

Neighbourhood Houses as Settlement and Integration Hubs

**Why the 'Pathways to Leadership'
Model Works for Women**



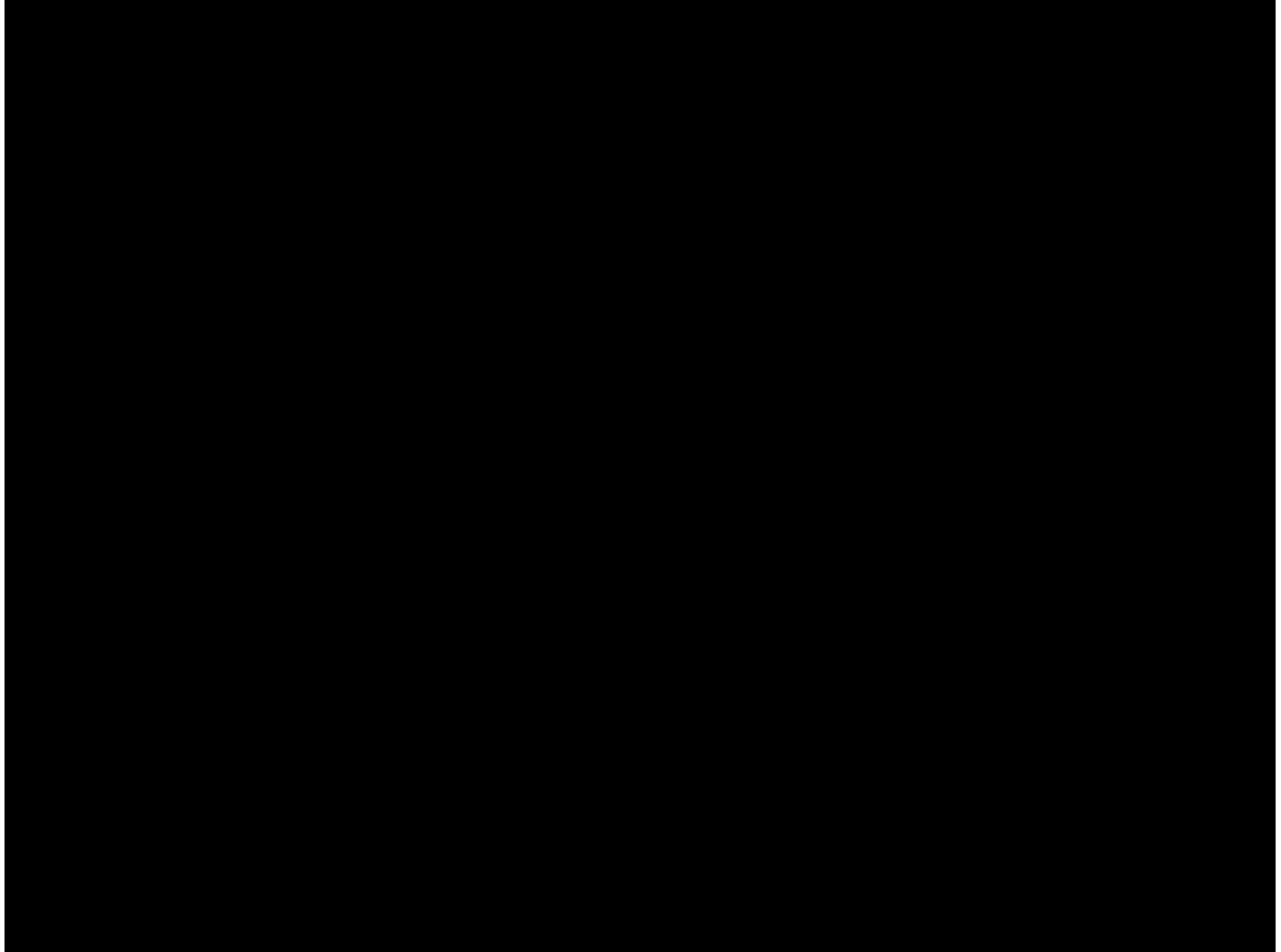
Neighbourhood Houses:

Settlement Hubs

All support newcomers in settlement and integration

- Each One Unique
- Shared Approaches
 - Grassroots community building
 - Placed based addressing local concerns
- Inclusive, multi-generational, intercultural
 - Strengths Based approaches
 - Partnership

Participant Perspectives



Erika and Ruth, 2015

Women in Settlement:

Lost Potential

- **Impacts of low paid work is gendered**
 - *“Low-paid work among immigrants is a deeply gendered issue, with women of colour with foreign degrees commonly experiencing the least return on their skills when searching for jobs in a new country. Immigrant women are said to be caught in “double jeopardy,” and have higher unemployment rates than both immigrant men and Canadian-born women. Mothers are often forced to take multiple jobs in order to support their families, and thus have little time to monitor their children’s progress in school or spend time with them at home.”*
 - Chun, J (2011). *Immigrants and low-paid work: Persistent problems, enduring consequences.*
- **Underemployment leads to de-skilling**
 - Living wage in Metro Vancouver is rated at \$20.68 per hour; yet minimum wage is currently only \$10.25 per hour

Pathways to Leadership

Program Model

- Pathways to Leadership project, an innovative, women-centred model which supports immigrant and refugee women to discover and use their strengths and skills while engaging in community life.
 - Philosophy
 - Holistic Model
 - Strength Based
 - Open Access



Pathways to Leadership

Core Elements

- **Strong network of peer support**
- **Civic engagement projects**
- **Subsidized child care**
- **Challenging issues as learning opportunities**
- **Homework component**

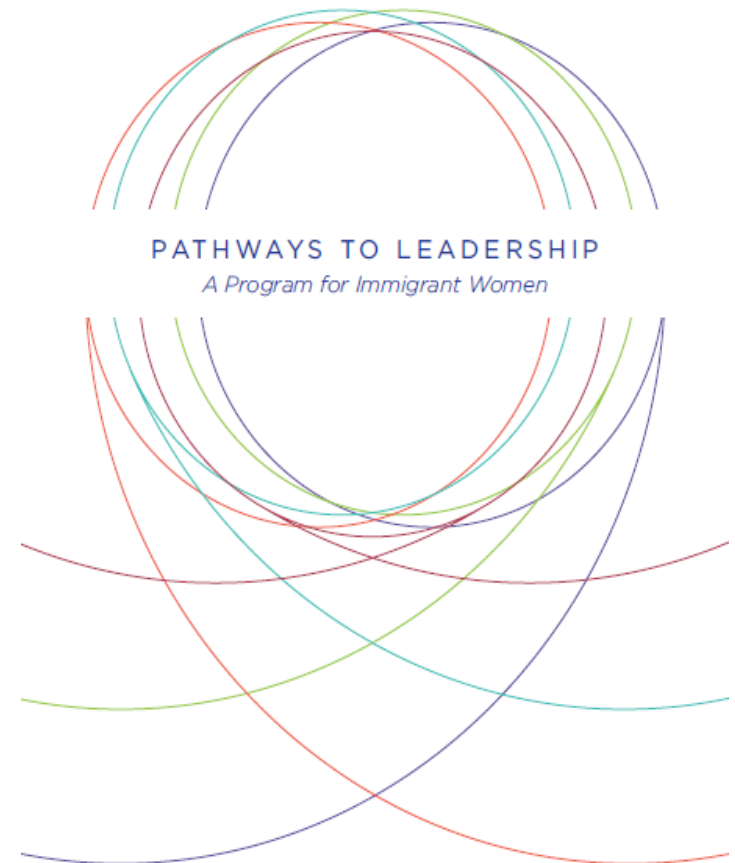


Why Pathways works for women

- **Rediscover passions and strengths**
- **Awareness of Canadian systems**
- **Negotiating dual identity**
- **Long and short term career plans**
- **Participation in local communities**
- **Long term friendships and networks**

Where we are at with the project

- **Curriculum and Facilitator's Guide**
 - By Priti Shah
- **Trained Facilitators and Community of Practice**





Investment in Neighbourhood Houses supports Social and Cultural Integration

- **Newcomers** have significant social, cultural and economic **contributions** to make
- **Neighbourhood Houses** are safe, inclusive, **authentic community spaces** where newcomers make contributions and have their needs met over the length of their settlement journey and beyond
- Neighbourhood Houses build a **meaningful sense of community and citizenship**

How to contact us - Thank you!



Frog Hollow

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Creating Our Community Together

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• *THANK YOU!*