

NOTES FROM FLIP CHARTS

1. Immigrant Integration

Do you have a shared vision?

- No – we have a shared understanding or recognition that we need to be doing more
- Need an equity lens to have a space to choose their identity and are not penalized/stereotyped for their Canadian/immigrant identity
- Need a vision that enables immigrants. Most of decisions are not made by immigrants and are often not consulted
- It is necessary to have a vision
- Immigrants – not succeeding in education & employment, etc...
- There is a generational gap – may the 3rd generation is more integrated

What would the vision look like?

- People (immigrants) have voice and belong
- We need – economic integration
 - Identity & recognition
 - Social integration
 - Civic engagement – use of public space, collaborating with diverse Canadians/citizens
- Stats – more immigrant (visible minorities) over represented in jails
- Equal access to: opportunities – we need systemic change to have equal access
- How we view immigrants must change. Do people belong? “Who am I”? How do others see me?
- Need a framework and hubs (physical space to mobilize and meet) to better address needs of immigrants
 - Levels of gov’t
 - Settlement agencies
 - Recent immigrants
- Hub model requires framework on what needs to be done 1st – process of information giving, mobilize new immigrants, empower to help them more, physical space in one place where all the essential things are available
- Mentorship in jobs and communication of best practices is needed

Shared Vision

- Need to identify (setting priority) to issues to work on – commonly look at list of things eg youth & the education system
- Identify a few items, succeed, find resources for rest

- Shared vision is a priority – shared vision of successful intergration/immigration
- Idea – Ottawa, a place to belong/where you all belong?
 - Equal opportunity
 - Achieve success
 - Diversity
 - Inclusion
 - Prosperity
 - Arts, museum (membership, access)
 - Recreation
- Ottawa: I belong and I can make a difference
- A welcoming city where we all belong and we all contribute
- Create a welcome city where we all belong and contribute and prosper
- Ottawa: Prosperity in diversity
- Ottawa: Everybody's success matters
- Ottawa: Everyone matters
- Where we can all belong and prosper
- Note: Above themes and ideas similar to ides from OLIP focus groups
- Settlement (federal) vs Integration (municipal)
- Integration vs assimilation
- Inclusion, barriers, perception
- Identity – belonging (choice for each individual)
- A vision that enables informed choices

What needs to be in place?

- Mentorship, loan capital, work with employers to overcome barriers
- Initiatives not to be solely directed to immigrants but employers, residents, etc
- Economic integration – accreditation process; a bridging strategy – immigrant access fund
- Government – work with unions etc so immigrants can work in their profession
- Deal with communication breakdown – reach out to smaller organizations
- Policies for organization, etc.
- Need a shift in how we think “we are so lucky to have you” – value immigrants
- Token gestures – Chinese employer because we serve Chinese clients
- Moving knowledge to action
- Practice – opportunity, exposure
- Settlement agencies working but still some unlinked
- Mobilize, move power to those who it will impact,
- One space, one location
- Ask people who live it (new immigrants)
- Sensitize people (ethnocentric)
- Meet basic needs before having a big conversation (or else losing hope)

- Create opportunities (employment)
- Kids are now more “integrating” (colour isn’t important), change in attitude
- In Canada, compared to France for ex, we can become Canadian and keep our identity

Collective effort, include youth voice