



IMMIGRATION, INTEGRATION, AND INTERSECTORAL PARTNERSHIP: A critical examination of introductory winter sport programmes for newcomers to Canada

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WHAT WE DID

- We partnered with a community-based sport facility (WinSport) and 2 settlement services organizations (Centre for New Center for Newcomers and Calgary Immigrant Women's Association) based in Calgary, Alberta.
- We introduced newcomer youth, teens, and adults to popular Canadian winter sports (ice skating, downhill skiing, and snowboarding) to support newcomer integration through the WinSport Newcomers Program.
- We conducted research to see if inclusive, welcoming introductory winter sport programming influences the integration and identities of newcomers, and to examine the efficacy of intersectoral partnerships for this purpose.

WHAT WE FOUND

- Through participation in the program, newcomers:
 - Had fun, tried new winter sports that they may have not otherwise had the opportunity to learn, and developed new skills
 - Engaged in winter sports, which helped them feel more "Canadian" and facilitated their integration
 - Valued how winter sports helped them strengthen existing relationships and build new connections in community settings (such as school and work)
 - Shared experiences as a family through opportunities for parents to learn a new sport alongside their children
- The partnership had many strengths, but was limited by communication challenges, time pressures, priority management, program realities, and power imbalances.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Introductory winter sport programs offer many **benefits** for newcomers to Canada, including **learning new skills, building social connections, and facilitating integration.**
- **Partnerships** between sport organizations and settlement agencies can play a valuable role in **making sport programs welcoming and accessible** to newcomers, but **require strong communication and collaboration** to be successful.

