

## **Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership Research on Community Priorities to Support Immigrant Integration and Inclusion**

### **Introduction**

The Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership (TCLIP) is a collaborative that engages community stakeholders across multiple sectors to build community capacity in improving immigrant integration and inclusion in the Tri-Cities. The role of TCLIP in the community is to support stakeholders by sharing promising practices and community information, by engaging stakeholders in fostering welcoming communities and by collaborating on initiatives that address the needs and gaps in the integration and inclusion journey of immigrants in the Tri-Cities.

In 2014- 2016, TCLIP conducted community consultations to identify immigrants' needs to contribute to and feel included in the Tri-Cities. In addition, stakeholder consultations were conducted to identify gaps, barriers and issues in immigrant integration and inclusion. The results from these consultations informed the TCLIP's strategic priorities from 2016- 2020 and provided a roadmap of activities for the collaborative to enact.

Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership (TCLIP) together with Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC) will conduct research on community priorities in building welcoming and inclusive communities with a focus on immigrant integration and inclusion in the Tri-Cities area, utilizing a collective impact framework. The goal of the project is to identify needs and gaps in the integration and inclusion journey of newcomers in the Tri-Cities. The results of this research will inform the renewal of our community strategic priorities and future action plans.

### **Research Project**

With this research, TCLIP aims to identify potential strategies that the collaborative could enact to support community priorities. Additionally, we intend to develop key indicators to measure the success of the collaborative in addressing needs and gaps to integration and inclusion. As TCLIP is a multi-sectoral community partnership, this research project

will provide community stakeholders with a roadmap to guide and align opportunities for collaboration.

The research will address the following key questions:

- According to the diverse perspectives of different community stakeholders, what are the community priorities related to immigrant integration?
- What indicators could TCLIP members and partners use to measure success toward achieving identified community goals?
- What strategies can TCLIP implement to make progress toward achieving community goals?

To determine the priorities related to immigrant integration, SRDC will conduct the following research activities:

1. Develop a research plan and orientation

The research plan will include the project objectives, research methodology, a timeline for each activity and deliverable, and a list of potential interview respondents as a starting point for determining community priorities.

2. Document and literature review

SRDC will undertake a targeted document and literature review to better understand the current state of immigrant integration activities, priorities, and networks in the Tri-Cities. The review will inform the current context of immigrant integration in the Tri-Cities region and inform community priorities. The review will also include a scan of promising practices in other similar jurisdictions related to strategies and indicators to measure success in newcomer integration.

3. Stakeholder surveys

A survey will be developed to target service providers, government, and employers to gather feedback on their needs and the needs of the newcomers that they serve and employ. The survey will also clarify what community stakeholders perceive to be the most important areas of focus in their community and what has been achieved or not since the last strategic plan.

4. Immigrant focus groups

Focus groups will be conducted to gather newcomers' input on what they perceive to be their greatest needs and challenges, and what is already working well. The focus groups will be facilitated in English and in two other languages widely spoken in the region.

5. Stakeholder Interviews

Interviews will take place for community stakeholders to gather input on areas of need.

**Activities schedule:**

The duration of the research project will be from July to December 2020. All data collection activities will happen between **July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020** and **November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**.

1. Development of data collection tools, such as surveys, focus group and interview questions and protocols, and research consent protocols will be completed by **August 31, 2020**. This phase will encompass the translation of flyers, liaison pieces, interview and consent protocols and community surveys and should be completed before focus groups and interviews take place.
2. All data will be collected by **November 15, 2020**. This phase will encompass the live translation of focus groups and interviews.
3. Analysis and reporting will take place by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. SRDC will present the results at the TCLIP forum at the end of November/ early December 2020.

**Research Organization**

The Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC) is a non-profit research organization, created specifically to develop, field test, and rigorously evaluate new programs. SRDC's two-part mission is to help policy-makers and practitioners identify policies and programs that improve the well-being of all Canadians, with a special concern for the effects on the disadvantaged, and to raise the standards of evidence that are used in assessing these policies.

Since its establishment in December 1991, SRDC has conducted over 350 projects and studies for various federal and provincial departments, municipalities, as well as other public and non-profit organizations. SRDC has offices located in Ottawa and Vancouver, and satellite offices in Calgary and Montreal. The research project team will include Ms. Susanna Gurr and Ms. Xiaoyang Luo.