

ALLIANCE DES FEMMES DE LA
FRANCOPHONIE CANADIENNE

Pan-Canadian Strategy for Francophone Immigrant Women in Minority Communities: Breaking Down Barriers for Equitable Integration



Explanatory Sheet

Chapter 6: Community Life

Issues

The minority language context of French-speaking communities, where English-speaking culture predominates, influences community integration and the creation of social ties for immigrant women.

The dispersal of French-speaking communities and their geographical isolation limit interaction between Francophones and the creation of support networks specific to Francophone immigrant women. Distances to travel, access to adequate transportation and the time constraints imposed to access various services are all factors that hinder women's integration into community life.



Consultation Highlights

International Monitoring

Policies must safeguard women's rights and safety while aiming to ensure equitable access to social services and rights for all.

Best Practices

- Encourage the creation of social networks among immigrants.
- Recognize gender disparities in immigrant women's political involvement is essential.
- Understand the needs of each generation of immigrant women.
- Promote the preservation of the culture of origin while encouraging the adoption of the host culture, especially for young people.
- Promoting a sense of belonging contributes to successful integration.

Examples of initiatives:

- Mères de quartier in the Netherlands mobilizes local residents to support isolated immigrant women by promoting their social integration.
- The AGIR program in France (access to various services, including childcare and family allowances).
- In Wallonia, Forem's "Primo-arrivants" initiative, French language courses and "article 60" contracts offered by the Centres publics d'action sociale (public social action centres).
- Anti-discrimination legislation in Belgium: the importance of strengthening protection against discrimination to create a fairer and more inclusive environment for immigrants.

To learn more on the Pan-Canadian strategy, visit
immigration.affc.ca/en



Objective 6: Promote and support networking among Francophone immigrant women in minority communities.

Recommended Strategies

Ensure that Francophone and Acadian communities are visible, ever-present and welcoming

Extend and expand welcoming Francophone communities that aim to forge lasting ties between newcomers and community members. These communities work to build Francophone communities united in their diversity.

Celebrating the diversity of Francophonie in Francophone communities

Raise awareness and promote the Canadian and global Francophonie by celebrating cultural and linguistic diversity to foster understanding and tolerance and promote a sense of belonging.

Encourage and support networking among Francophone immigrant women in minority settings

Offer travel incentives and childcare services to encourage participation in community activities and facilitate the creation of formal and informal networks by maximizing new technologies while considering the different generations.



Encourage the creation of discussion forums for women, with or without their families

Create a safe environment where new arrivals can report problems or abuse without fear of negative consequences to their status. These spaces may or may not include family members.

Maximizing on-site community involvement

Having professionals on site to intervene according to the individual needs of women and communities. Networking between an intervention worker and a woman/family would facilitate the creation of a bond of trust.

Offer customized training and services

Develop more training for community workers on GBA+ in order to adapt the service offer to this approach.

Encourage long-term sponsorship with volunteer families for ongoing support

Sponsorship supports women and their families in all spheres of their lives and their integration process, giving them a better understanding of the realities of the host region.