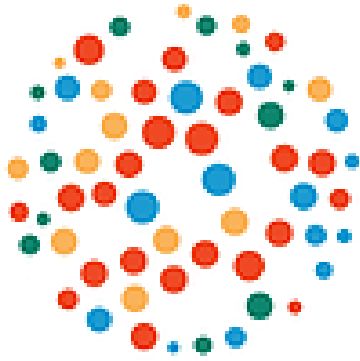


Building Bridges:

Promoting a Harmonious Relationship
between Indigenous People and Newcomers
in Winnipeg



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and **Maria Morrison**, Coordinator,

Citizen Equity Committee of the City of Winnipeg

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Citizen Equity Committee

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Mandate

- The CEC is mandated to advise the Mayor and Council on equity and diversity issues as they impact on City of Winnipeg policies, procedures and services.
- **Providing information, recommendations, and monitoring the progress** regarding equity and diversity

CCMARD

- **CANADIAN COALITION OF MUNICIPALITIES AGAINST RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION -UNESCO**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

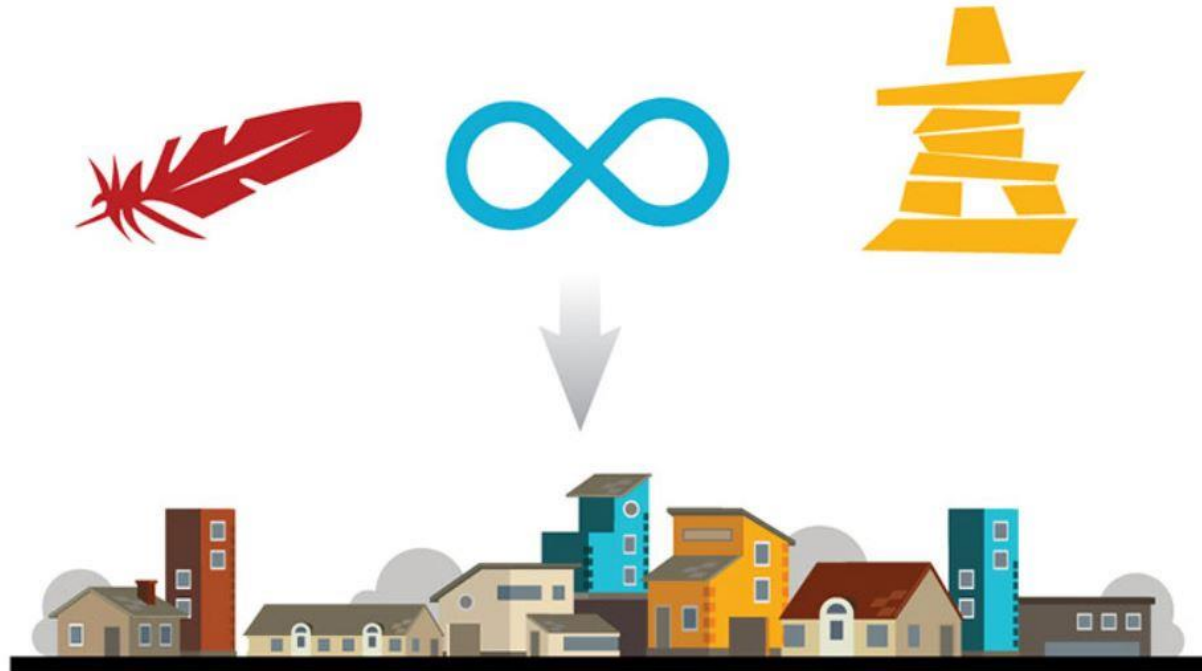


Canadian
Commission
for UNESCO

Coalition of
Municipalities Against
RACISM
and **DISCRIMINATION**

Indigenous Winnipeg

- **84,305 Indigenous people, 2016 Census**
- **12% of the population**
- **Canadian city with the largest Indigenous Population**



- **Winnipeg has the largest population of urban indigenous communities.**
- **Indigenous communities mainly concentrated in the inner city and the North End neighbourhoods**
- **Newcomers – mainly settle in the inner city**
- **Increased interaction with members of the indigenous community**
- **An increasing number of newcomers have recently started to settled in the North End**
- **Increased tension between newcomers and indigenous communities**

Indigenous Newcomer Relations

- **Us versus Them**
- **many similar challenges**



Warda Ahmed, 27, (left) and Rayne Graff, 32, are participating in a 10-week circle of reconciliation with five newcomer and five Indigenous women, bringing the communities together. (Kaitlin Vitt, CBC NEWS)

IPW RESEARCH

- **vulnerability, challenges of social inequality, cultural oppression, and loss of identity as common to both groups**
- **knowledge of each other's background**
- **sharing their cultures in the form of food, music, storytelling, and dance, to create better understanding and appreciation for one another**

Building Bridges



Working with IPW

- **IPW Strategic Priorities:**
- **Priority #1:** Enhance bridges between the Indigenous and newcomer communities through the creation of new opportunities and the further development of current practices that enable and facilitate cross cultural learning, understanding and support and thus promote cultural safety.
- **Indigenous Representative in IPW Council**
- **Indigenous Newcomer Engagement Sector Table – 2016**
- **Indigenous Consultation Circle - 2017**

Abdikheir Ahmed

Director, Immigration Partnership Winnipeg



**Immigration
Partnership
Winnipeg**

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Winnipeg Youth Peace Building Project

- Five agencies came together
 - Involves newcomer serving organizations and Indigenous community organizations
- Hosting a summer camp ("Gathering" rather than camp) bringing together newcomer, aboriginal and more established youth.
- Runs 5-7 days every summer depending on availability of resources
- Curriculum is based on dialogue and understanding each others cultures.



Peace Gathering

- Youth with higher propensity to engage in violence or more likely to encounter youth from other cultures
- Curriculum covers such topics as culture, faith coexistence, tolerance as well as hate, racism, stereotyping.
- Activities geared towards achieving better interaction
- Engaging the youth might bridge the gap between the different adults.
- Exploring each other's faiths.
- Starts with open hostility and ends with love and hugging



Peace Gathering - Results

- The gathering is in its 7th year.
- Graduates of the first camp are acting as youth leaders
- Improved coexistence amongst youth.
- Reduced conflict amongst indigenous and newcomer youth in the inner city.
- Acceptance and understanding.



IPW Indigenous Engagement

- Development of Indigenous Orientation tool for Settlement service providers
- Newcomers welcome at Meet me at the Bell Tower
- Syrians welcomed at the Airport
- Newcomers Welcome event
- Land based education project
- Oath of Citizenship
- Recognition of Treaty obligations in community events.

**Building bridges to create a
better and more inclusive,
harmonious Winnipeg...**