

LIP Strategies and Collaborations for Shifting Public Narratives and Attitudes Toward Immigrants



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PARTNERSHIP

Land Acknowledgement

I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are gathered here in **Halifax**, on the traditional and unceded territory of the **Mi'kmaq people** (pronounced *MIG-mah*), part of **Mi'kma'ki** (pronounced *MIG-mah-gee*). This land is governed by the Peace and Friendship Treaties, agreements that remind us of our ongoing responsibilities to respect, honour, and uphold our relationships with Indigenous peoples.

I also want to acknowledge the lands we come from — **Moose Jaw, Yorkton, Humboldt, and Swift Current** in Saskatchewan. These communities are located on the traditional territories of the **Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda peoples**, and on the homeland of the **Métis Nation**, within the areas of **Treaty 4** and **Treaty 6**.

We honour the Indigenous peoples who have cared for these lands since time immemorial, and we recognize their enduring presence, strength, and leadership. We commit ourselves to building relationships rooted in respect, learning, and shared responsibility.



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About Us



Jummai D. Umar
Coordinator
East Central Saskatchewan
Immigration Partnership
Yorkton, SK



Jide Kassim
Project Manager
Prairie Skies Integration Network
Moose Jaw, SK



Chuka Okeke
Coordinator
Southwest Saskatchewan
Immigration Partnership
Swift Current, SK



Eilish McAnally
Project Manager
Connecting Grids Regional
Immigration Partnership
Humboldt, SK



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Our Goal

- ❖ **Highlighting Rural Innovations**
- ❖ **Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusion**
- **ECSIP – INVOLVE**
- **PSIN – Community Conversation on Immigration**
- **CGRIP – Youth Ethnocultural Advisory Table (YEAT)**
- **SSIP – Indigenous Relations**



BRIEF OVERVIEW

- Creative Initiatives
- Strategic Collaboration
 - Engagement
- Cultural Diversity
 - Belonging
 - Equity



INVOLVE Training for IAT

(Integrating **N**ew **V**olunteers with **O**pportunities to add
Leadership **V**alue through **E**ducation)

Presented by Jummai D.Umar

November 26, 2025.



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ECSIP's focus: Engaging Newcomers

- ❖ Developing relationships, and
- ❖ Building strategic linkages for intentional collaboration.

Practical ways embraced include: INVOLVE

- ❖ **Creating Inclusive Spaces.**
- ❖ **Celebrate Diversity by Highlighting Newcomer Strengths.**
- ❖ **Encouraging Shared Activities.**



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Components of INVOLVE

There are 2 components to INVOLVE:

1. Training: A series of interactive learning sessions,
2. A 1-year mentorship phase.

Training aligns with LIPs' efforts to:

- ✓ Promote inclusive leadership and representation
- ✓ Strengthen newcomer voices in decision-making spaces
- ✓ Build bridges between immigrants and local institutions



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INVOLVE How's

(Good Collaboration and Relationships)

- Take Initiative
 - Gauge Interest from IAT members
 - Engage Partners & Explore Support: PAC, MCoS & PVSCR
 - Adapt Course Delivery fit to IAT schedule
- Mentors
 - Organization Boards committed to guiding trained IATs for 1year
- Get Feedbacks
 - Mentees and Mentors



INVOLVE is

- Targeted Training Initiative
- Volunteering
- Leadership Decision making
- Inclusive Governance
- Board Strategies
- Canadian Civic Systems
- Meaningful Contribution
- Readiness and Relevance
- Confidence and Community Commitment



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Wins of INVOLVE!

- ❖ Integration
- ❖ Cultural Continuity
- ❖ Intercultural Connections
- ❖ Celebration of Diversity
- ❖ Anti-Racism



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Feedback!

Newcomers

- ❖ Empowerment & Confidence
- ❖ Sense of Belonging
- ❖ Practical Skills Gained
- ❖ *Expanded Network*
- ❖ *Desire for Continuity and Appreciation for Mentors*

Mentors

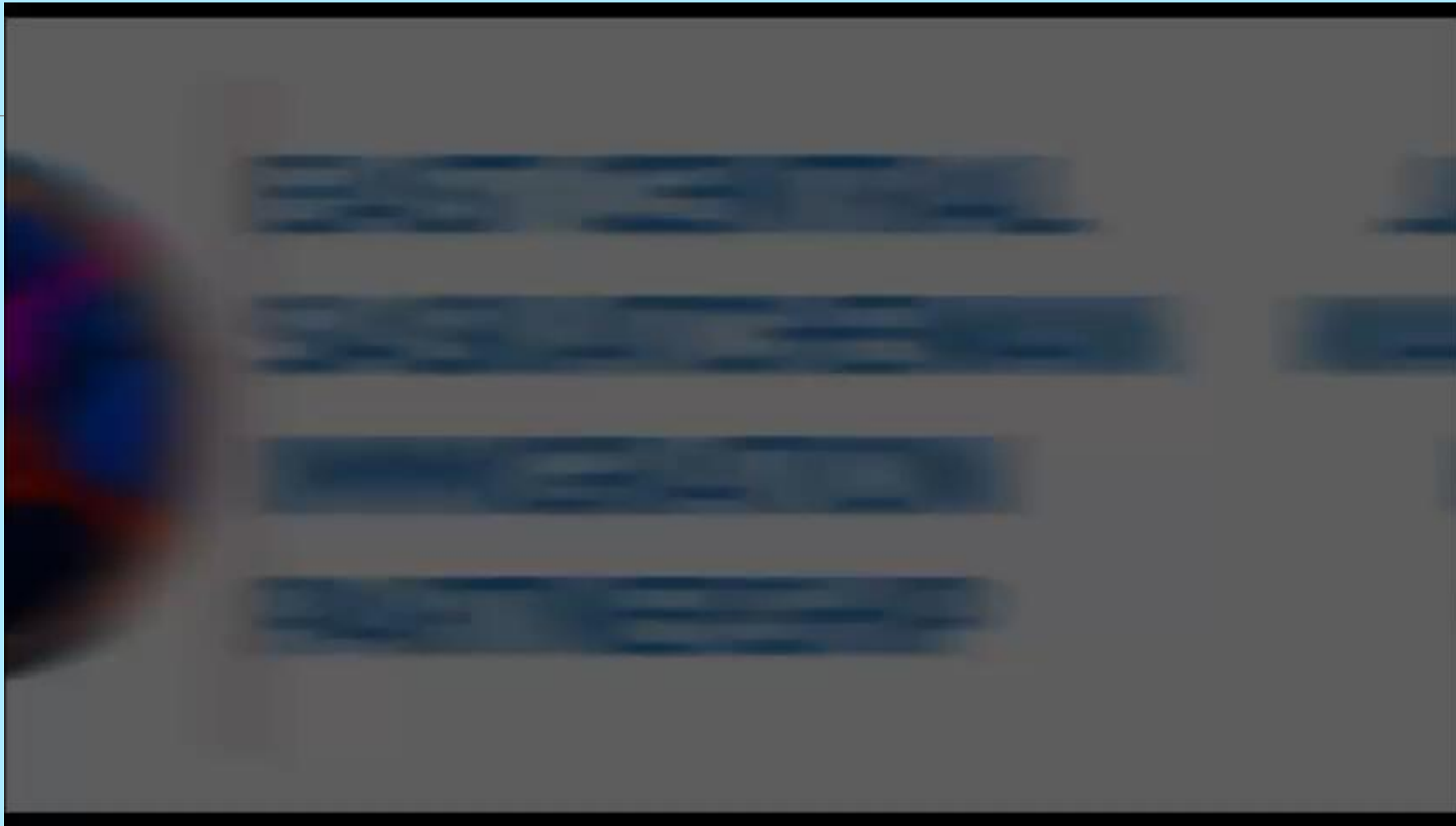
- ❖ *Mutual learning*
- ❖ *Community connection*
- ❖ *Leadership growth*

Community Partners & Stakeholders

- ❖ *Impact on Inclusion: “INVOLVE is shifting how we think about leadership and belonging in rural Saskatchewan”.*
- ❖ *Visibility of Newcomers*
- ❖ *Recognition of Newcomer leadership*
- ❖ *Ripple effect in the community*
- ❖ *Interest in collaboration*



Feedback!



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The Power of Involving Newcomers!

Every newcomer brings:

- ✓ a story,
- ✓ a skill, and
- ✓ a spark.

Communities thrive when we make space for all three!



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Shifting Public Narratives & Attitudes Towards Immigrants:

The Power of Community Conversations

Presented by Jide Kassim

*Pathways to Prosperity National Conference
November 26, 2025*



MOOSE JAW & REGION
ZONAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (ZIP)

Setting the Stage

Prairie Skies Integration Network supports newcomer integration across South-Central Saskatchewan.

Our mission is to foster welcoming communities where newcomers and host communities thrive together.

We believe that dialogue is the foundation for shifting public perceptions and creating inclusion.



Why the Community Conversation Mattered

Held in February 2025, the Community Conversation on Immigration brought together over 80 participants — newcomers, service providers, policymakers, and residents.



Goal:
To promote understanding, address misconceptions, newcomer challenges, and co-create solutions for inclusion.



It served as a space for authentic storytelling and shared learning.

Strategic Impact of Community Conversation on Public Narratives

Shifted Conversations:

Open talks about immigration have changed the community narrative, helping people see immigrants as valued contributors instead of outsiders.

Highlighted Immigrants:

Sharing immigrant stories and successes has shown their vital role in strengthening our community, economy, and culture.

Generated Awareness:

Local awareness efforts have promoted positive stories, inspiring the community to support newcomers and embrace diversity.

Collaborative Approaches to Integration



Employer roles:

Employers can promote inclusion through diversity, mentorship, and cultural sensitivity training.

Municipal leader roles:

Municipal leaders advance integration through policies, community engagement, and partnerships with immigrant groups.

Policymaker roles:

Policymakers help build inclusivity by protecting newcomer rights and ensuring access to essential services.

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ZONAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (ZIP)

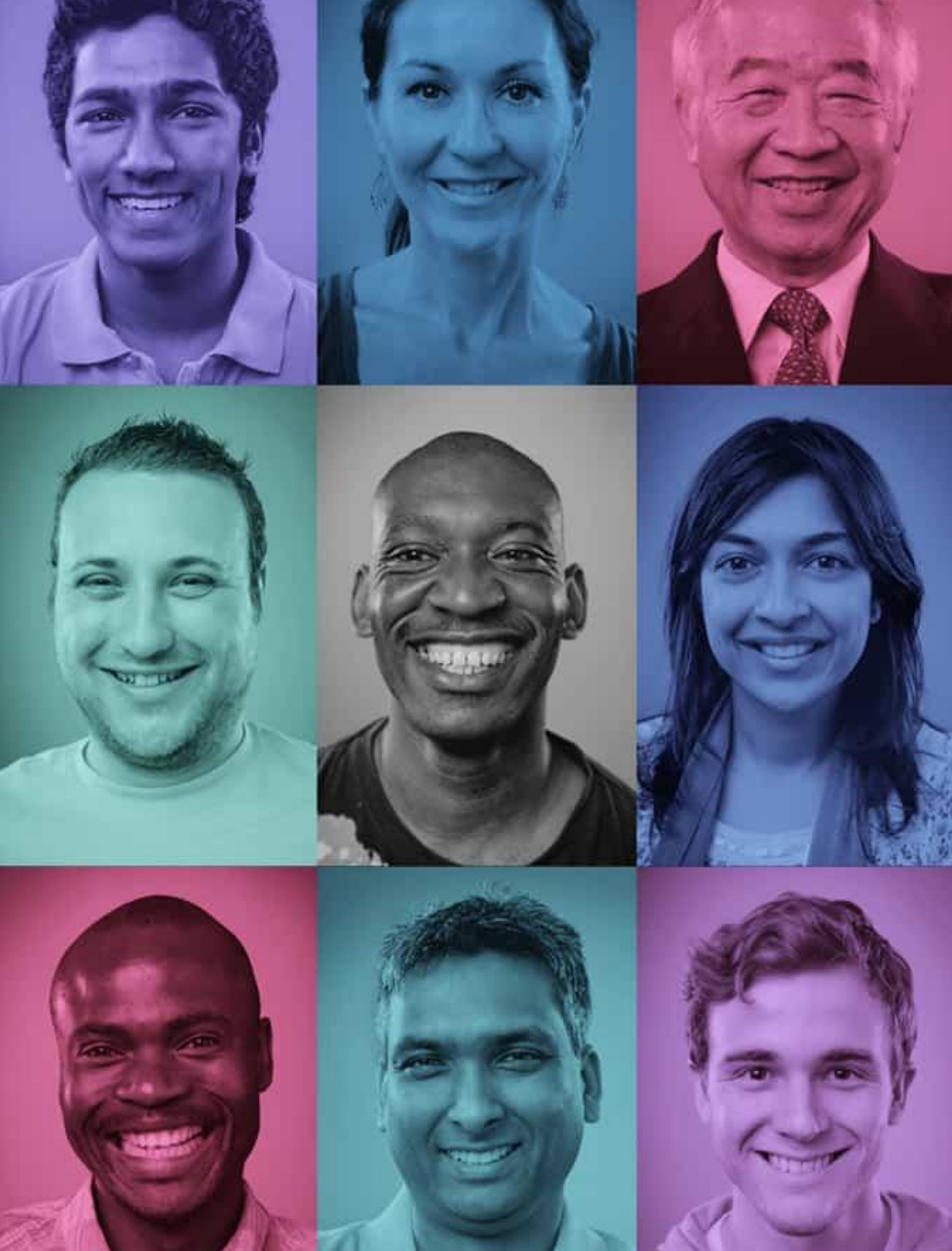
What We Learned

Narrative change begins with connection and dialogue.



Community-based storytelling is a powerful strategy for inclusion.

Events like the Community Conversation can spark long-term collaboration and systemic change.



Thank You for Participating in
the Roundtable on

LIP Strategies and
Collaborations for Shifting
Public Narratives and
Attitudes Toward Immigrants

432 Main St. N Moose Jaw SK, S6H 3K2

306-690-2324

connect@psinetwork.ca



Highlights Video: Community Conversation on Immigration



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ZONAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (ZIP)



Indigenous Relations: Shifting Perceptions on Reconciliation

Presented by Chuka Okeke

November 26, 2025

What is Reconciliation?

Reconciliation is the process of establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), 2015



SSIP's Five Core Values

- Inclusion
- Collaboration
- Respect
- Empowerment
- Innovation



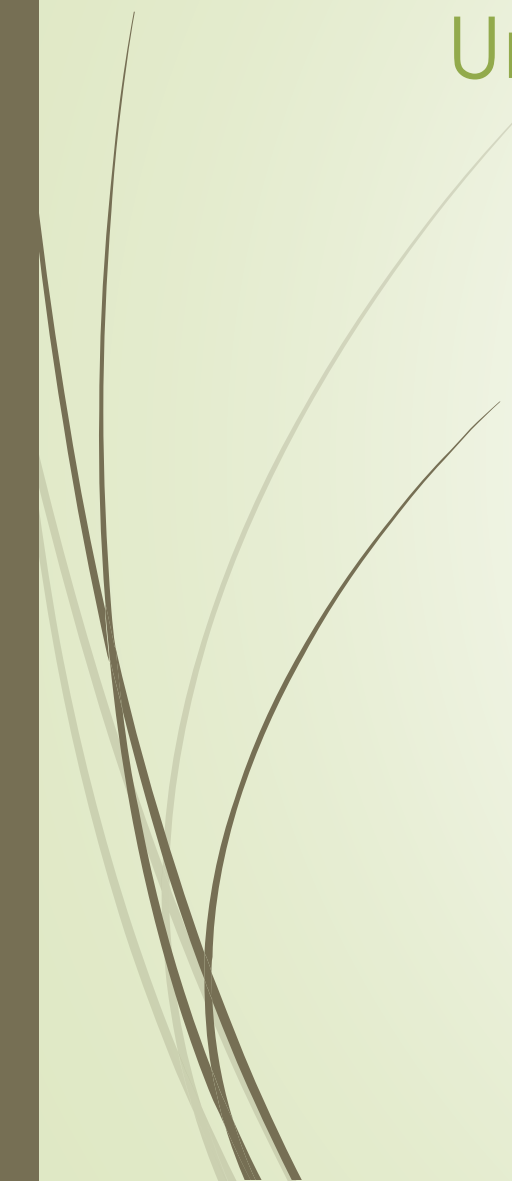
Culinary Connections: Bridging Cultures Through Food

Created Space to understand how Indigenous peoples and immigrants perceived one another and engaged in dialogue to correct harmful narratives and build respectful relationships.





Challenges in Indigenous Newcomer Relations Understanding Newcomer Narratives

- Historical Inaccuracies
 - Lack of Awareness
 - Stereotypical Views
- 

The Tour of the Nekaneet First Nation

The Kingpin of Culinary Connections



Tangible Impacts





The Changing Newcomer Perceptions

Past Perceptions

- Defiance
- Colonial Assumptions
- Rituals

Evolving Understanding

- Assertion of Sovereignty
- Indigenous Ways of Knowing
- Ceremonies

The Changing Indigenous Perceptions on Newcomers

Cautionary View of Newcomers

- Potential Extension of Colonial Systems

Evolving View

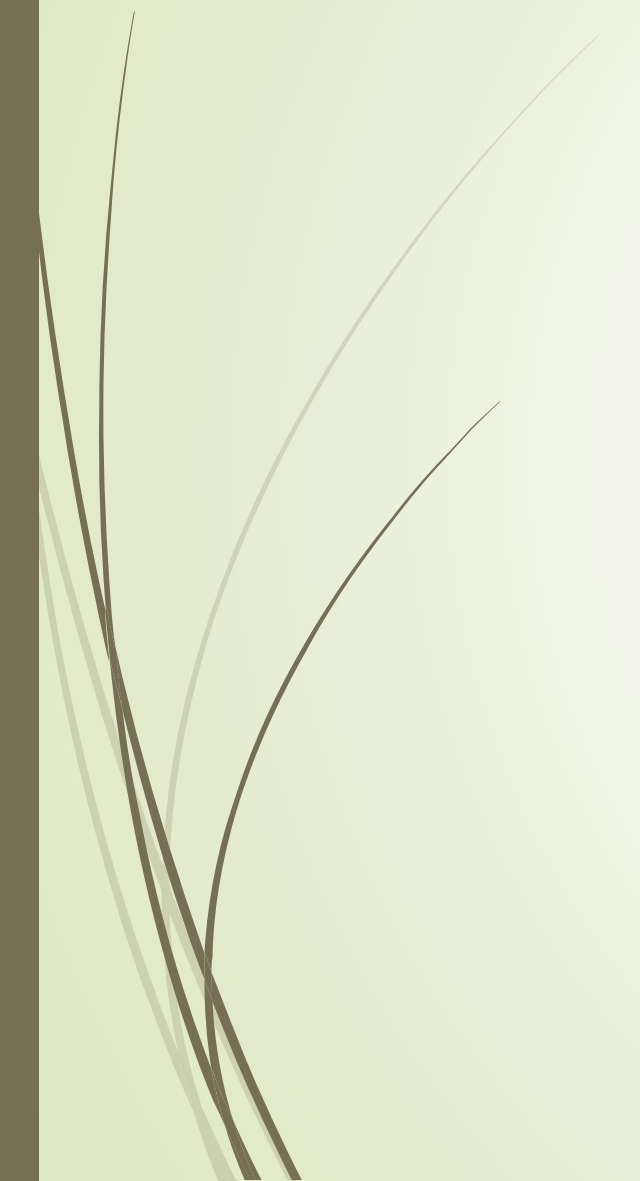
- Allies in the shared journey of healing





The Paradigm Shift

Call for Actions

- 
- ▀ Involve Indigenous Communities in your Partnership Council
 - ▀ Attend Indigenous Workshops/ Respect Ceremonies
 - ▀ Support Genuine Economic Reconciliation



Thank You

Indigenous Relations and Reconciliations in Southwest Saskatchewan



<https://www.swskimmigrationpartnership.com>

Amplifying Newcomer Voices Through A Youth Ethnocultural Advisory Table

Youth Ethnocultural Advisory Table

How

Working with Prairie Gateway Settlement Services and SWIS to find volunteers/members

Who

Newcomer youth ages 15-19 from various backgrounds

Goals

- Informing LIP strategies
- Amplifying newcomer youth voices
- Leadership & Volunteer opportunities



Sharing Lived Experiences Through The YEAT

Creating a safe space for newcomer youth to share their lived experiences.

Listening: Letting newcomer youth lead the conversations

Guiding questions: Challenges, opportunities, home country vs. Canada, similarities, differences

Sharing Lived Experiences: Youth Voices



Why Storytelling is a Powerful Tool for Changing Public Narrative

- Humanizes immigrants
- Creates lasting impact
- Challenges stereotypes
- Amplifies underrepresented voices
- Builds empathy and connection

Impact

- **City Council Presentations:** Encourage communities and municipalities to work and collaborate with the settlement sector.
- **Partnership Council:** Youth Focused now
- **Youth EAT members:**
 - “It’s nice to hear everyone’s thoughts and lived experiences. It makes us realize we aren’t alone.”
 - “I don’t want new immigrants to suffer like I did”
 - “I just like being here and getting out of the house because there’s nowhere else I can just go out and talk like this.”



eilish.mcanally@thehrnc.com

<https://www.connectinggrids.ca/migration> Partnership

QUESTIONS

WHERE? HOW? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHAT?

A 3D graphic featuring the word "QUESTIONS" in large, bold, cyan-colored block letters. Surrounding this central text are several smaller, white, 3D-rendered words and symbols. The words "WHERE?", "HOW?", and "WHAT?" are repeated multiple times in various orientations, creating a sense of inquiry and complexity. The entire composition is set against a background of concentric, overlapping gray circles that create a tunnel-like or ripple effect, drawing the eye towards the central text.