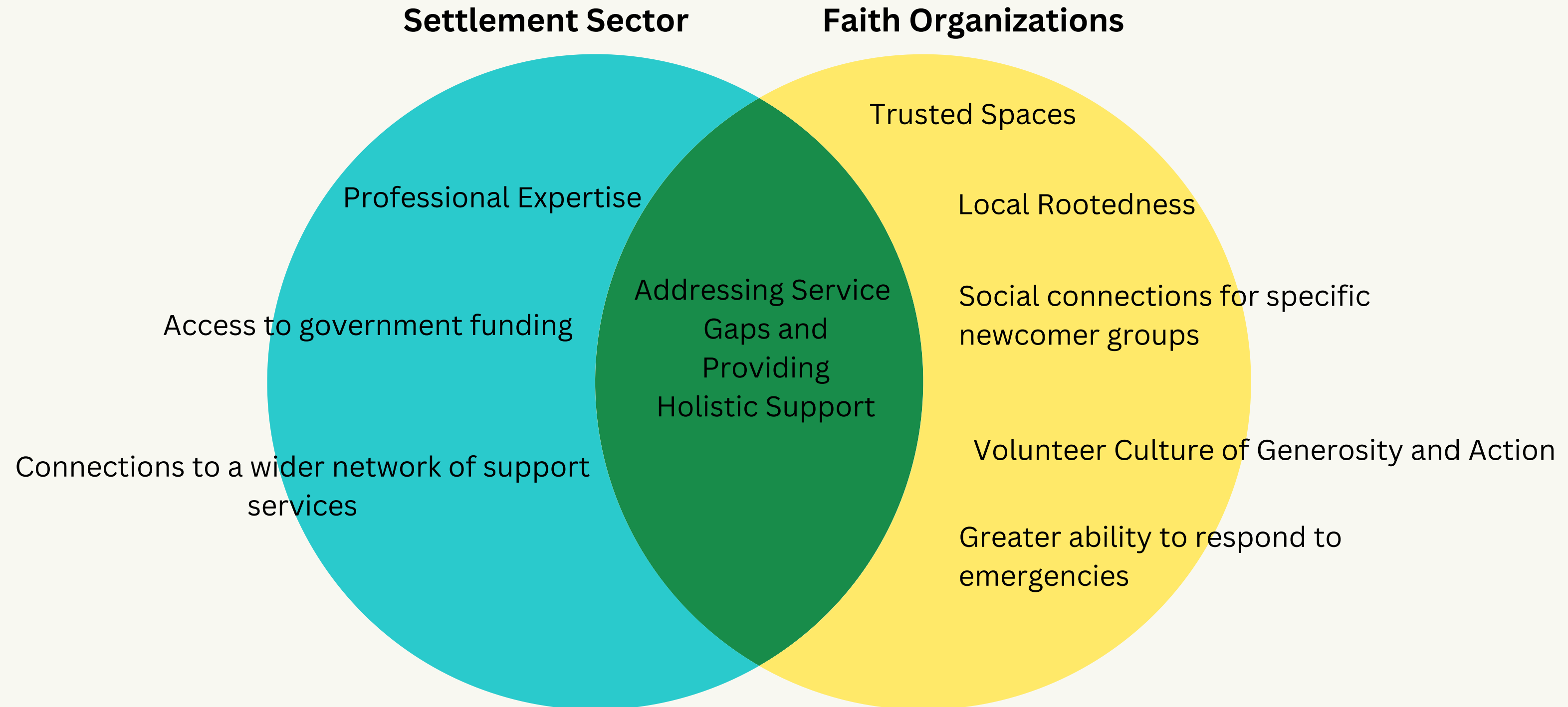


- Approx. 1, 175 Places of Worship
- 27% increase in places of worship (1998-2018)
- 469 faith organizations in Central Toronto contribute \$724.63 million in economic benefit annually

Immigrants Admitted from 2016 to 2020



Faith and Settlement Partnerships - Benefits/Strengths



Faith and Settlement Partnerships - Challenges



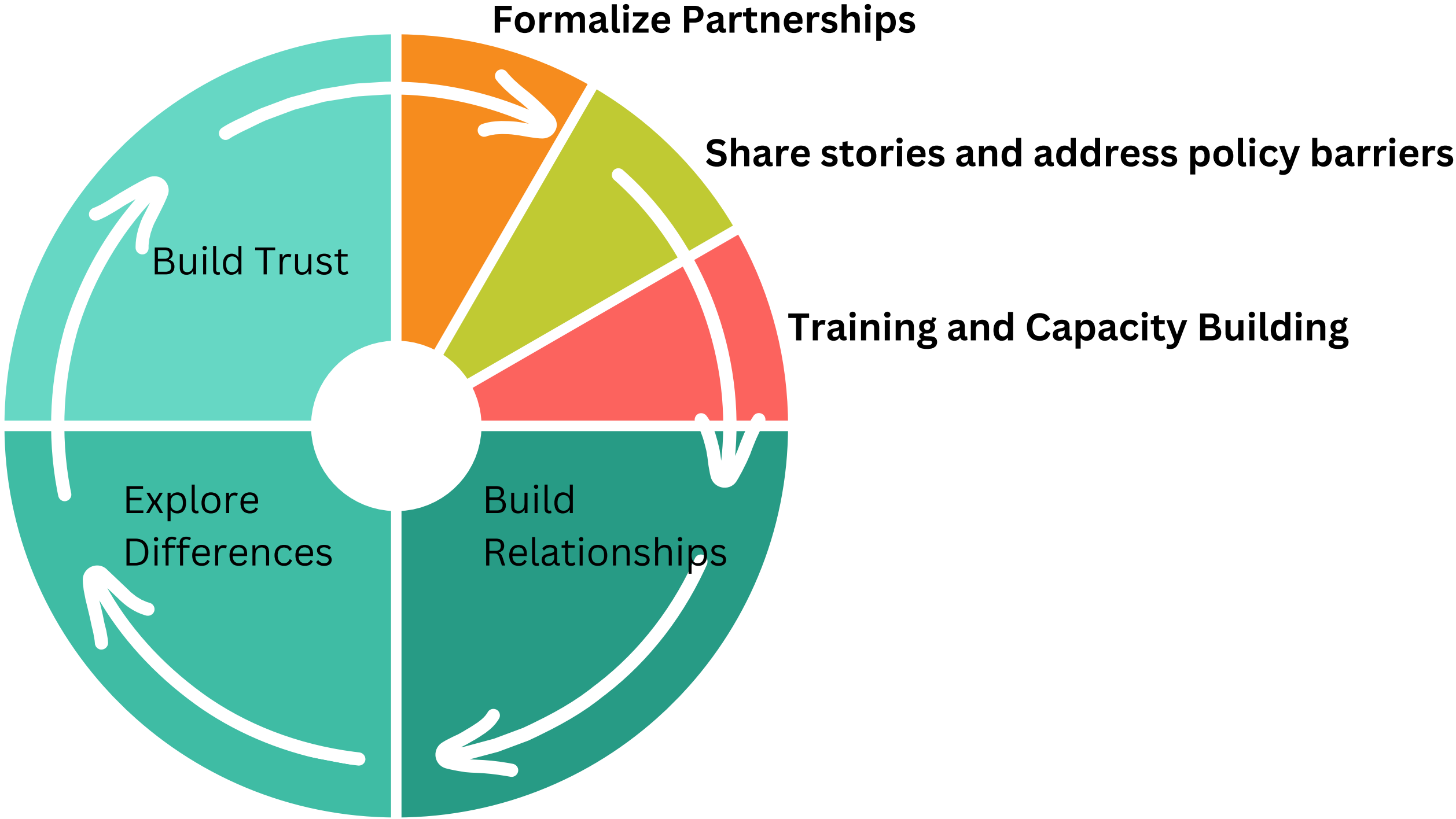
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Best Practices in Faith and Settlement Partnerships



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TNLIP Support for Faith and Settlement Collaboration - Focus

- Building TRUST among faith groups and between faith groups and settlement organizations
- Awareness building within Settlement SPOs of faith services and vice versa
- Supporting dialogue and building relationships
- Showcasing projects and sharing resources
- Establishing referral relationships
- Recognition and appreciation for both sectors
- Developing tools (i.e. faith map)
- Providing a physical space
- Responding to emerging issues









SYSTEMS/SUPPORTS/RESOURCES
 WHAT EXISTS + WHAT IS LACKING?
 → CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION
 (like today! But what about ONGOING forum?)

CHALLENGES

STAFF OVERWORKED
 RESPONSIVE, NOT PROACTIVE
 IS JOB IS IT TO BE
 MAKE SURE INFO IS
 ?
 COMMUNITY IS
 TO TAKIN ALL
 THEMSELVES !!

BEST PRACTICES

- CLEAR COMMUNICATION (CHANNELS, SYSTEMS)
- CLEAR ROLES + RESPONSIBILITIES
- OTHER?

SPO's
 → How do we work with COMMUNITIES
 - REFUGEE SPONSOR
 - SPO VOLUNTEER
 - IN-KIND DR
 - NEWCOMER
 - OTHER ...





TNLIP Support for Faith and Settlement Collaboration - Timeline



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2019 - First City Wide event led by Toronto North LIP after identifying opportunity to scale it

2020 - Covid

Collaboration with Faith Communities In Information Sharing & Service Coordination

2021- Afghan refugee crisis

Building Resilience and Adapting to Changing Times (virtual)

2022 - Ukrainian Refugee crisis

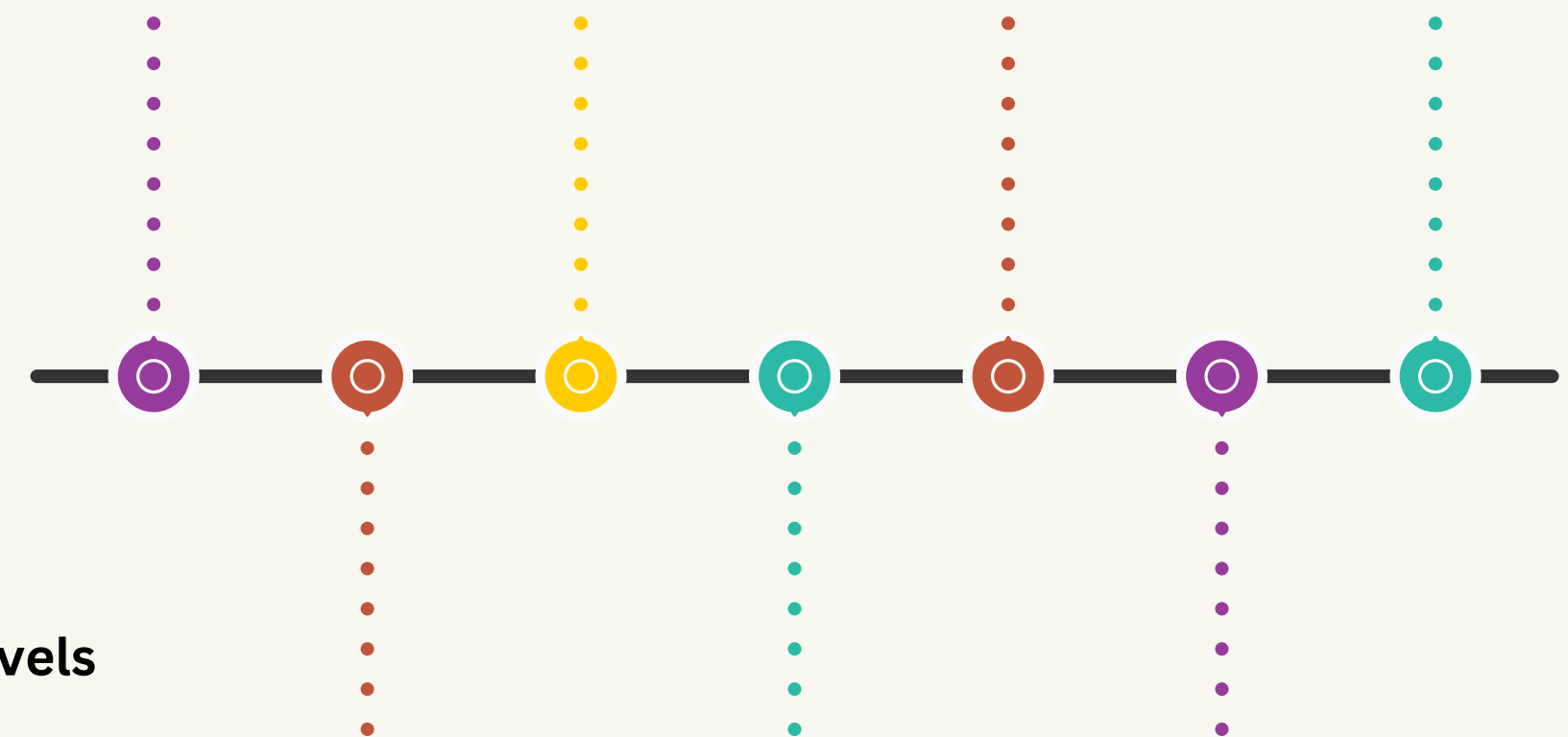
Community Engagement and Collective Wellbeing (virtual)

2023 - Turkey Earthquake; conflict in Gaza; asylum seeker crisis in Toronto

Post Pandemic Resilience and Community Integration Forum
Faith Leaders Networking Event #1 (in person)

2024 - Plight of International Students; changing immigration policy and levels

Healing Together in Times of Crisis - Crossing Lines Forum
Faith Leaders Networking Event 2 (in person)



TNLIP Support for Faith and Settlement Collaboration - Event Format

FAITH AND WELCOMING COMMUNITIES FORUM 2024

HEALING TOGETHER IN TIMES OF CRISIS:
BRIDGING GAPS TOWARD SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

THURSDAY, JUNE 6 2024, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE
1000 MURRAY ROSS PARKWAY, TORONTO, ON, M3J 2P3

Time	Agenda Item
9:00 AM	Arrivals & Registration Breakfast & Networking
10:00 AM	Welcome & Housekeeping
10:05 AM	Indigenous Acknowledgement by Cat Crigar Opening Remarks by Pastor Eddie Jjumba
10:20 AM	Let's Cross the Line
10:30 AM	Keynote Address: Dr. Richard Landau
10:40 AM	Plenary Session: "Crossing Lines": Building Meaningful Partnerships and Working Towards Positive Change followed by Q&A
12:00 PM	Lunch & Networking
1:15 PM	Changing the Narrative at Black Creek Pioneer Village
1:30 PM	Simultaneous Workshops
	Leveraging Community Partnerships and Governments to Enhance Capacity for Supporting Newcomers
	Increasing Joint Advocacy Efforts between Newcomer Service Providers and Faith Communities
2:30 PM	Improving Access to Health Services for Newcomers: Collaboration between Service Providers and Faith Communities
	Learnings from Workshops and Sharing Wall Activity
3:00 PM	Closing Remarks by Mohammad Hotak Thank You from the Planning Committee

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 FAITH AND WELCOMING COMMUNITIES FORUM
HEALING TOGETHER IN TIMES OF CRISIS:
BRIDGING GAPS TOWARD SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

Workshop Descriptions

Leveraging Community Partnerships and Governments to Enhance Capacity for Supporting Newcomers

This workshop focuses on discovering how to build stronger, more effective community partnerships, and the role of different levels of governments in supporting these settlement partnerships. It will touch on collaboration models that faith communities and newcomer service providers can use to support newcomers, while also highlighting the current gaps and barriers to creating strong community partnerships. Innovative solutions will also be explored. The goal is to understand how we can leverage these partnerships in order to move towards a more sustainable future.

Increasing Joint Advocacy Efforts between Newcomer Service Providers and Faith Communities

Newcomer communities are increasingly facing challenging times. This workshop will focus on the ways that newcomer service providers and faith communities can work together to advocate for better support systems for communities and how we can build the settlement sector's capacity for advocacy. It will also discuss the role of nontraditional community partners in leading advocacy efforts and creating healing in times of crisis.

Improving Access to Health Services for Newcomers: Collaboration between Service Providers and Faith Communities

Access to adequate health care is a human right for all. This workshop will discuss pathways to increase and improve access to health services for newcomers. The goal is to focus on health areas that are harder to access services such as mental, sexual, disability services and also services for those who are uninsured. The workshop hopes to support the settlement sector and faith leaders to create a safe space for those difficult areas of need and possibly share resources.

Feedback / Evaluation Form

Thank you for participating in our event! We hope you enjoyed the 6th Annual Faith and Welcoming Communities Forum and found it useful and informative. Please take a moment to provide your feedback using the QR code.



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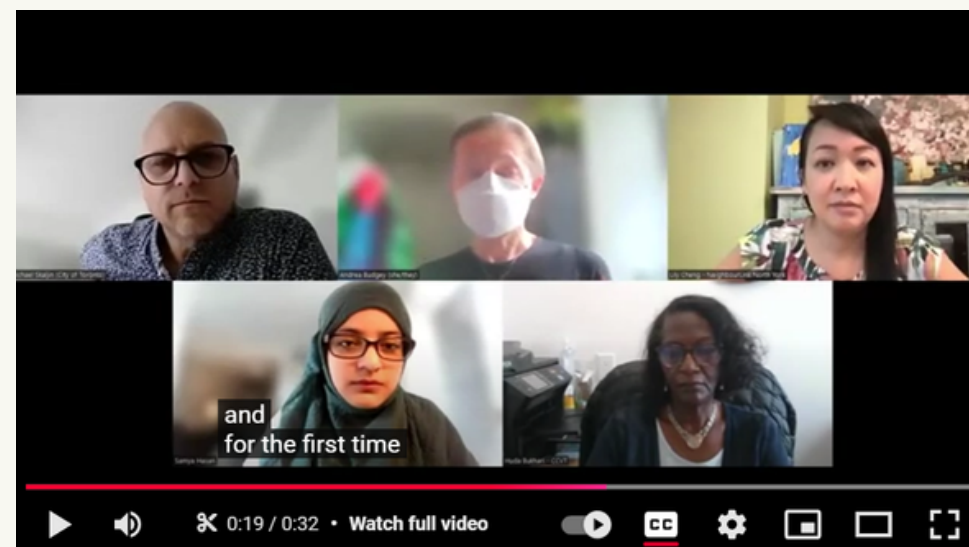


TNLIP Support for Faith and Settlement Collaboration - Video Clips of Past Events

Faith Forum 2021



Faith Forum 2022



Faith Forum 2023



Faith Forum 2024



TNLIP Support for Faith and Settlement Collaboration - Impact



- Interactive Faith Group Map (who provide services to newcomers)

- Two-way Communication Google Group for SPOs and Faith Groups



- Increase in interfaith dialogue

- Referrals of ineligible clients

TNLIP Support for Faith and Settlement Collaboration - What We Learned



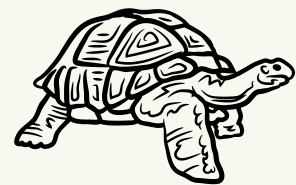
- **TRUST needs to be continually built** within faith groups, between faith and SPOs, btw faith leaders and LIPs



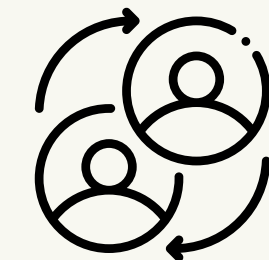
- Developing sensitivity around faith groups mandates, navigating sensitive issues - i.e. smudging ceremony



- How to temper excitement with diplomacy, building knowledge; proceed with caution



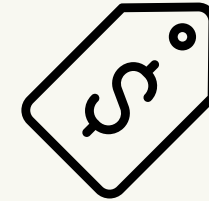
- Focus on addressing unique needs of the faith leaders - i.e. feeling of under appreciation and how they need more information sharing pathways



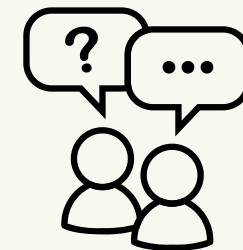
- Staff turnover, loss of knowledge



- Responding to crisis



- Managing costs - time needed for relationship building; financial costs



- Relationships with Indigenous communities



- Allyship and interfaith - all faith share the same values; forum is a great avenue to showcase these values and interfaith action initiatives

TNLIP Support for Faith and Settlement Collaboration - What Is Next?



Settlement workers in faith based organizations



Increasing joint advocacy efforts between faith communities and settlement providers



Potential train the trainer opportunities for SPOs and for faith communities in urban settings



Evaluating and improving future faith forums with learnings from the past

Thank you!

Q&A

