

# Research Brief: Making Life Easier

## Background

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The Red Deer Local Immigration Partnership is designed to improve the integration of immigrants in cities, as well as strengthen cities' ability to better integrate and address the needs of newcomers.

The Red Deer LIP is a tool for economic development, a tool for effective health care, a tool for community development, and so much more.

The LIP has been in operation in Red Deer since December 2015, with one full time employee.

## Research objectives:

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Making Life easier is a three year research project delivered by Red Deer College in partnership with Central Alberta Immigrant Women's Association. Beginning in 2015 the research team conducted one on one interviews surveying 150 immigrant women, focusing on settlement experiences of these immigrant women living in Central Alberta.

The objective of this research project is to expand the survey out to now include 150 immigrant men, focusing on settlement experiences of these immigrant men living in Central Alberta.

By doing so the results of this project can be coupled with, or compared and contrasted against the original findings from the 150 immigrant women.

The recommendation to commission this research project came from the Red Deer LIP Research and Data sub-committee. Expanding the survey to capture data from 150 immigrant men provided significant benefits to the Red Deer LIP including:

- Larger pool of data
- Ability to compare data between gender
- Immediate mobilization of survey
- Significant reduction in research costs utilizing existing survey
- Data will aid in development of Red Deer's Immigration Strategy

## Target

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The Red Deer LIP wants to survey 150 immigrant men living in Red Deer and surrounding area. These men will be 18 years or older, from various ethnic backgrounds, length of time in Canada (and Red Deer), and different stages of immigration.

We will utilize existing networks through settlement agencies, the Planning Council and Immigrant Advisory Council for the Red Deer LIP, as well as promote the survey through social media and more traditional marketing lines in order to hit 150 immigrant men surveyed.

## **Research approach:**

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Immigrant men who immigrated to Canada for less than 10 years, and who is currently living in Central Alberta, will be recruited to participate in the survey. Research will be done through face-to-face interviews by research team members. The survey questionnaire to be used has been tested in a previous research project (Making Life Easier) with immigrant populations and is found to be effective.

Interview data will be entered into SPSS program for statistical analyses. There is also an open-ended question at the end of the survey to capture additional information that participants want to share. Both the quantitative and qualitative data will be analyzed to ascertain the various aspects of settlement experience among immigrant men living in Central Alberta.

Comparison of experiences between immigrant men and women (Making Life Easier data) will be conducted to identify patterns, similarities and differences of settlement experiences among immigrant women and men.

## **Contact information**

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Duane Moleni  
Red Deer Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator  
E: [duane.moleni@care2centre.ca](mailto:duane.moleni@care2centre.ca)  
P: 403.346.8818 Ext: 268  
202-5000 Gaetz Avenue  
Red Deer, AB  
T4N 6C2