



ELIP Engagement Sessions -- Questions and Answers!

What is Edmonton Local Immigration Partnership (ELIP)?

ELIP is an opportunity for anyone in Edmonton to work together to support newcomers. Local Immigration Partnerships exist all over Canada and are funded by the Federal Government to support community collaborative efforts.

What are the ELIP Engagement Sessions?

ELIP (Edmonton Local Immigration Partnership) started a “reboot” process 18 months ago. It began with three Town Hall sessions where the principles and general approach for the “new” ELIP were identified (e.g. work broadly across all sectors, ensure newcomers are central in the work, etc.).

The COVID-19 pandemic stalled the engagement process but presented an opportunity to re-engage those invested in newcomer success and wellbeing through a collection of rapid response tables focused on issues such as education, cross-sectoral partnership, and technology access. In October 2020, ELIP was ready to move forward with a focused engagement process.

Why are we having these Engagement Sessions? What’s the problem with what’s happening now or what happened in the past?

Although a lot of useful networks were created through the first version of ELIP, there was an opportunity to restructure so that our collective efforts could be solidly grounded in newcomer experiences and expanded to involve more stakeholders.

Although the current ELIP rapid response tables have created new networks and initiatives, there is no guiding purpose that helps us ensure those tables are working together and towards sustainable change.

The Engagement Sessions is the first step in gathering your ideas on *what ELIP should be working towards and how ELIP should be working together*.

What ELIP should be working towards - What should the guiding purpose of ELIP be? What needs to shift so that newcomers today do not face the same barriers that have been in place for generations?

How ELIP should be working together - Through these discussions, we are learning about how to work collaboratively, to be aware of power dynamics, and ensure participation is broad and diverse but also equitable and fair.

Why should I attend an ELIP Engagement Session?

If you are invested in making a difference for the Edmonton community as a newcomer, or with newcomers, then we are looking for your wisdom, direction, and input on what a suitable Guiding Purpose might be for ELIP. We need critical thinkers, community wisdom, and knowledge of truly collaborative strategies.

How can I expect to participate in the Engagement Sessions?

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the engagement sessions are currently all on-line. However, we have tried to make them as interactive and relational as possible. You can expect to talk online with many different groupings of people in pairs, small groups, and large groups.

We will be asking open-ended discussion questions about what brought you to the engagement session, what are your thoughts around other collaborative initiatives centred around newcomers, and what would make a relevant and valuable guiding purpose for ELIP.

If we need to engage in ways beyond the on-line sessions, we will do that. It may be through one-on-one interviews, focus groups, surveys and/or other methods.

If you can't attend an engagement session but still want to participate, please contact Serena Ma, ELIP Engagement Project Manager at serena@mfrsedmonton.org or call one of the contacts at the end of this message.

What happens after the engagement sessions?

We will be taking the data from each session and reporting back to the ELIP Community on the findings. We will then look at all the data from all the sessions and pull together a small group to analyze the findings to determine the Guiding Purpose for ELIP.

After we determine the Guiding Purpose, we will be seeking input and advice in various ways to design the governance and structure of ELIP so it can fulfil that Guiding Purpose.

Who is the ELIP Community?

The ELIP Community is everyone who is invested in newcomer wellbeing and success and is actively engaged in ELIP as a collaborative community. It is composed of newcomers, settlement agencies, ethnocultural community organizations, organizations that provide social services, government representatives, and many other groups and individuals.

ELIP also has a Shared Secretariat that provides convening, facilitating, logistical support, and process guidance. The Shared Secretariat members are City of Edmonton, ECVO (Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations), and MFRS (Multicultural Family Resource Society).

Who can I contact for more information?

To register for the Engagement Sessions, please see the [ELIP website](#) or contact Serena Ma, ELIP Engagement Project Manager, at serena@mfrsedmonton.org

For information about ELIP process, governance, or other matters, please contact:
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