The Immigrant Education Society and Settlement Services in Calgary

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(Newcomer) Integration

Socio-cultural or political perspective

- Question of identities/changing identities
- Adoption/loss blending of different cultures
- Learning new language*

Economic perspective

- Getting a local job
- Credentials recognition
- Poverty and opportunity

Newcomer Settlement

Obstacles to successful settlement (Hordyk, 2015: 76)

       social isolation,

       language hardship,

       issues with employment,

       housing questions,

       transportation,

       barriers to health, education and government service access

Healthy Communities

How do newcomers fit into healthy communities?

- Prescribing what integration looks like – impact on emotional well-being?
- Multiplexity in integration - No one pathway to integration
- Ensuring newcomers have emotional well being can empower them to find their own optimal pathway to integration?

Community Building vs. Integration?

- Participation in 'building community' vs. 'being admitted' to it
- Sense of ownership and 'belongingness'
- Parallels with ensuring emotional well-being?

Determinants of Health

Aboriginal status
disability
early life
education
employment and working conditions
food insecurity
health services

gender
housing
income and income distribution
race
social exclusion
social safety net
unemployment and job security

Source: Raphael, D. (2009). Social Determinants of Health: Canadian Perspectives, 2nd edition. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Determinants of (Integration?)

Aboriginal status
disability
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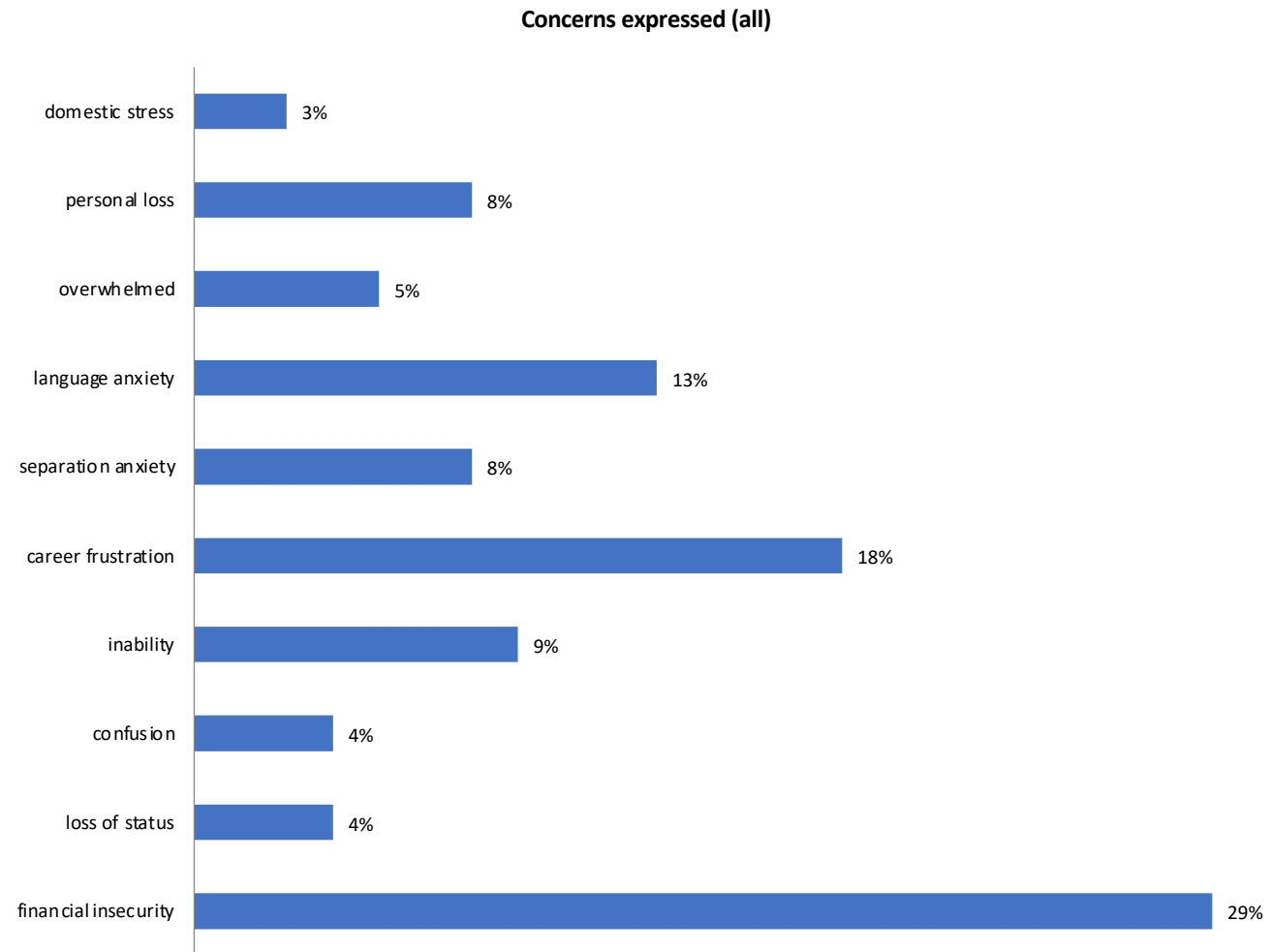gender
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92 Syrian Refugees' top concerns (Calgary, Canada, 2017-2018)

Concerns expressed (all)

Concern	Percentage
domestic stress	3%
personal loss	8%
overwhelmed	5%
language anxiety	13%
separation anxiety	8%
career frustration	18%
inability	9%
confusion	4%
loss of status	4%
financial insecurity	29%

IRCC call for proposals 2019 Immediate Outcomes

Immediate outcome 1: Access to IRCC-funded settlement services is facilitated

Immediate outcome 2: Increase understanding of client settlement needs and appropriate linkages to other services

Immediate outcome 3: Clients increase knowledge of life in Canada
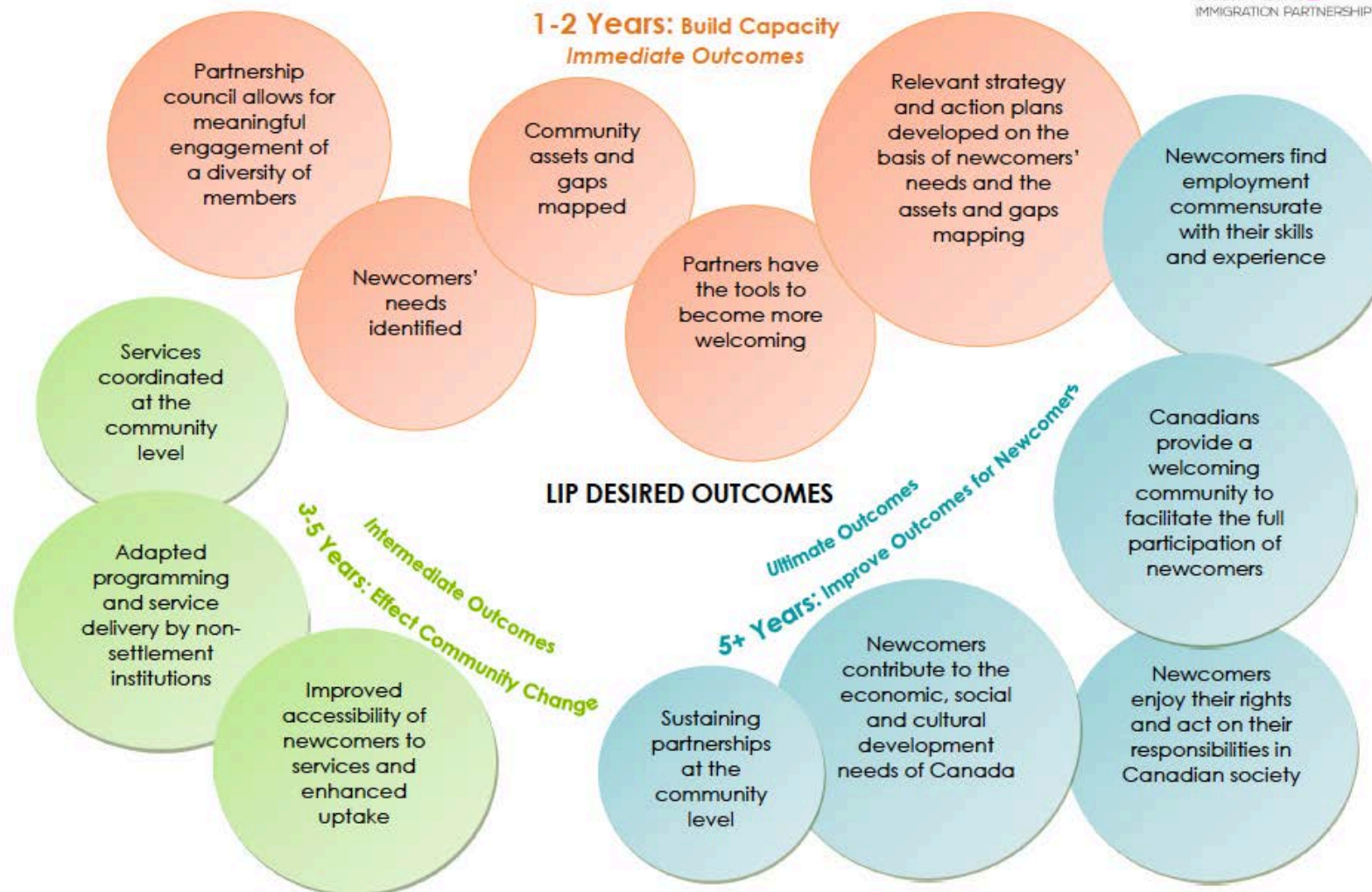
Immediate outcome 4: Clients improve official language skills

Immediate outcome 5: Clients acquire knowledge, skills and connections to prepare for the Canadian labour market
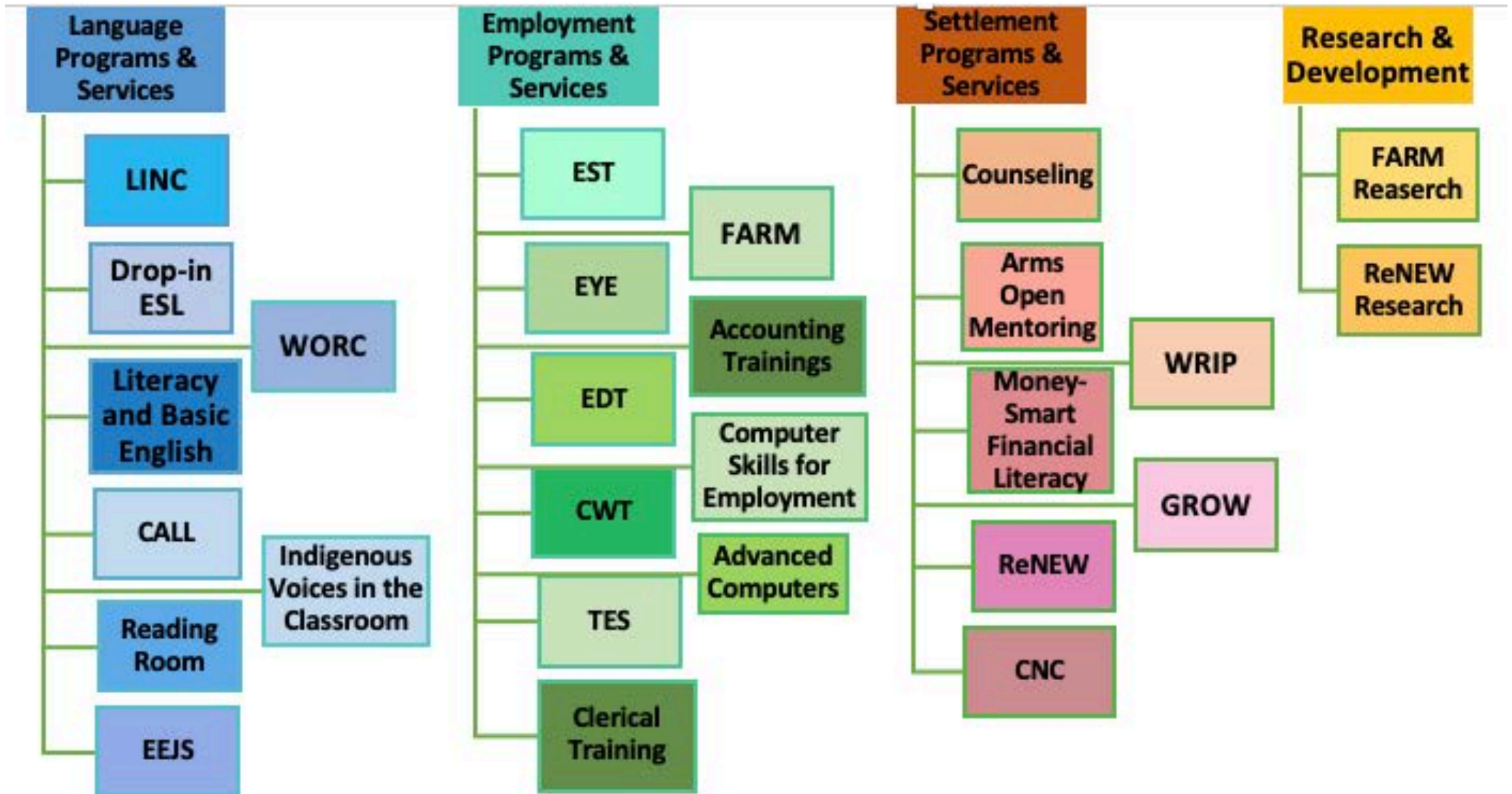
Immediate outcome 6: Clients increase their participation in communities and social networks

Immediate outcome 7: Partners deliver responsive and coordinated settlement and community services

1-2 Years: Build Capacity
Immediate Outcomes

Partnership council allows for meaningful engagement of a diversity of members

Community assets and gaps mapped

Newcomers' needs identified

Partners have the tools to become more welcoming

Relevant strategy and action plans developed on the basis of newcomers' needs and the assets and gaps mapping

Newcomers find employment commensurate with their skills and experience

Services coordinated at the community level

LIP DESIRED OUTCOMES

Ultimate Outcomes

5+ Years: Improve Outcomes for Newcomers

Canadians provide a welcoming community to facilitate the full participation of newcomers

Adapted programming and service delivery by non-settlement institutions

3-5 Years: Effect Community Change

Intermediate Outcomes

Improved accessibility of newcomers to services and enhanced uptake

Sustaining partnerships at the community level

Newcomers contribute to the economic, social and cultural development needs of Canada

Newcomers enjoy their rights and act on their responsibilities in Canadian society

The Immigrant Education Society (TIES)

The Immigrant Education Society

- Settlement agency in Canada
  - Provides settlement programming
  - Language training from literacy level to the CLB 3 – which is the minimum usually considered for employment
  - Employment training
- Non-governmental organization/charity
- Individual programming funded by all levels of government
- Additionally funded by private foundations and individuals in Calgary
- funders typically fund individual programs with fixed lifespans

Funders

- **Federal:**
  - Service Canada
  - Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
    - LINC
    - SDI
  - Social Science and Humanities Research Council
- **Provincial**
  - Alberta Labour
  - Alberta Multiculturalism and Status of Women
- **Municipal**
  - City of Calgary
- **Private**
  - Calgary Foundation
  - Calgary Learns

The Immigrant Education Society

- Evolved from being a site solely for Language Instruction to Newcomers to Canada (LINC) programming.

- Representative of most settlement agencies in Alberta

- Research arm in cooperation with local institutions

- TIES and its counterparts in Calgary
  - Occupying intermediary space between formal (state) and informal (community)?
  - programming can at times manifest how informality can move into formality and vice versa

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What is Research and Program Development at TIES?

- Developing evidence based programming
- Address inconsistency issues inherent in a 'grant to grant' environment
- Disciplining the new programming down research pathways
- In cooperation with a research institution

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Current research projects:

- Refugee and Newcomers Emotional Wellness (ReNEW)
    - 3 year grant funded by Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
    - Collaboration with the University of Calgary
    - Examination of settlement programming and practices addressing emotional wellness of refugees and newcomers in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba

- Foundations in Agricultural Industries for Refugees and Migrants (FARM) Socio-economic Impact Study
    - 1 year grant funded by the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
    - Collaboration with the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
    - Examining the impact of agricultural job training and placement on the social and economic integration of refugees and newcomers

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Current research projects:

- Immigrant Access Counselling
  - 1.5 year grant with Alberta Labour
  - Collaboration with the University of Calgary
  - Examine the uses and limitations of an online settlement chat

- Language Brokering Initiative
  - 2 year grant by Calgary Foundation
  - Collaboration with University of Calgary
  - Examines practice of family-based translation and interpreting
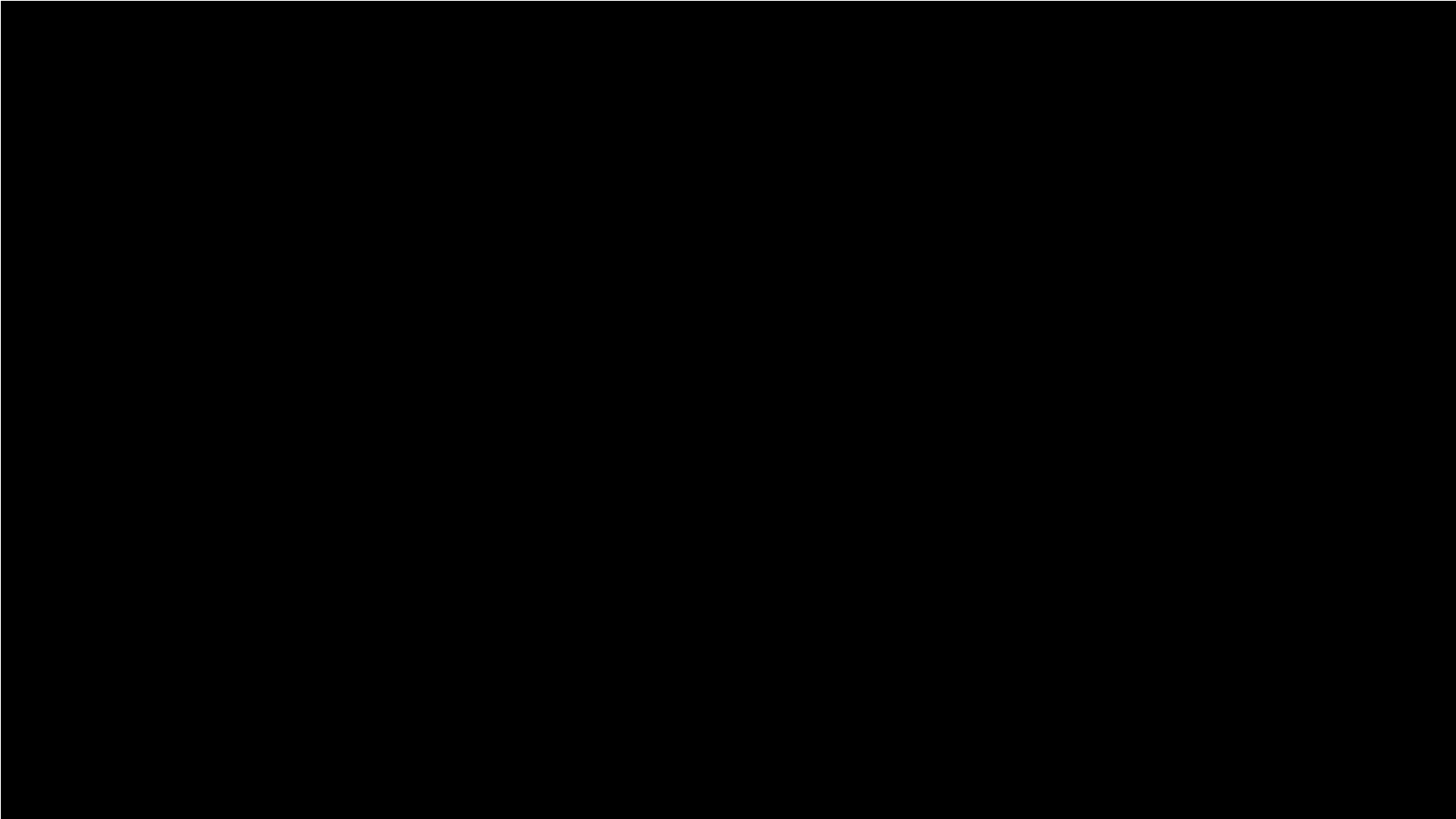
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- Re-examine some of the discourses surrounding newcomer integration:

  - What is integration?
  - Is it limited to language learning and employment?
  - What is a newcomer?
  - What is a refugee?
  - What is a community?

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- Re-examine some of the discourses surrounding newcomer integration:

    - Focus on mutual community building and belonging
    - humanizing/familiarizing
    - shifting the focus of public discussion
    - programming in areas where newcomers can be the teachers/sources of knowledge

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- CBC News feature:
- https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/grow-garden-calgary-refugees-immigrants-community-1.4829871