

## Ethnocultural Communities' Role in Supporting Newcomers to Winnipeg

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**SUMMARY:** This research seeks to better understand, acknowledge, and support the work done by ethnocultural community groups in meeting the needs of immigrants and refugees in Winnipeg.

**LINK:** Click [here](#) to read the executive summary; click [here](#) for the research report.

### CHALLENGES

Lack of sustained and consistent funding is the most common challenge

Limited funding means a reliance on volunteers who often lack knowledge and skills

Lack of centralized and reliable information on supports and services makes it challenging to refer newcomers

Relationship with settlement service provider organizations is underdeveloped

Ethnocultural community organizations are often the first point of contact for newcomers

### Ethnocultural Community Organizations

Building trust is important – it cannot be assumed immigrants and refugees trust the institutions designed to assist them

### NEEDS

Consistent, predictable, and stable sources of funding

More training opportunities for volunteers, to develop skills and capacity

Better communication and connections between organizations and with other community based organizations

More engagement with settlement service provider organizations, and more support and involvement from the City

### Recommendations:

- Create an umbrella organization for ethnocultural groups, to create a centralized structure and leverage funding.
- Have a consistent central actor to provide necessary outreach, be a reliable resource for information, and address many of daily challenges.
- Provide more support and engagement from the city, including a welcoming community policy that addresses newcomers' needs in the municipal planning process.