

Policy Brief

Title: Engaging and (re)Framing: Multicultural Stakeholder Perspectives on Metropolis BC Research Directions for Metro Vancouver

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Research Question: What future avenues of research would be most valuable in assisting community-based multicultural, immigrant-serving and settlement organizations in supporting immigrants and newcomers to participate in public life in Metro Vancouver, BC and Canada?

Importance: The front line work of community-based multicultural, immigrant-serving and settlement organizations in Metro Vancouver is a central component to the successful integration of immigrants and newcomers into public life. Given their proximity to immigration processes and diversity issues, representatives of multicultural, immigrant-serving and settlement organizations have unique research needs, some of which are not the current focus of Metropolis BC. The importance of front line multicultural service agency work and the related research needs of such agencies necessitate regular community-based studies focused on learning the recommended research directions for Metropolis BC from the perspectives of such stakeholders. This report provides an example of such a study.

Research Findings: In this report, the authors outline an emerging consensus that is developing among multicultural stakeholders in Metro Vancouver regarding future directions for the procedural dimensions of Metropolis BC research, as well as research topics for Metropolis BC. With regard to the procedural dimensions of Metropolis BC's research work, stakeholders suggest two developmental directions: (a) enhance the accessibility of Metropolis BC research dissemination activities for community stakeholders; and, (b) strengthen the research partnership model for Metropolis BC Researchers and community-based organizations. In addition to these procedural considerations, research participants recommend that Metropolis BC Researchers focus future efforts in two thematic areas: (a) best practices research in planning and programming for multiculturalism; and (b) smaller geographies and a focus on seniors, youth and temporary foreign workers (TFW). Taken together, these recommendations express some of Metro Vancouver's multicultural stakeholders interest in seeing Metropolis BC compliment its existing research mandate with a focus on community-based research that is designed and undertaken in collaboration with multicultural stakeholders.

Implications: The findings presented in this report provide important considerations for Researchers interested in community-based research that advance the multicultural agenda in Metro Vancouver.