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## Charting our Progress through Complexity:

**Alex Munter, OLIP Council Chair**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Ottawa Immigration Forum**  
**November 20, 2017**



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

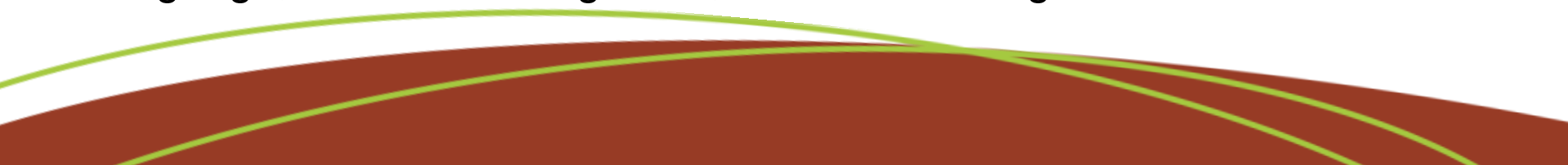
# VISION | MANDATE | IMPACTS

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**VISION:** working together across jurisdictions to build a more prosperous, vibrant, and inclusive national capital, strengthened by the contribution of immigrants

MANDATE	IMPACTS
Multi-sectoral partnership development	Improved economic integration
Planning together: common vision, shared priorities, & joint actions Convening partners & building mechanisms for collaboration	Improved access to an enhanced & coordinated system of settlement, health, education, and social services
Shared knowledge & awareness	Improved participation in community life and civic leadership

**SCOPE/SECTORS:** Settlement, Health & Wellbeing, Education,  
Language, Economic Integration, Socio-civic Integration



# Shared Knowledge Necessary for Collaborative Leadership & Action

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# Understanding Intersectionalities & Addressing Vulnerabilities



## Complex lives, difficult choices

### Understanding the experiences of immigrant families, children, and youth: mental health and access to services in Ottawa

A summary of the report for the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership (OLIP) & the Youth Services Bureau (YSB)

#### Introduction

The Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership (OLIP) and the Youth Services Bureau (YSB) undertook this research project in an effort to gain a greater understanding about the experiences and living conditions of immigrant children and youth, and their families and to demonstrate how these



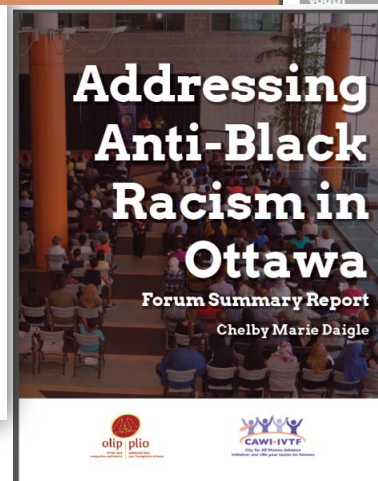
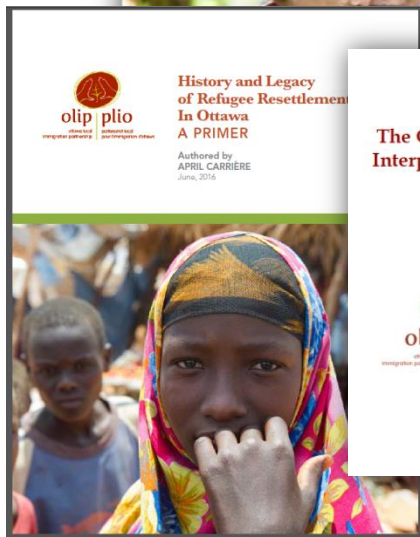
Factors impacting the wellbeing and mental health of refugee and immigrant children and youth

conditions can affect their mental health and wellbeing, as well as their ability to access services. The project included a literature review, individual interviews, and focus groups with relevant stakeholders. The resulting recommendations will give mental health service providers the insight to plan and implement the required system changes for immigrant children and youth.

#### Stress & Services

Accessing mental health services can be a challenge for anybody: add in language, cultural, and social barriers, and it becomes that much more difficult.

Barriers to accessing services include language, resources (time and money), lack of awareness of mental health services, stigma, differing cultural values, differing priorities, lack of trust, and lack of understanding of the role of different professionals.



# Changing Context .... Refreshed Priorities

- Through extensive consultations and research, we refreshed the Ottawa Immigration Strategy in 2016
- Through this process, partners largely reaffirmed shared priorities, initially set in 2010. New emphasis and new areas of focus emerged
- On-going listening and flexibility to adjust



# **Synergies & Mutual Benefits: Partners' Alignments to OIS Proven to be the Fastest Route to Progress**

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## ***Towards a continuum of well connected strategic organizational priorities and plans***

- City of Ottawa
- Champlain LHIN
- Local Agencies Serving Immigrants (LASI)
- Community Health Centres
- Local Employment Planning Council (LEPC)

## ***Alignment with OIS***

- ✓ Definition of partners' mandate in relation to immigrants' settlement and integration
- ✓ Analysis of how partners' mandates contribute to Ottawa's success in the OIS goals
- ✓ Development of strategic goals and plans for individual organizations or groups of organizations

# Highlights of New Collaborative Actions

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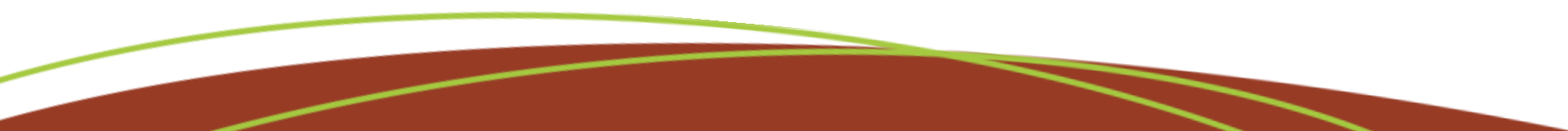
## **Economic Integration**

- Joint action plans with LEPC in support of immigrants' employment, including cross sectoral collaborations on immigrant employment; and a collaborative action pilot on employment data with City of Ottawa, LEPC, HIO, and CoC

## **Health & Wellbeing**

- Development of protocols to facilitate collaborations on immigrant children and youth's access to mental health, with leadership by YSB and OCISO
- Non-urgent transportation to reduce immigrant seniors' isolation, with funding from the LHIN, implemented by the Champlain Community Support Network
- Expansion of Ottawa Newcomer Health Clinic to serve all refugees, including children

## **Education**

- Equity in Education Collective Impact, collaboratively led by PQ, OLIP, & the Ottawa Children & Youth Initiative
  - Kiosks at the airport to welcome international students, organized collaboratively by the City of Ottawa and post secondary institutions
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# Long view & Collective Impact

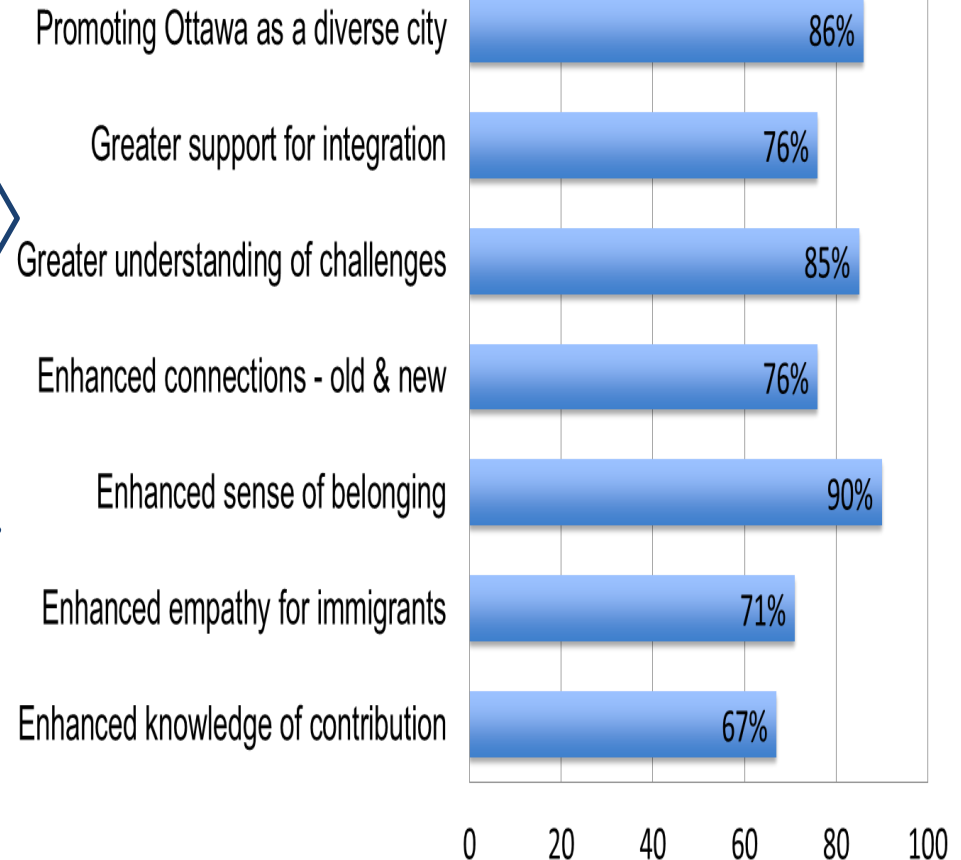
Pursuing collective impact for two OIS Priorities, in  
**Education & Socio-Civic Integration**

1. ***Equity in Education*** to improve high school graduation rates for students living in low income neighborhoods
2. ***Equity Ottawa*** – Helps build the internal capacity of service organizations to be equitable and inclusive



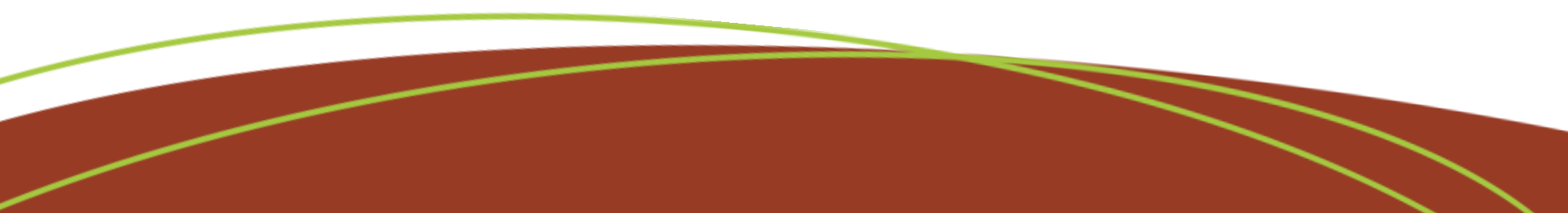


# WOW & Its Impacts



# OLIP is US... It takes all of us!

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- Strong momentum of growth, a new depth of action, & many, many community successes
  - It took all of us to pursue our shared goals. Partners contributed **9,480 hours** in two years! Pooled financial resources to achieve shared goals & mobilized new resources
  - But, beyond the tangible progress, OLIP is a vehicle for connected & collaborative leadership – an important currency for today's challenging socio-political environment.
  - Our pledge is to nurture our connection and strive for its development.
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Thank you!



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