

Pathways to Belonging: Linking Language, Credentials, and Community for Measurable Newcomer Success



**Language Testing in Action:
Connecting Assessment to Real-
World Outcomes**



**Strengthening Engagement Through
Language and Credential Insights**



**“It Reminded Me That I Was More
Than a Refugee”: The Impact of
Credential Evaluation on Skilled
Refugees’ Well-Being and Economic
Integration**

CELP^{IP}

Language Testing in Action

Connecting Assessment
to Real-World Outcomes

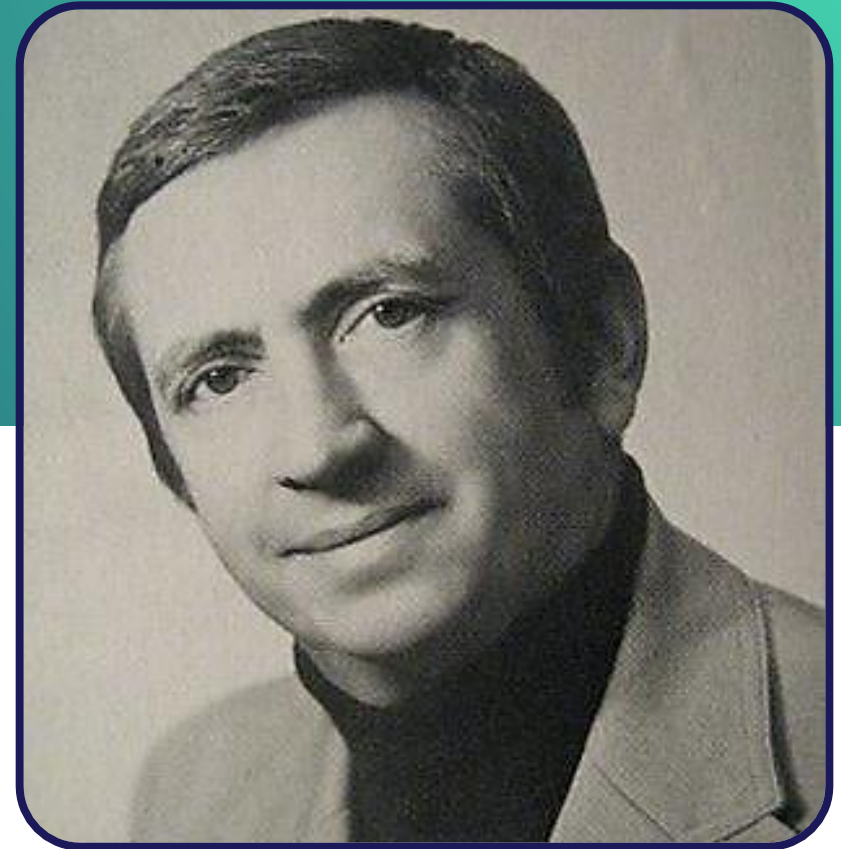
November 25, 2025

PROMETRIC^{IP}

Building the Workforce of Tomorrow

"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way."

Frank Smith





- Mirrors real-life communication
- Helps newcomers meet the language levels required for other services, programs, or government applications
- Aligned with **CLB benchmarks**
- **CEFR** alignment
- Accepted by **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)** as proof of English language proficiency for permanent residency
- Accepted by the **Australian Office of Home Affairs** for visa applications
- Accepted for **PGWP** Applications
- Accepted by numerous professional organizations, including:
 - College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants (CICC)
 - Real Estate Council of British Columbia (RECBC)
 - Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand

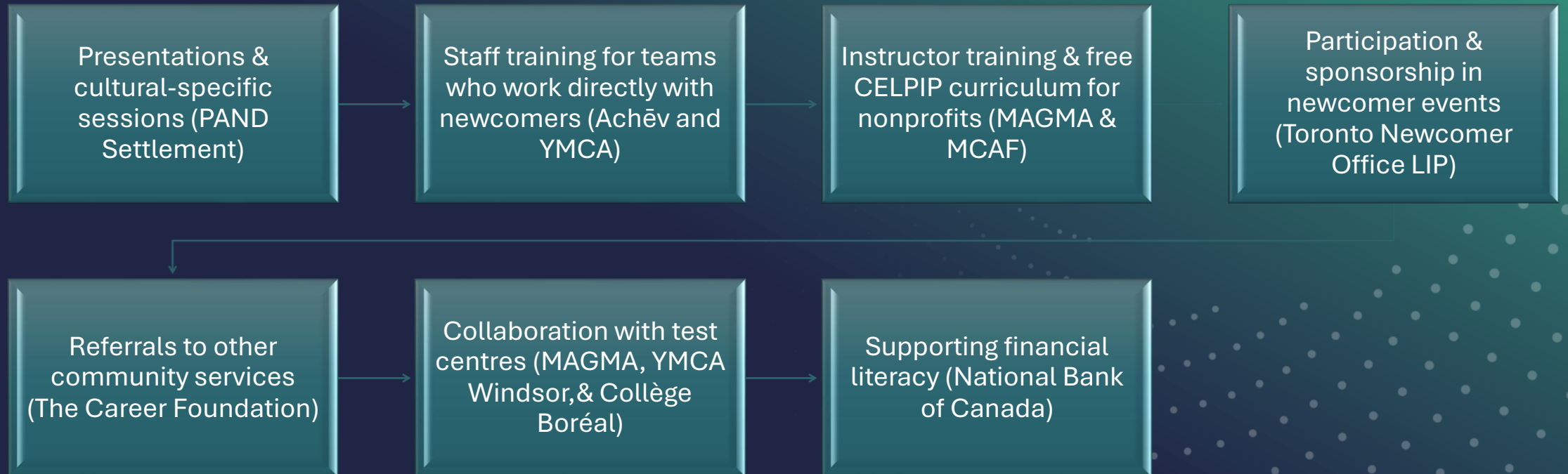
CELPIP*

Global
Reach
**200+ Test
Centres &
growing!**



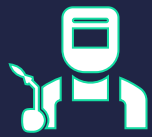
Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and more...

Working with Non-Profits & Settlement Agencies



CELPIP & COSTI

Strengthening Newcomer Support Through Training & Community Outreach



Trained COSTI staff and provided tools to run an affordable CELPIP prep program.



Promoted COSTI's classes through presentations and multi-stakeholder sessions.



Donated study materials and promotional resources to support learners.



Recognized COSTI as an official CELPIP Preparation Provider.



Delivered free, in-person sessions for COSTI's Ukrainian cohort.

CELPIP & WES

Aligning Language Skills and Credential Recognition for Clearer Pathways

- Co-presented national panels and joint newcomer sessions with WES and partners, including Ukrainian audiences.
- Hosted free webinars with study tools and exclusive CELPIP promotions.
- Partnered with ACCES Employment to enhance newcomer pathways.
- Showcased how language assessment plus credential evaluation supports employment and academic growth.

CELPIP*

Empowering Newcomer Outcomes

Practical Takeaways
for LIPs, Nonprofits
& Settlement Teams

Build Partnerships
for Prep &
Guidance



Use Language
Results to Tailor
Programming



Make Connection
Easy



Strengthen Your
Community
Ecosystem Through
Collaboration



Interested in collaborating?
Scan the QR code or visit: www.celpip.ca/settlement



THANK YOU



Webinar for newcomers:

CELPIP Prep Tips for Newcomers

Thursday, Dec. 4 at 12 pm EST

Anna Baxter

Senior Business Development Manager

anna.baxter@prometric.com



Building Integration Pathways: Strategic Collaboration with Prometric and WES

Strengthening newcomer integration through language testing, credential recognition, and collaborative programming.



Overview

- Our role as a settlement agency
- Purpose of collaboration
- Benefits to newcomers

Partner Profiles

- Prometric: delivers English Language proficiency tests such as the CELPIP which is IRCC-recognized English test; provides standards, updates, and materials
- WES: credential evaluation; connects language learning and academic/professional recognition

Why Collaboration Matters

- Builds credibility and trust
- Simplifies client journeys
- Expands access and participation
- Community Visibility

Enhancing Client Engagement

- Joint outreach and webinars
- Streamlined referrals
- Culturally Responsive Services
- Feedback sharing

Designing Responsive Programs

- Use CELPIP data to identify skill gaps
- Align courses with labour-market language demands
- Integrate sector vocabulary into training
- Evidence Based Planning
- Tiered Entrepreneurship Support
- Consent-Based Data Sharing

Coordinating Services Efficiently

- Clear referral protocols
- Cross-training staff
- Regular partner meetings
- Shared planning calendars
- Joint Initiatives
- Community-Based Outreach

Integrated Client Experience

- Onsite or mobile CELPIP testing
- Digital referral tools and portals
- Joint evaluation after courses
- Integrated Support

Added Value from Partnerships

- Access to CELPIP professional-development tools
- Use of WES career-readiness resources
- Enhanced community reputation
- Staff capacity building
- Feedback Loops

Impact and Results

- Greater test readiness
- Improved employment and education outcomes
- Stronger community integration

Conclusion

- Partnership model = integration pathway
- Data-driven, learner-centred, sustainable



“It reminded me that I was more
than a refugee”

The Impact of Credential Evaluation on Skilled
Refugees' Wellbeing and Economic Integration

Beatrice Kohlenberg

Associate Director, Immigrant Initiatives, WES



Our Vision

Everyone is able to put their education, experience, and skills to work **anywhere** in the world.



Our Mission

We help people **learn, work, and thrive** in new places. We help society **recognize the value** of people's education and experience.



Evaluation of International Education



A credential evaluation report:

- **Compares** international academic qualifications to standards in Canada
- Provides a Canadian **academic equivalency**
- Helps institutions **better understand** the academic background of individuals who hold credentials earned abroad



Usage:

- **Applying for jobs**
- Obtaining **licensure** in regulated professions
- **Admission** into higher education
- **Immigration** to Canada



Requirements:

- **Official academic documents**, sent to the evaluation provider directly by the issuing institution

WES Gateway Program



Afghanistan



Eritrea



Iraq



Palestine



Sudan



Syria



Türkiye



Ukraine



Venezuela

Goal

Support the **educational and career advancement** of refugees and other forcibly displaced individuals who **lack proof** of their academic credentials and cannot meet standard requirements.

Program Outcomes



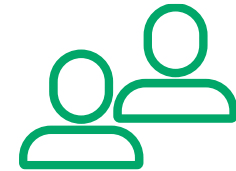
14k+

applicants have
received WES Gateway
Program reports



330+

academic institutions,
regulators, and employers
have received WES
Gateway Program reports

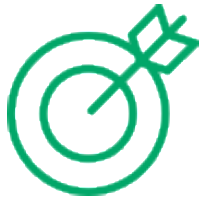


93%

of applicants found the
program to be supportive
of their goals

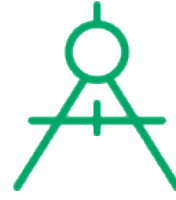
Evaluation of the Program's Impact

Qualitative research conducted by Blueprint (2024-2025)



Objectives

- Understand Gateway applicants' journeys and outcomes
- Demonstrate the impact of the Gateway program



Methodology

- Interviews with applicants (English or mother tongue)
- Trauma-informed approach
- Researchers with lived experience of migration



Analysis

- Two-stage coding
- Qualitative thematic analysis
- Data interpretation
- Sensemaking and validation

Findings

Who are the Gateway applicants?
(life before migration)

- Interviewees were by and large **highly accomplished in their countries** of education
- **The vast majority of interviewees held at least an undergraduate degree**
- **Their careers were not only technically advanced but often driven by a sense of social purpose**
- Prior to migration, most interviewees had **well-established networks in their countries of education or home countries**

“

The Gateway report reminded me that I was more than just a refugee, I was an engineer once and I still am.

”

Types of Outcomes

Emotional outcomes
including any changes to
the sense of self, sense of
readiness or clarity on
professional or social
next steps

Material outcomes
including education,
employment and
licensure-related
outcomes

Social outcomes
such as social capital acquisition,
network building, serving as a
Gateway ambassador or role model
within networks, etc.

*Shortly after receiving
credential evaluation*

Within first year

Parallel to application process / later

Emotional Outcomes

“

Gateway reminded me that I am still a professional, even if I'm not working as a lawyer right now.

”



Emotional Outcomes

“

When I got my license,
I cried. It felt like I got
my life back...

”



Emotional Outcomes

“

I felt validated. I felt that everything I did in my country did have value.

”



Material Outcomes

“

When I submitted the Gateway report to my employer, they promoted me directly. They gave me more responsibility and increased my salary.

”



Material Outcomes

“

It was a big step. Thanks to the Gateway report I'm now working in a hospital as a registered nurse. Without that recognition it would have been much harder to enter the health care system.

”

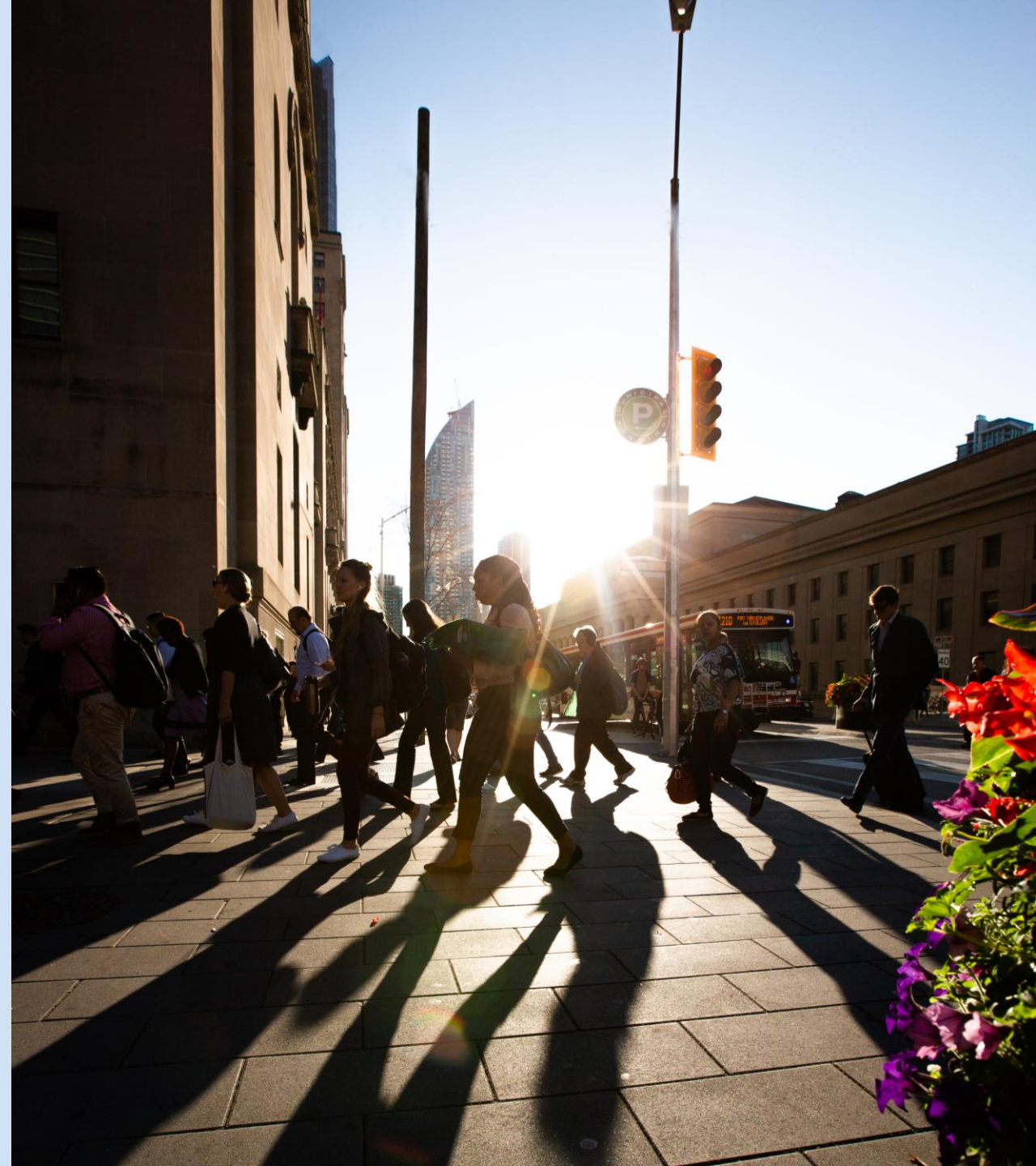


Material Outcomes

“

I was doing totally different things, not related to my degree, before I got this evaluation. The Gateway report gave me the motivation to try again and apply for jobs that matched my education. That's how I found the marketing position.

”



Material Outcomes

“

I would not have been able to use the skills and experience I had. Because of Gateway, I had my education assessed, and now I am working as a mental health specialist.

”



Social Outcomes

“

The report didn't just help me.
It helped my family feel more
secure. We can plan now. We're
not just surviving, now I can
think about the future again.

”



Social Outcomes

“

My kids see that my diploma is real here. It shows them we didn't lose everything.”

”



Social Outcomes

“

Now people come to me for help. They see me studying for the engineering exam, and they think maybe they can do it too.

”



Thank you!

Need more information?

Visit: wes.org and wes.org/gateway