

Western Canada Conference - Gender, Immigration and Integration: Exploring Innovative and Best Practices

Programming for Newcomer Women: Some Promising Practices

YMCA of Greater Saint John	<p>The Mom & Baby program is for young mothers (Government Assisted Refugees - GARS) who have children under the age of 2 and require English language training.</p> <p>The Program was conceived in 2015 to address a couple of realities: Infant care spaces are few in Saint John and very expensive. In order for moms to continue language training, they needed to be able to bring their babies to class.</p> <p>English language lessons are centered on themes of postnatal care and healthy parenting. The program provides an opportunity for mothers to spend time with other young mothers and children in a structured, learning environment.</p> <p><u>Outcomes</u></p> <p>Language Acquisition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress of at least 1 CLB level • Clients are able to complete basic necessary language tasks (i.e. filling out forms) • Some women are able to attend school for the first time • Babies are also learning English <p>Community Connections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to interact with other groups who are using the building (i.e. Quilters group) • Confidence to speak to people in the community and one client has applied to volunteer with the Y • Knowledge used to access community services <p>Developing a sense of community with other moms and decreased isolation</p>
PRUDE Inc. (Pride of Race, Unity, and Dignity through Education)	<p>The Come Together the Canadian Way (CTCW) program to eligible newcomer women in the Saint John, NB area. The program assists newcomer women by connecting them to the community through cross-cultural integration and social inclusion activities while providing an informal setting to practice their official language skills. The CTCW activities include Conversation Circles, Monthly Creative Workshops, and Community Events, which connect newcomer women to historical sites, local organizations and community members.</p>
Women's Enterprise Skills Training Inc. (WEST)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WEST has partnered with Hackforge which is a local non-profit organization that offers many computer and tech-centred events. Through this partnership, WEST offers young women and women the opportunity for computer training as well as a connection to community resources and networks. In addition, participants receive additional support and mentorship to aid in their professional development. The program focuses on providing participants with training in Basic Computer Literacy and Computer Programming. 2. As an official member of Toastmasters International, WEST of Windsor Toastmasters is a public speaking group dedicated to helping women become effective communicators and leaders. Through this membership, clients develop and present speeches as well as participate in 'Speech and Evaluation Contests'. This program offers a chance for female clients to improve their Language Skills and their overall confidence when communicating in a public setting.
Rexdale Women's Centre	<p>Violence Against Women (VAW) E-Learning project - the development of a website (http://vawelearning.com/) and a resource guide (<i>"Recognizing and Responding to Intimate Partner Violence Resource Guide for Refugee Resettlement Assistance Programs in Ontario"</i>).</p> <p>The project responded to the need to establish a responsive system that enables (in situations of violence) the initiation of a prompt, efficient, and coordinated procedure to end the violence immediately, protect the woman from further violence and ensure adequate legal and psycho-social intervention is vital. The VAW E-learning Project's mission is to advance the current capacity of Resettlement Assistance Programs (RAP) in Ontario as they are responding to incidents of abuse within the context of their existing service delivery. Through the training materials, resource guide, and protocol development activities, the projects aims to improve RAP providers' organizational response to violence against refugee women in a uniform yet highly sensitive way.</p>