



UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS AT THE IMMIGRANT EDUCATION SOCIETY

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University-Community Collaborations at TIES

Settlement Sector Services:

- Overcome barriers to integration
- Language
- Employment
- Access to community resources
- Familiarity with new community
- Facilitate participation in community
- Provide sense of welcome



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Settlement Sector Challenges:

- Precarity in public and private funding
- Much of data held and analysis provided by funders
- Sector has limited input on funding priorities
- Limited capacity to do research



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Need for research:

- Inquire into observed trends, issues, phenomena
- Evidence-based programming
- Sustained improvement of interventions and services
- Settlement agencies to advocate for themselves



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Challenges with traditional research:

- Agencies serve primarily as sites for data collection
- Limited participation (in framing questions, contextualizing the data)
- Commitment in terms of time and resources to research that does not find its way back to the organization
- Unable to translate research into meaningful knowledge



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Value of collaborative research approach:

- Agencies serve primarily as sites for data
 - Agencies with research expertise/experience can participate in framing research to make outcomes meaningful for the organization
- Limited participation in contextualizing the data
 - Agency staff may have direct experience with clients, circumstances that provide perspective that researchers do not have
 - Connection to the clients



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Value of collaborative research approach (cont'd):

- Commitment in terms of time and resources to research that does not find its way back to the organization
 - Participation in research means insight and new knowledge is always accessible
- Unable to translate research into meaningful knowledge
 - Involvement in research can facilitate application of research findings – pilots, etc.



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Collaborative Research at TIES:

- Staff with research experience and academic backgrounds
- Collaborations with university based researchers
- Research – Design – Pilot
 - FARM - Foundations in Agricultural based Industries for Refugees and Migrants (SSHRC)
 - ReNEW (IRCC)
 - Immigrant Access Counselling (Alberta Labour)
 - Newcomer Introduction to Classes Online (IRCC)



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