



L'Acadie

LA FRANCOPHONIE DU
CANADA ATLANTIQUE



SOCIÉTÉ NATIONALE DE L'ACADIE

CAP SUR UN MONDE DE POSSIBILITÉS !

Preparing for the future of French- speaking newcomers to Atlantic Canada

Funding, reception and dialogue
with IRCC



Comité atlantique
sur l'immigration
francophone

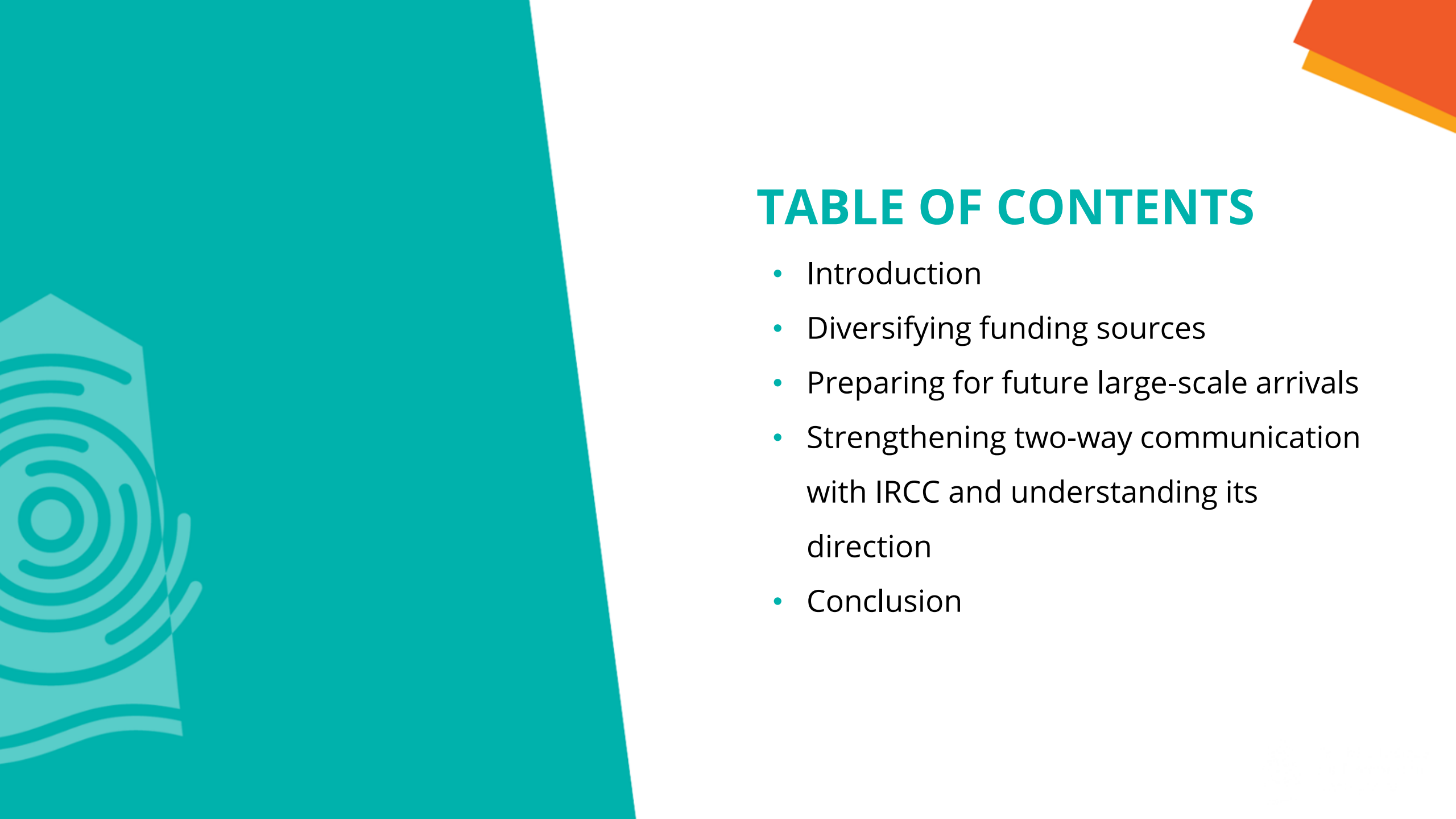


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INTRODUCTION

The Atlantic Committee on Francophone Immigration (CAIF), under the auspices of the Société Nationale de l'Acadie, has been working for several years to strengthen the vitality and sustainability of Francophone communities in Atlantic Canada.

Faced with demographic challenges, increased labour needs and the objectives of the Official Languages Act, Francophone immigration is becoming an essential lever for the future of our communities.



INTRODUCTION

This presentation aims to explore three priority areas:

- **Diversifying funding sources;**
- **Anticipating the arrival of larger cohorts of newcomers; and**
- **Establishing a stronger, two-way dialogue with IRCC.**



DIVERSIFYING SOURCES OF FUNDING

Current situation: Heavy dependence on federal programs, particularly through agreements with IRCC.

Challenges: This dependence limits the agility of community organizations and their ability to develop tailored and innovative services.

Proposed solutions:

- Explore partnerships with provinces and municipalities to co-fund local initiatives
- Approach the private sector (employers, chambers of commerce) to support recruitment and integration initiatives
- Develop projects with philanthropic and international funders (foundations, global Francophone organizations)
- Establish regional financial pooling mechanisms to support small Francophone organisations



PREPARING FOR FUTURE LARGE-SCALE ARRIVALS

Trend: Canada plans to welcome more immigrants, and some of these arrivals will be directed to Francophone minority communities.

Challenges: Capacity to accommodate (housing, settlement services, health care, education), integration into rural and Francophone minority communities, and preventing migration to large urban centres.



PREPARING FOR FUTURE LARGE-SCALE ARRIVALS

Priority actions:

- Strengthen regional planning in consultation with municipalities, provinces and community partners;
- Develop innovative reception models in rural areas (community housing, partnerships with employers);
- Prepare Francophone education and childcare systems to welcome new cohorts; and
- Focus on retention and sense of belonging strategies starting before departure (promotion of "Vivre en Acadie").



STRENGTHENING TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION WITH IRCC AND UNDERSTANDING ITS DIRECTION

Observation: IRCC remains the main funder and policy maker, but Francophone communities must make their voices heard more clearly and share their realities on the ground.

Objectives:

- Develop a mechanism for regular, structured dialogue between IRCC, CAIF and community organizations
- Ensure better circulation of information on IRCC's strategic directions; and
- Promote regional data and successes in the field to influence policies and programmes



STRENGTHENING TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION WITH IRCC AND UNDERSTANDING ITS APPROACH

Approaches:

- Establish quarterly bilateral meetings
- Produce shared public policy briefs validated by community partners
- Create common digital channels (exchange platforms, monitoring dashboards)



CONCLUSION

- Preparing for the future of Francophone immigration in Atlantic Canada requires a proactive, collaborative and innovative approach.
- By diversifying funding, anticipating the arrival of new waves of migrants and consolidating an honest and ongoing dialogue with IRCC, our communities will give themselves the means to build a strong, inclusive and sustainable Atlantic Francophonie.
- The CAIF positions itself as a catalyst and coordinator of this process, in a spirit of partnership and governance "by and for" Francophones.





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