A large, light blue stylized star graphic is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the title text.

REFUGEE AND NEWCOMERS EMOTIONAL WELLNESS (RENEW): PARTNERSHIP FOR BEST PRACTICE

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Refugee and Newcomers Emotional Wellness (ReNEW): Partnership for Best Practice

Settlement Sector Services:

- Overcome barriers to integration
- Language
- Employment
- Access to community resources
- Familiarity with new community
- Facilitate participation in community
- Provide sense of welcome



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Settlement Sector Challenges:

- Precarity in public and private funding
- Much of data held and analysis provided by funders
- Sector has limited input on funding priorities
- Limited capacity to do research



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Need for research:

- Inquire into observed trends, issues, phenomena
- Evidence-based programming
- Sustained improvement of interventions and services
- Settlement agencies to advocate for themselves



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Challenges with traditional research:

- Agencies serve primarily as sites for data collection
- Limited participation (in framing questions, contextualizing the data)
- Commitment in terms of time and resources to research that does not find its way back to the organization
- Unable to translate research into meaningful knowledge



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Value of collaborative research approach:

- Agencies serve primarily as sites for data
 - Agencies with research expertise/experience can participate in framing research to make outcomes meaningful for the organization
- Limited participation in contextualizing the data
 - Agency staff may have direct experience with clients, circumstances that provide perspective that researchers do not have
 - Connection to the clients



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Value of collaborative research approach (cont'd):

- Commitment in terms of time and resources to research that does not find its way back to the organization
 - Participation in research means insight and new knowledge is always accessible
- Unable to translate research into meaningful knowledge
 - Involvement in research can facilitate application of research findings – pilots, etc.



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Collaborative Research at TIES:

- Staff with research experience and academic backgrounds
- Collaborations with university based researchers
- Research – Design – Pilot
 - FARM - Foundations in Agricultural based Industries for Refugees and Migrants (SSHRC)
 - ReNEW (IRCC)
 - Immigrant Access Counselling (Alberta Labour)
 - Newcomer Introduction to Classes Online (IRCC)



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Refugee and Newcomer's Emotional Wellness (ReNEW): Partnership for best practice:

- Emerging gaps in knowledge and capacity around emotional wellness and mental health support
- Varied practices at agencies – ad hoc to large units of social workers and counsellors
- Need for a survey of best practices
- Calgary, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Edmonton agencies participating
- Collaborative research with University of Calgary Faculty of Nursing
- 3rd year Pilot of best practice in all 4 sites

MULTIDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION IN INTERVENTION-BASED KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION: BRINGING RESEARCH TO LIFE

Presented by Halley Silversides, BA, BN, MLIS, RN
(Research Associate, ReNEW)

On behalf of the ReNEW (Refugee and Newcomer
Emotional Wellness) research team

WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION?

CIHR defines knowledge translation as: “...a dynamic and iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically-sound application of knowledge to improve the health of Canadians, provide more effective health services and products and strengthen the health care system.” (CIHR, 2016)

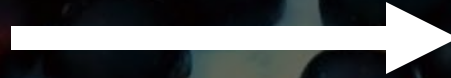
SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) terms this process “knowledge mobilization” (SSHRC, 2018)



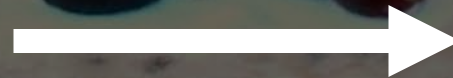
INTERVENTION BASED KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION: WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO DO WELL

Universities end up siloing their research; brief consultation with key informants or community stakeholders

Organizations may end up with knowledge that they cannot readily apply



Scholars create publications, however, their work doesn't meaningfully impact the communities or agencies it was meant for



The knowledge given to organizations is either lost to the organization or modified (and should therefore be re-studied)

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



When we begin the planning process for knowledge translation with vulnerable populations, several questions arise:

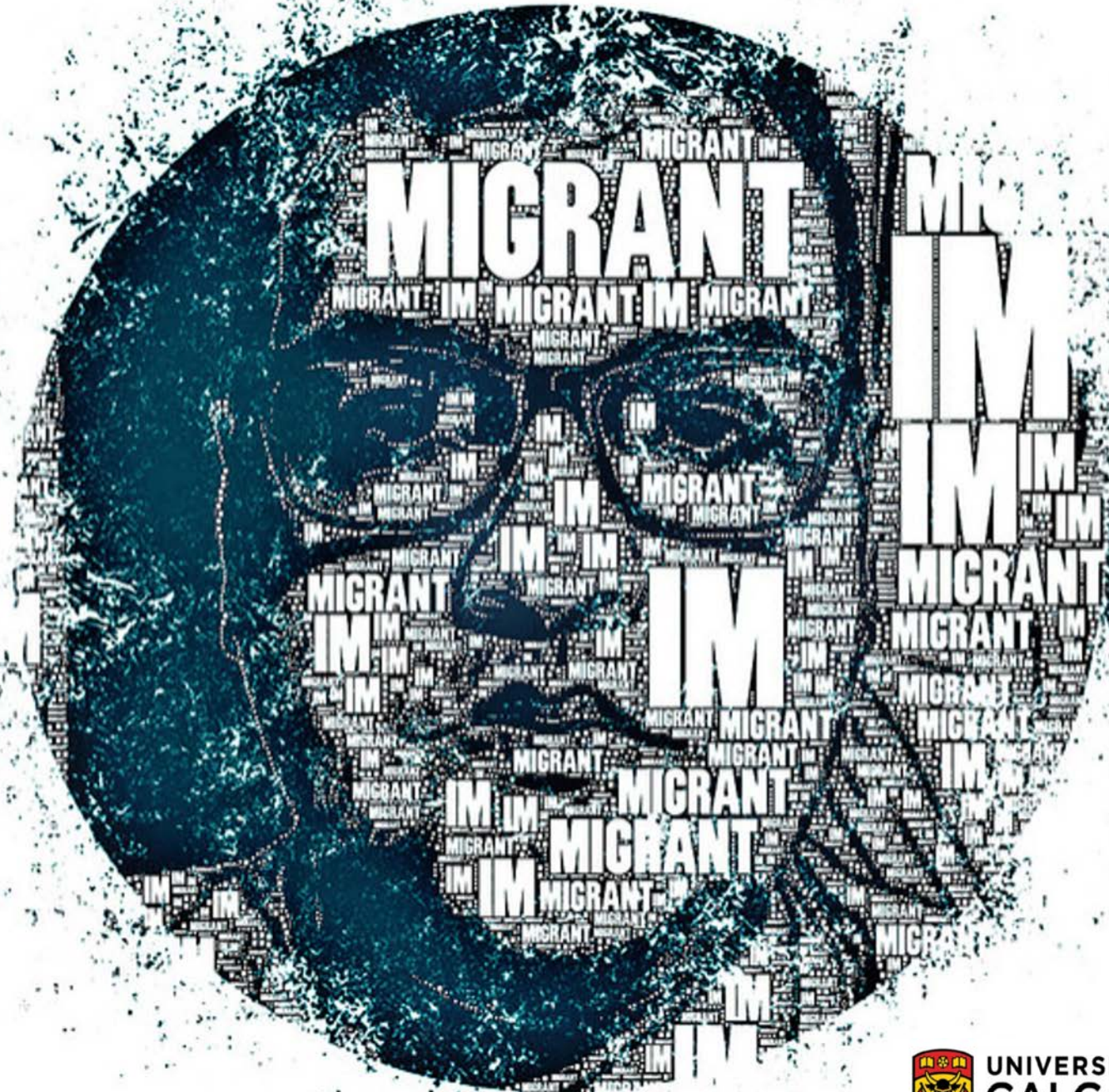
- 1) How do we, as researchers, ethically access vulnerable groups for our research?
- 2) What are the needs of the population? Will this research be of value to the group?
- 3) What is the best way to engage this population?

Simoes, Pedro Ribeiro. (2013). "Homeless". Retrieved from <https://flic.kr/p/dW2Ghr>. Used under Creative Commons 2.0 licensing agreement.

RETHINKING KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION WITH NEWCOMERS TO CANADA

- Most research with newcomers in Canada occurs with newcomers who have been in Canada longer than 5 years (McDonald and Kennedy, 2004).
- We know (often anecdotally) that new immigrants to Canada face a unique set of challenges and barriers.
- There is a gap – how do we do research (with effective knowledge translation) with those who need it the most?

Taymaz Valley. (2018). "Immigrant." Retrieved from <https://flic.kr/p/DUX1s2>. Used with Creative Commons 2.0 licensing.



THE REFUGEES AND NEWCOMERS EMOTIONAL WELLNESS PARTNERSHIP FOR BEST PRACTICE (RENEW)

The ReNEW project is a collaboration between the Calgary Immigrant Educational Society (CIES) and the University of Calgary (UCalgary). It is funded by Immigrants, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

The ReNEW project is a 3 year multi-site (Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Winnipeg) study that looks at the emotional wellness of newcomers to Canada; in particular we are looking at students in LINC programs who have been in Canada less than 5 years.

ReNEW is a unique integrated knowledge translation (iKT) project; CIES and Ucalgary operate as partners rather than “researchers” and “research site” (or “agency being researched”)

THE BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

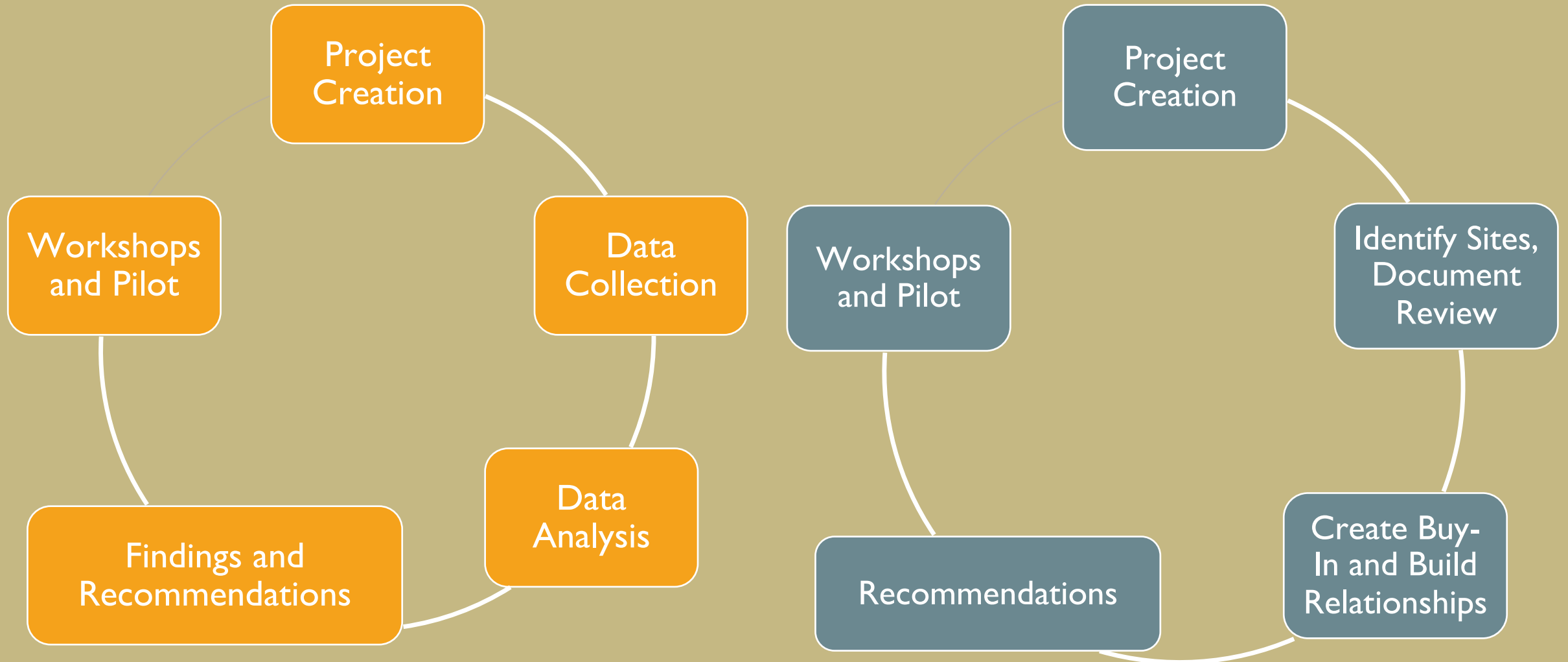
What a University can Provide

- Easy access to subject experts
- Academic library access
- Ethics boards
- Easy access to building a research team (staffing)
- Publication and academic grant writing expertise
- Ability to carry out data collection activities (including partner agencies)

What a Non-Profit Partner can Provide

- Understanding of the nuances of organizations and ability to build relationships with similar agencies
- Expertise in working with vulnerable populations and able to give meaningful advice and feedback to guide the overall study
- Access to staff who work directly with vulnerable populations
- Practical grant writing expertise

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?



WHAT MIGHT KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION LOOK LIKE FOR RENEW?

- Preliminary data presentations to staff at all four sites and collection of staff/management feedback
- Publications (preliminarily – scoping review of the literature)
- Professional development activities for teaching staff (ie. workshops, training activities)
- Additional resources/supports at agencies
- Knowledge management strategies
- Overall continued engagement with sites



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