

Reframing the Discourse: refugee and newcomer settlement programming in Calgary Canada



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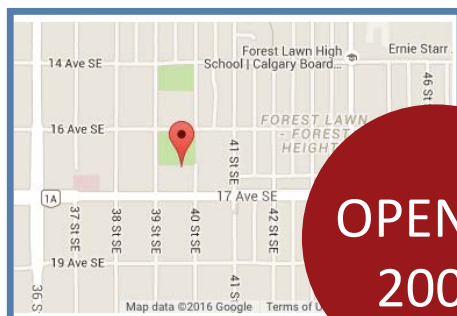
Manager, research & program development

Calgary Immigrant Educational Society (CIES):

- Settlement agency in Canada
 - Provides settlement programming
 - Language training from literacy level to the CLB 3 – which is the minimum usually considered for employment
 - Employment training
- Non-governmental organization/charity
- Individual programming funded by all levels of government
- Additionally funded by private foundations and individuals in Calgary
- funders typically fund individual programs with fixed lifespans

LOCATIONS

SOUTHEAST



OPENED
2003

Location

1723 - 40th Street S.E., Calgary, AB, T2A 7Y3

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday: 8:30 am - 9:00 pm

Friday: 8:30 am – 4:45 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday: 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

Office is closed on Statutory Holidays

Contact Directory

(403) 235-3666 (General Inquiries)

info@immigrant-education.ca

NORTHEAST



OPENED
2012

Location

3820 - 32nd Street N.E., Calgary, AB, T1Y 7L9

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday: 8:30 am - 9:00 pm

Friday: 8:30 am – 4:45 pm

Saturday: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Office is closed on Statutory Holidays

Contact Directory

(403) 291-0002 (General Inquiries)

wcreception@immigrant-education.ca

Calgary Immigrant Educational Society (CIES):

- Evolved from being primarily centred on Language Instruction to Newcomers to Canada (LINC) programming.
- Representative of most settlement agencies in Alberta

Research in cooperation with local institutions

- CIES and its counterparts in Calgary
 - Occupying intermediary space between formal (state) and informal (community)?
 - programming can at times manifest how informality can move into formality and vice versa

What is Research and Program Development at CIES?

- Developing evidence based programming
- Address inconsistency issues inherent in a 'grant to grant' environment
- Disciplining the new programming down research pathways
- In cooperation with a research institution

Current research projects:

- **Refugee and Newcomers Emotional Wellness (ReNEW)**
 - 3 year grant funded by Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
 - Collaboration with the University of Calgary
 - Examination of settlement programming and practices addressing emotional wellness of refugees and newcomers in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba

- **Foundations in Agricultural Industries for Refugees and Migrants (FARM) Socio-economic Impact Study**
 - 1 year grant funded by the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
 - Collaboration with the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
 - Examining the impact of agricultural job training and placement on the social and economic integration of refugees and newcomers

Re-examine some of the discourses surrounding newcomer integration:

- What is integration?
- Is it limited to language learning and employment?
- What is a newcomer?
- What is a refugee?
- What is a community?

Re-examine some of the discourses surrounding newcomer integration:

- Focus on mutual building community and belonging
- humanizing/familiarizing
- shifting the focus of public discussion
- programming in areas where newcomers can be the teachers/sources of knowledge

GROW

Gardens by Refugees
and Others Welcomed
in Calgary

Gardens by Refugees and Others Welcomed (GROW) in Calgary:

- Funding from the Calgary Foundation in 2016-17 and 2017-18 to build a small community garden around CIES' buildings
- Many refugees and newcomers possess horticultural and agricultural knowledge with potential to facilitate integration:
 - Research in Montreal (Hordyk, 2015) suggested gardening was a familiar tradition that served as a bridge of continuity between host and home country
 - In Sydney, Australia – green spaces were places refugees could experience diversity and feel more settled (Cadzow, 2010)
 - In New Orleans, Hmong refugees found new self-worth by using their transferable gardening skills to share with host community (Corlett, 2003)
 - In New Zealand gardening helped Chinese gain self esteem and sense of belonging (Wen Li & Hodgetts, 2010)

GROW

CBC News feature:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/grow-garden-calgary-refugees-immigrants-community-1.4829871>

The Harvest Video - <https://youtu.be/hdznqTfvCw>

Ahmad's Syrian Chicken and Rice - <https://youtu.be/Yb1aV5mwOCA>

Dambar's Bhutanese Vegetable Soup - <https://youtu.be/Dq4YIJXk6eA>

Fatima's Tabbouleh - <https://youtu.be/34yED2rDnRM>

Ahmad's Hummous, Two Ways - <https://youtu.be/x8d5RBpnJpl>

Katerina's Zemlovka - <https://youtu.be/Y8RedA2aB-Q>

Cookbook Launch - https://youtu.be/YRKdB_Xskm4

Gardens by Refugees and Others Welcomed (GROW) in Calgary:

- Building, planting, maintaining and harvesting garden
- vegetable cultivation = common language
- refugees were the sources of information and authority figures in building, planting, cooking
- media coverage of the project presented refugees in an everyday setting:
 - not as victims
 - not as aggressors
 - not as a 'wave'
 - not as occupiers
 - as active agents in their integration
- online community cookbook:
 - refugees offering something to share to the host society
 - subject of video was not about 'settling' or 'migrating'
 - Calgary elementary school students will create physical cookbook from the recipes
 - Aim to create more videos as a series pending new funding