E-LIP LITERATURE REVIEW

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To review and analyze existing research, both academic and applied, and identify knowledge gaps as they relate to these four themes in the Edmonton context.

Employment

Youth engagement

Health

Settlement
DEFINITIONS AND LIMITS

- **Immigrants**
  - those who were born outside of Canada but are now naturalized Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

- **Newcomers**
  - Immigrants, refugees and temporary residents collectively

- Our research is limited to the geography of the city of Edmonton i.e. the municipal boundary of the City of Edmonton.

- The review did not include literature on other parts of the country unless Edmonton was included in them.
METHOD

- 133 pieces of literature on immigration and settlement
- More grey literature than academic literature – almost 2/3rd.

Sources of information
- Scholarly engines
- Search engines on Government of Alberta websites and settlement agencies’ websites
- Academic scholars
- Settlement agencies

- Developed a summary of each piece of literature
- Analyzed using Nvivo software
SUMMARY

- **Employment**
  - Newcomers to Edmonton suffer high unemployment rates and are in precarious, temporary jobs.
  - The Edmonton literature lacks robust comparisons with other parts of Canada, and we do not know the full extent of problems immigrants and refugees face with employment.
  - The literature is heavily biased towards those who have not been so successful in the Canadian labour market.

- **Youth engagement**
  - Very few literature available
  - Literature says that very few immigrants and refugees are involved in criminal and gang activities
  - We do not know enough about the factors that lead to involvement in criminal activity or promote radicalization

- **Health**
  - Mostly focused on immigrant women, children, elderly and specific ethnic groups
  - Covers mental health, TB, HIV and dental health.
  - Need studies on LGBTQ+, family class and economic class immigrants, twice migrants, and international students

- **Settlement process**
  - In the past 2 decades or so, immigrants’ and refugees’ difficulties of settling in Alberta have not been alleviated.
  - Immigrant women, seniors, Francophones, refugees, and those from Africa are further marginalized because of the intersectionality of their colour, gender, religion, age and language spoken.
  - Need studies on access to housing, ethnic neighbourhoods, and second generation.
EMPLOYMENT

- 23 pieces of literature
  - 12 peer-reviewed and 11 grey literature

- Studies
  - Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs)
  - Foreign-trained Professionals
  - Language skills

- Despite Edmonton’s robust economy, newcomers of all types suffer higher unemployment rates and are relegated to precarious, temporary jobs.

- A host of factors contribute to this: discrimination, racism, labour trafficking, poor foreign credential recognition, language proficiency issues and citizenship.
EMployment

- What is missing?
  - The Edmonton literature lacks robust comparisons with other parts of Canada.
  - We do not know the full extent of problems immigrants and refugees face with employment.
  - The literature is heavily biased towards those who have not been so successful in the Canadian labour market.
    - What do the experiences of the high-income earning group suggest with respect to successful strategies for transition out of poverty?
    - Do spatial distributions of immigrants contribute to their levels of poverty?
    - Are there differences in poverty (or high-income) levels experienced in second- and third-tier cities, and rural areas in Alberta?
      - What factors do account for these differences?
    - Do the labour market outcomes vary between provincial nominees, Canadian experience class, and skilled workers classes?
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 5 pieces of literature – 3 peer-reviewed and 2 grey
  - Least studied theme of all
- Government of Alberta’s Safe Communities report
  - Funded over 80 projects
    - Tools for success
    - Immigration and refugee mentoring program
    - Bamboo Shield
    - Reach Immigrant and Refugee Initiative
- Only a few immigrant and refugee youth are involved in criminal activity
- Risk factors – poverty, pre-migration violence and trauma, peer pressure and difficulty integrating
- Grass root action such as “soccer moms”
Media reports on some immigrant youth who became radicalized in Alberta.

**What is missing?**

- What relationships exist, if any, among immigration, foreign policy, terrorism, global events, and domestic security?
- What roles do diasporas and transnational communities play in youth tendencies towards socially destructive behaviours like criminal, gang, or terrorist activities?
- What are the factors that promote radicalization?
- Are marginalization and radicalization connected, and if so, which groups (including gender) are most vulnerable to them?
- What practices in schools might encourage immigrant youth to join gangs?
- How does the experience of, and attitudes towards, the Canadian justice system vary between minority groups?
HEALTH

- 33 pieces of literature. 21 peer reviewed and the rest grey.
- Literature covers multiple ethnic groups, such as Chinese, Sudanese, Somali, Mexicans and Sub-Saharan Africans, immigrant women and children.
- Cultural beliefs of pregnant women, mental health of immigrants, TB screening and immigrant children’s dental health received more attention.
What is missing?

- Newly arrived Syrian refugees’ mental and maternal health, access to health care services and satisfaction with services received.
- Health of groups such as LGBTQ+, economic and family class immigrants and international students
SETTLEMENT PROCESS

- 66 pieces of literature, of which 55 were grey and 11 peer-reviewed
- Literature on the settlement process is very broad, with an array of topics
  - Attracting and retaining newcomers
  - Settlement needs of immigrant women
  - Refugees
  - Francophone minority
  - Ethno-specific studies
  - International students
  - Role of ethno-cultural communities
  - other
Attracting and retaining newcomers

- Newcomers chose Edmonton for economic reasons (34%), family and friends (29%), quality of life (24%), and educational opportunities (13%)
- Calgary does slightly better than Edmonton. But Edmonton presents a clear advantage over Calgary in the educational opportunities it presents.
- Edmonton scores better than cities in Alberta other than Calgary.

Settlement needs of immigrant women

- Focused on South Asian and Sub-Saharan African women
- Domestic violence, harmful cultural practices
- Barriers to settlement and adaptation
Refugees
- Documents tough challenges refugees face in settling.
- Issues are related to learning English, finding employment and adequate housing.
- Most comprehensive work was done about 20 years ago.
- Almost all of the settlement needs are still the same.
- Health and educational cultural brokers and the provision of culturally appropriate services could be of help.

Francophone minority
- Alberta has the third largest share of French-speaking immigrants.
- 17.5% of Francophone in Alberta is Francophone immigrants.
- Francophone newcomers are in much worse situation because of the intersectionality of their race and language spoken.
SETTLEMENT PROCESS

- Role of ethno-cultural communities
  - Ethno-cultural communities have been helpful to newcomers
  - Challenges remain in keeping the members engaged for a prolonged time and raising funds

- Other sub-topics
  - Neighbourhood and housing
  - Role of municipality in immigrant settlement
  - Role of immigrant settlement services
Summary

- Immigrants’ needs such as lack of language proficiency, lack of employment and social isolation – same as what was identified 20 years back.
- Refugees’ difficulties in learning English, finding employment and adequate housing, identified 20 years ago, are still the same.
- Intersectionality of colour, religion and language further marginalizes several subgroups of newcomers such as elderly women, Francophones and those from Africa.

What is missing?

- Ethnic neighbourhoods and access to housing have not been studied properly.
- Studies on second generation are also important.
NEW RESEARCH IS WARRANTED
- Experiences of successful immigrants and refugees
- Factors contributing to gang activities and/or radicalization
- Changing ethnic makeup of Edmonton’s neighbourhoods
- Access to health care and satisfaction with care provided

MORE ROBUST, RIGOROUS STUDIES WITH LARGE SAMPLES ARE NEEDED
- Comparative studies between Edmonton and other Canadian cities
- Research should involve both academic scholars and practitioners in the field.