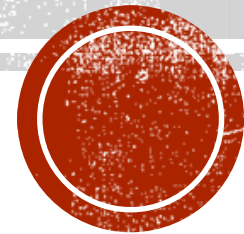


E-LIP LITERATURE REVIEW

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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”



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



- 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.



HEALTH



- 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



SETTLEMENT PROCESS



- **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



SETTLEMENT PROCESS



- 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



SETTLEMENT PROCESS



- **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.



FINAL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- 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.

