

# IMMIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT:

## MOBILIZING KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH TO BETTER SUPPORT NEWCOMERS

### *LEARNING DAY SUMMARY*

On April 22, 2016, the City of Edmonton brought together a broad group of individuals representing over 50 different organizations and sectors in Edmonton. The purpose of the day was to mobilize immigration and settlement knowledge in Edmonton in order to create a shared learning space of information for the multiple sectors supporting newcomers. Knowledge presented highlighted successes and challenges related to immigration and settlement in Edmonton and provided promising practices to help further awareness and understanding about immigration and settlement issues in Edmonton.

With over 130 people in attendance (ranging in professions from practitioners, decision makers, researchers, and community leaders), the learning day provided a space to share knowledge, wisdom, and experience to move towards new collaborations and partnerships. The day consisted of thirteen separate presentations and three “knowledge reflection” rooms that provided participants with a variety of information related to integration, inclusion, and the importance of capturing and sharing authentic stories in the immigration and settlement experience in Edmonton. This learning day was the first of its kind hosted by the City of Edmonton and given the feedback received by participants, is something the City of Edmonton should consider hosting again.

To view the presentations from the learning day, please visit [ELIP.ca/knowledge-centre](http://ELIP.ca/knowledge-centre)



# WHAT WE LEARNED

Over the course of the day, participants were provided an opportunity in the “knowledge reflection” rooms to reflect on the following three questions after hearing each presentation:

- 1. What themes or realities stood out for you?*
- 2. How can the existing research be built upon?*
- 3. What research gaps are there in relation to the topics being discussed?*

The following are the main themes that emerged in relation to how participants responded to the above questions.

## WHAT THEMES OR REALITIES STOOD OUT FOR YOU?

### *INTEGRATION*

Participants discussed the importance of the first six months for a newcomer as the most critical time to support positive integration. For some, rights, citizenship, and justice are the core of integration, while others suggest that integration can be facilitated through bonds and attachment to the community (such as shared language and community involvement). Positive integration is a key measure as it can lead to success in economic, cultural, and social aspects of the newcomers' life. This can lead to empowering others to integrate as well.

One question that emerged is the positive role that ethnic enclaves play in integration – how might we be able to better understand the positive role these informal networks have in the integration process?

### *AWARENESS AND “STORY TELLING”*

The importance of capturing and sharing authentic stories of the immigrant experience in Edmonton – particularly in the research process – was identified by many participants as an important theme. These stories not only bring awareness to the realities that newcomers face, but also provide space for a participant-driven process that intentionally gives voice to the immigrant experience. Sharing these stories brings a sense of pride and an opportunity for learning about and raising awareness of the various migration experiences (i.e. immigrant; refugee; temporary worker; international student; etc.) that bring newcomers to Edmonton.

### *COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY*

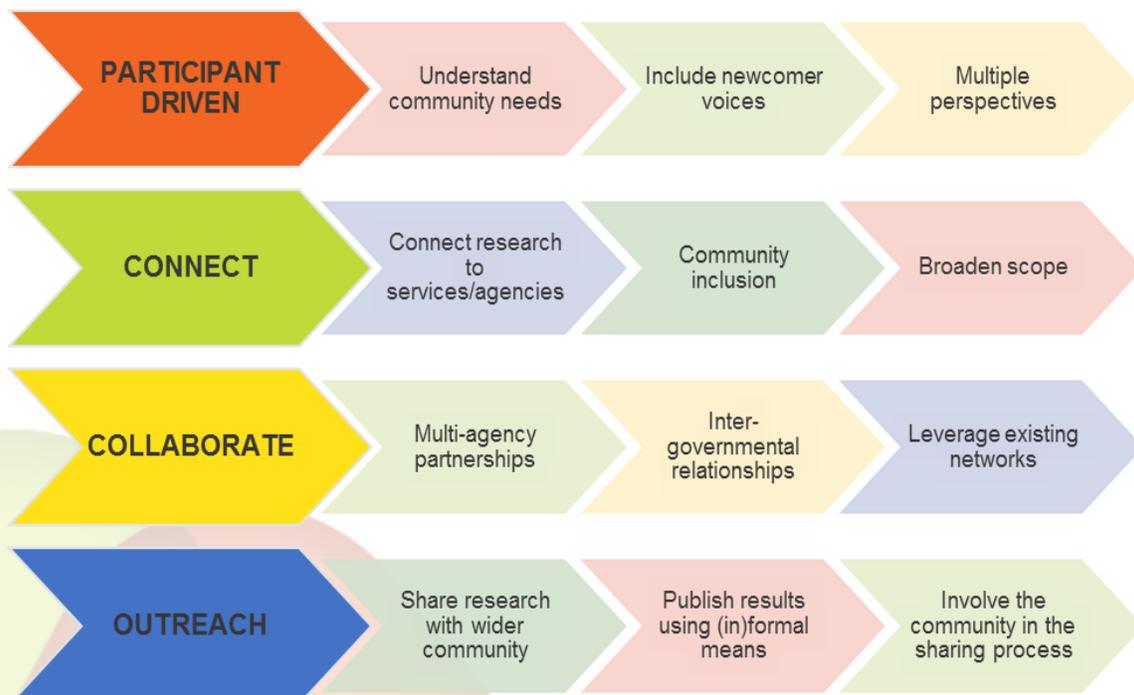
There was concern raised about PTSD being presented as a common trauma diagnosis without recognizing the root causes first. It is integral to investigate trauma from a community perspective – both group trauma and individual trauma. There was also discussion regarding labour market outcomes for newcomers and the perception of increased unemployment and/or income polarization amongst some immigrants. Combined with other factors, the vulnerability some newcomer communities potentially face may create tension within the host society.

## ***BONDING, BRIDGING AND SOCIAL CAPITAL***

The importance of (re)creating social capital for newcomers' emerged as another crucial aspect of the bonding and bridging (towards integration) process. Bonding often is the foundation for integration and facilitates bridging and integration. This inherently will lead to strengthening immigrants' social capital and create a holistic network of support.

## **HOW CAN EXISTING RESEARCH BE BUILT UPON?**

Attendees highlighted that these and any other future research projects might consider the following aspects:



There was general consensus that there is a lack of collaboration between agencies and researchers, and that often times, practitioners are unaware of relevant research that is available. One suggestion was to create a knowledge hub online to house the research. Moving forward – as part of the City of Edmonton's involvement with the development of a Local Immigration Partnership – the ELIP.ca website will host research related to immigration and settlement under its "Knowledge Center" page.

## WHAT RESEARCH GAPS ARE THERE IN RELATION TO THE TOPICS BEING DISCUSSED?

While the research presented at the learning day provided interesting insights, participants noted the following gaps that could be considered for future research projects:

### *The role of Government(s) in the immigration and settlement process*

- *How funders evaluate integration?*
- *How government use evidence based research to implement program funding and policy change?*
- *How municipalities contribute to the integration process of newcomers?*

### *Facilitating Integration*

- *Long term research on bridging and bonding and how it relates to integration*
- *How might we connect ethnic enclaves to the wider community?*
- *Measuring attitudes towards newcomers in the receiving community to identify barriers to integration*
- *Understanding the role of informal networks and the impact on integration*

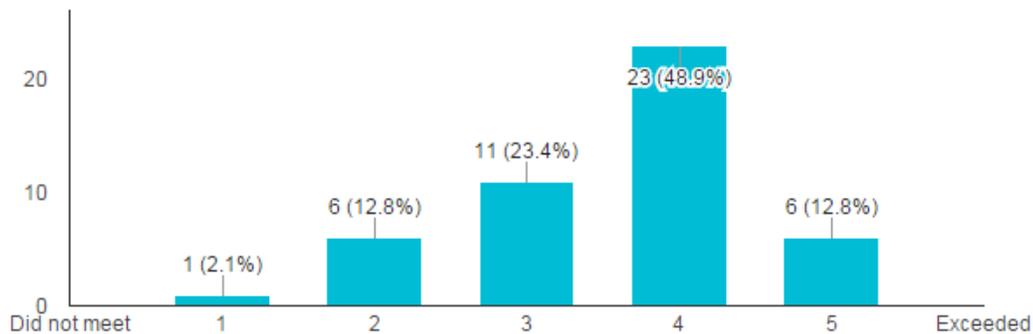
### *The intersectionality of the lived immigrant experience*

- *Age and immigrant experience (i.e. newcomer youth; newcomer seniors)*
- *Gender and immigrant experience (i.e. single male; single female; married female; etc.)*
- *The similarities (and differences) between First Nation integration and immigrant integration*
- *Poverty, homelessness, and newcomer communities*
- *Immigrants, refugees, and the LGBTQ community*
- *Health, mental health and its impact on newcomer communities*

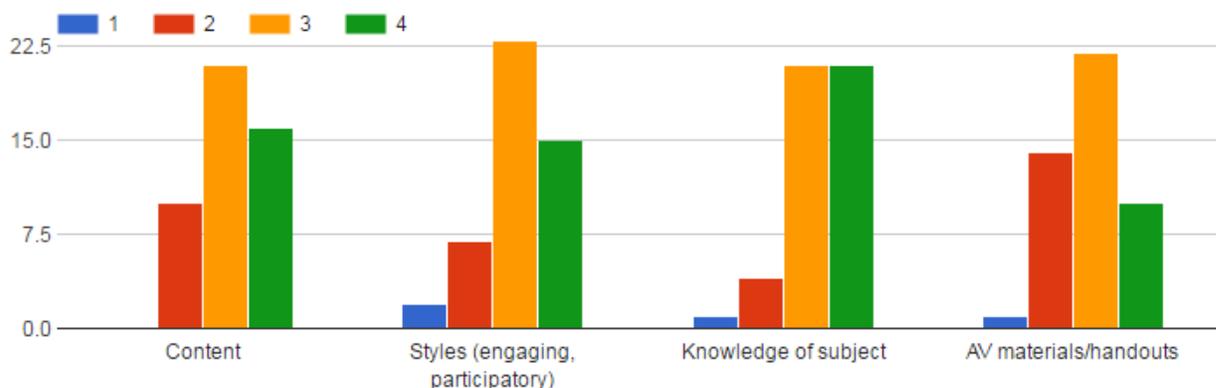
# ATTENDEE EXPERIENCE

The post-conference survey (35% response rate) provided valuable input and feedback on the day, and lays the foundation for future learning days to build from. Overall, attendees indicated a positive experience from the learning day and have an interest in future learning days where more time can be devoted to specific areas of focus.

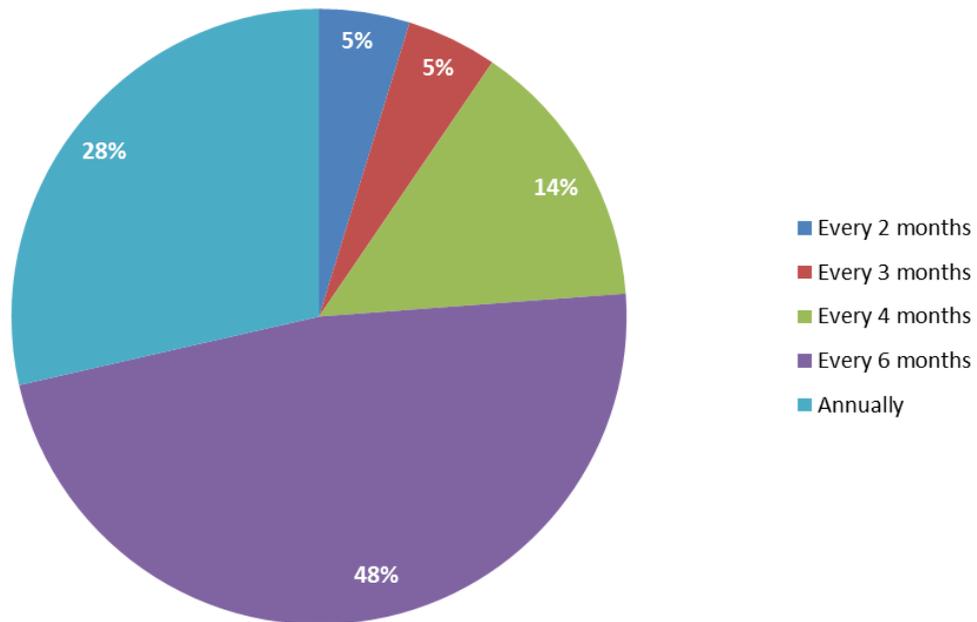
To what degree did the learning day meet your expectations? (47 responses)



How would you rate the learning day in terms of:



## How often should learning days like this take place?



## COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES

### *What was your most important learning of the day?*

*“Seeing the wealth of research and knowledge currently existing in the community”.*

*“The active participation in the discussions demonstrated community engagement and this is what I took away from the day!”*

*“Mental health and integration and the role it plays when newcomers are settling into Canadian society”.*

*“The volume of research being done in Edmonton”.*

*“The need for participants to connect through stories and the need to link those stories to strategies for systemic change”.*

*“How the agency I work with has a clear role in addressing the issues brought up by presenters”.*

*“We sometimes work in silos so it was helpful to know the valuable work going on in other areas”.*

*“The shared knowledge and information from attendees and participants”.*

## ***How do you think we, as a research community, can work better together?***

*“Maintaining connections with practitioners and researchers”.*

*“By collaborating closely with the communities”.*

*“Research should be identified from the perspective of those impacted - newcomers, those who work with them and those who make decisions about policies and programs; it must be participatory and community-driven for the research to be relevant and responsive to current realities; there is need review research that has already been done to identify future research; engage multicultural communities to identify emerging issues and opportunities within the changing economic and political landscape”.*

*“Round table meetings; allow each agency the floor for ~10 min to discuss what they are working on or present challenges”.*

*“I am just wondering if we could coordinate a way for practitioners to get easier access to research easily”.*

*“Creating a research group including researchers from various disciplines (health, education, social sciences etc...), representatives of key stakeholders, and representatives of target populations. This group would set the research agenda and priorities”.*

## ***What learnings should be considered for future days like this?***

*“Research activities and community efforts should go hand-in-hand and they not always do. More meetings of this kind and more opportunities for dialogue are needed so shared research agendas are developed”.*

*“A different format would have been welcomed, wanted to hear more, delve deeper”.*

*“I would like to see less focus on research and more emphasis on successful initiatives and programming based on lived experience/direct observations”.*

*“The short presentation allowed for multiple voices but they were a bit too short”.*

*“I think that the breakout sessions should include Q&A time for the presenters”.*

*“Two days with longer presentations would be better, was way too short; getting a taste of what people put on the table was great, lots of great networking; presentations need to be at least half an hour; enjoyed the networking, and enjoyed the activities to go off on whatever issues people wanted to talk about; enjoyed activities in between the presentations – but should have prepared people for them a little in advance; should have been themed (i.e. mental health, settlement models, integration, etc.) – maybe LIP could organize these themed days in the future as aspects to focus on in the future; exciting ideas were presented, could have delved more deeply into any of them; has opened up huge expectations”.*

# THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTERS

## *Presenters*

Anna Kirova – University of Alberta

Cheryl Whitelaw – Norquest College

Daryn Baddour – Edmonton Immigrant Services Association

Deborah Morrison – MAPS Alberta

Fatima Al Sayah – Edmonton Refugee Volunteers

Kristina de Guzman – Edmonton Arts Council

Oliver Kamau – Edmonton Immigrant Services Association

Tesfaye Ayalew – The Africa Centre

Sabah Tahir – Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative

Sandeep Agrawal – University of Alberta

Sophie Yohani – University of Alberta

Vanessa de Koninck – Centre for Race and Culture

Winnie Chow-Horn – Multicultural Family Resource Centre

Zeina Sleiman-Long – Norquest College

# THANK YOU TO OUR ATTENDEES

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company
Alison	Cole	alison.cole@gov.ab.ca	Alberta Parks
Joseph	Nicdao	natzdao@gmail.com	Alberta health
Kevin	Cantelon	kevin.cantelon@gov.ab.ca	Alberta Parks
Darren	Reedy	dreedy@auma.ca	Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
Catherine	Jevic	catherine@allsafehse.ca	All-Safe HSE Inc.
Mat	Steppan	mats@aset.ab.ca	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Jay	Aggarwal	jay.aggarwal@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Jessie	Beier	jlbeier@ualberta.ca	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Amber	Khan	amber.khan@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Archana	Salunke	archana.salunke@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Sarita	Gugnani	sarita.gugnani@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Hazel	Benson	hazel.benson@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Zeinab	Abdelaziz	Zeinab.Eldakrouri@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Hwan Seon	Jeong	sunny.jeong@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Amber	Khan	amber.khan@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Jane	Awawias	jane.awawias@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Fion	Lee	fion.lee@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre

Cindy	Chen	cindy.chen@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Mei	Lin	mei.lin@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Sophia	Yao	sophia.yao@assistcsc.org	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Michelle	LaRue	charmante@shaw.ca	ASSIST Community Services Centre
Sharon	Gritter	bgrocksone@live.com	Brander Gardens ROCKS
Susan	Ghali	susan.ghali@bredin.ca	Bredin Centre for Learning
Susan	Ghali	susan.ghali@bredin.ca	Bredin Centre for Learning
Shannyn	Creary	shannyn.creary@brooksimmigrationpartnership.ca	Brooks Local Immigration Partnership
Patricia	Lopez	plopez924@gmail.com	Business
Valerie	Henitiuk	henitiukv@macewan.ca	CAFE, MacEwan University
Pearl	Bennett	caribbeanwomennetwork@telus.net	Caribbean Women Network
Barbara	Leung	leungbj@hotmail.com	Caribbean Women Network
Kathryn	Friesen	kathryn.friesen@cssalberta.ca	Catholic Social Services
Anita	Palen	anita.palen@cssalberta.ca	Catholic Social Services
Amrita	Gill	ahc.agill@gmail.com	Catholic Social Services
Suman	Chand	suman.chand@cssalberta.ca	Catholic Social Services
Georges	BAHAYA	georges.b@lecae.ca	Centre d'accueil et d'établissement
Beda	Kaji	beda.k@lecae.ca	Centre d'accueil et d'établissement
Alison	Foster	alisonfoster@cplea.ca	Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta
Kaitlin	Lauridsen	klauridsen@cfrac.com	Centre for Race and Culture

Vanessa	de Koninck	vdekoninck@cfrac.com	Centre for Race and Culture
Lucenia	Ortiz	lucenia.ortiz@edmonton.ca	City of Edmonton
Susan	Holdsworth	susan.holdsworth@edmonton.ca	City of Edmonton
Isla	Tanaka	isla.tanaka@edmonton.ca	City of Edmonton
Kate	McIntosh	kate.mcintosh@edmonton.ca	City of Edmonton
Annett	Kamenz	annett.kamenz@edmonton.ca	City of Edmonton
alex	haskin	alex.haskin@edmonton.ca	City of Edmonton
Kemoh	Mansaray	kamisbee@gmail.com	Clareview Multicultural Centre/Edmonton Multicultural Coalition
sarmad	Rasheed	sarmad.a@live.com	CMC
Zedingle (Zed)	Ghebremusse	Zedingle.Ghebremusse@edmonton.ca	City of Edmonton
Jud's	Guest	jud.wwjdsolutions@gmail.com	COLE3
Rebecca	Georgis	georgis@ualberta.ca	Community-University Partnership, University of Alberta
Zuzana	Schmidtova Ritzer	zuzana.ritzer@concordia.ab.ca	Concordia University
Xinxin	Fang	xinxin.fang@concordia.ab.ca	Concordia University
Nicole	Genereux	nicole.genereux@gov.ab.ca	Culture and Tourism, Government of Alberta
Jud	Dudley	jud.wwjdsolutions@gmail.com	Diversity SmartMag
Carol	Watson	cwatson@ecfoundation.org	ECF
Alain	Bertrand	capacity@ecvo.ca	ECVO
Kristina	de Guzman	kdeguzman@edmontonarts.ca	Edmonton Arts Council
Shrina	Patel	spatel@edmontonarts.ca	Edmonton Arts Council
Elizabeth	Bonkink	ebonkink@ecfoundation.org	Edmonton Community Foundation
Ashley	Dryburgh	adryburgh@ecfoundation.org	Edmonton Community Foundation
Habib	Fatmi	habib.fatmi@efcl.org	Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues
David	Ridley	dridley@edmontonheritage.ca	Edmonton Heritage

			Council
Suzanne	Gross	sgross@emcn.ab.ca	Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
Natasha	Goudar	natasha.goudar@edmontonpolice.ca	Edmonton Police Service
Iman	Saidi	Iman.Saidi@edmontonpolice.ca	Edmonton Police Service
Gary	Willits	gary.willits@edmontonpolice.ca	Edmonton Police Service
Chelsea	Hawrelak	chelsea.hawrelak@edmontonpolice.ca	Edmonton Police Service
Pamela	Fong	pfong@epl.ca	Edmonton Public Library
Camilla	Fita	cfita@epl.ca	Edmonton Public Library
Chrissy	Hodgins	chodgins@epl.ca	Edmonton Public Library
Rosalie	Gelderman	projects@seniorscouncil.net	Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council
Susan	Morrissey	yegsusan@gmail.com	Edmonton Social Planning Council
Mykola	Soroka	mykola.soroka@gov.ab.ca	FQR, Government of Alberta
Sonia	Sinha	sonia.sinha@gov.ab.ca	Government of Alberta
Hana	El Sherbini	hanan.elsherbini@gov.ab.ca	Government of Alberta, Alberta Labour
Valary	Howard	valary.howard@shaw.ca	Grow a New Leaf
ghada	Ageel	ageel@ualberta.ca	IFSSA
Ayaan	Ahmed	ayaan001@gmail.com	IFSSA
Cathy	Ito	catito@shaw.ca	Immigrant Access Fund
Vanessa	Desa	vanessadesa@shaw.ca	Immigrant Access Fund / BG ROCKS
NJERI	WAIYAKI	njeri.waiyaki@cic.gc.ca	Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada
Farah	Fatima	ffatima@wciedmonton.ca	Indo-Canadian Women's Association

Sudha	Nayak	snayak@wciedmonton.ca	Indo-Canadian Women's Association
Angelica	Quesada	angelica@jhcentre.org	John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights
Sonia	Melgar	smelgar@flo.legalaid.ab.ca	Legal Aid Alberta-Family Law Office
Makarand	Gulawani	gulawanim@macewan.ca	MacEwan University
Kerry	Precht	kerryprecht@gmail.com	MacEwan University
Deborah	Morrison	deb@mapsab.ca	MAPS Alberta
Jonathan	Kircal	jkircal@mapsab.ca	MAPS Alberta
Kathi	Campbell	Kathi.Campbell@gov.ab.ca	Ministry of Human Services; Edmonton CFS Region
Snedra	Vargas	Snedra.Vargas@gov.ab.ca	Ministry of Labour
Winnie	Chow-Horn	winnie@mfrsedmonton.org	Multicultural Family Resource Society
San San	Sy	sansan.sy@shaw.ca	Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op
Monique	Nutter	mnutter@interbaun.com	Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op
Sabah	Tahir	sabah@mchb.org	Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op
Firozeh	Penhani	firozeh@mchb.org	Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op
Patrick	Sullivan	psullivan@nait.ca	NAIT
Moly	Penner	moly@nait.ca	NAIT
Ewa	Durfrat	Ewa.Durfrat@norquest.ca	Norquest
Lisa	Rochman	Lisa.Rochman@norquest.ca	Norquest
Cheryl	Whitelaw	cheryl.whitelaw@norquest.ca	NorQuest Center for Intercultural Education
Robert	Marvin	Robert.marvin@norquest.ca	Norquest College
Marlene	Mulder	Marlene.Mulder@norquest.ca	Norquest College
Christine	Womiloju	christine.womiloju@norquest.ca	NorQuest College
Jessica	Martinez	jessica.perez@norquest.ca	NorQuest College
Eugene	Ip	eugene.ip@norquest.ca	Norquest College

Zeina	sleiman	zeinas75@gmail.com	NorQuest College / IFSSA
SETORME	TSIKATA	setorme@yahoo.com	Parkland Medical Associates/University of Alberta
Mark	Osedowski	mark.osedowski@rcmp-grc.gc.ca	RCMP
Helen	Rusich	helen.rusich@reachedmonton.ca	REACH Edmonton
da	Drouillard	dakotad23@hotmail.com	Robertson College
marcellus	batcu	marcellus.anarosa.batcu@gmail.com	sigma electric and control
Issa	Kamara	ikamara246@gmail.com	Sinkunia Community Development Organization
Jibril	Ibrahim	Jibril.Ibrahim@somaliedmonton.com	Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton
Sahra	Hashi	Info@somalicanadianwomen.ca	Somali Canadian Women and children Association
Katherine	Rosero Suel	katherine.roserosuel@thetodaycentre.ca	The Today Family Violence Help Centre
ipek	oskay	ipekoskay@gmail.com	University of Alberta
Fatima	Al Sayah	falsayah@ualberta.ca	University of Alberta
Bukola	Salami	bukola.salami@ualberta.ca	University of Alberta
Marian	Rossiter	marian.rossiter@ualberta.ca	University of Alberta
Anna	Kirova	anna.kirova@ualberta.ca	University of Alberta
Marilyn	Abbott	Marilyn.Abbott@ualberta.ca	University of Alberta
Sophie	Yohani	sophie.yohani@ualberta.ca	University of Alberta
Johanne	Paradis	johanne.paradis@ualberta.ca	University of Alberta
Julie	Drolet	jdrolet@ucalgary.ca	University of Calgary
Rick	Enns	renns@ucalgary.ca	University of Calgary
Michelle	Truong	mttruong94@gmail.com	University of Waterloo
Laura	Murphy	lmurph33@uwo.ca	Western University
Jackie	McGowan	jmcgowan@northernalberta.ymca.ca	YMCA of Northern Alberta

Zenobia	Jamal	zenobia@zenev.ca	Zenev and Associates- Diversity and Inclusion Consultants
Mikel	Laurie	lauriemikel@gmail.com	
ana	fuenzalida reyes	marcellus.anarosa.batcu@gmail.com	