

Background

- Sport can assist as newcomers settle into their local communities & Canadian society (Campbell et al., 2016; Institute for Canadian Citizenship – ICC, 2014)
- Newcomers report various participation barriers, hindering engagement in sport (Tirone et al., 2010)
- Newcomers strongly connect winter sports (e.g., ice skating and ice hockey) to Canadian identity (Doherty & Taylor, 2007; ICC, 2014)

Study Purpose

To explore the lived experiences of newcomers to Canada in introductory winter sport programs.

WinSport Welcomes Newcomers

- Intersectoral collaboration involving diverse stakeholders
- Aim: To introduce newcomer children, teens, and adults to ice skating, downhill skiing, and snowboarding
- Enrolled newcomers in existing programs (in part, to promote opportunities for integration)

Theory & Methods

- Informed by socially constructed ideas of race, ethnicity, & Canadian multiculturalism (Bannerji, 2000; Frisby, 2014; Gunaratnam, 2003)
- Qualitative case study methodology (Stake, 2005)
- Multiple qualitative methods:
 - Semi-structured in-depth interviews
 - Photo elicitation focus group
 - Participant observations
 - Reflexive journaling
 - Document analysis

Results

1) Individual participation outcomes:

- Having fun**
- Trying something new**
- Developing skills and competencies**

2) Sport participation and newcomer integration:

- Winter sport, Canadian identity, and integration**
- Fostering social connections**
- Centering family participation**

3) Concerns about future winter sport participation:

- Future participation *within* the programs**
- Future participation *beyond* the programs**

“So the whole family could learn. I think it’s nice. After I came to Canada, I found here in Canada people like to do- go out as a family. So, I hope that we could go out skiing as a family, not only the kids. So, as parents, we would like to also to join. So yes, that’s great!” (Parent)

“Oh [our settlement services councillor] sent us a form to fill. And I was trying to do it myself, but it was a little bit complicated for me, so I asked my husband who knows more, better English and he did all the form. And then we—a few days ago, we got another form from WinSport. It’s a waiver or something. And I was trying to do again myself, but it was difficult.” (Parent)



Recommendations

“The program could increase its times and add in more activities. **The program could maybe double the time to run three hours instead of one and a half hours.** People like me travel from from the other side of the city to go skiing and also, there’s more time they could learn more about skiing and get more practice. Secondly, **WinSport could add more activities like curling or hockey** to be better as people would get a chance to experience a sport that they had never tried before.” (Participant)