

Youth Experience - Increasing Successful Integration of Newcomer Youth

Presented by:

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CULTURAL INTEGRATION ACADEMY





How CIA came to be.....

Personal story

My experience as a 1st generation Chinese Canadian in Northern Alberta

Funding

Crime Prevention received a \$250,000.00 grant from the Alberta Solicitor General's Civil Forfeiture Fund.





Why Crime Prevention?

Root Causes of Crime

- Family Breakdown
- Substance Abuse
- Bullying
- Lack of Community Connectedness





Why Crime Prevention?

Reducing Risk Factors

- Family distress
- Anti-social behaviour
- Lack of social support system
- Cross cultural conflict
- Lack of education
- Exclusion





Why Crime Prevention?

Enhancing Protective Factors

- Success at school
- Positive adult and peer role models
- Volunteering
- Community connections
- Conflict resolution skills





Advisory Committee

The Cultural Integration Academy has an Advisory Committee, made up of community members and representatives from various organizations.

Advisory committee meets once every quarter for updates and to provide input into the program.





Vision and Objectives

Vision: To create partners in crime prevention, through the integration of immigrant youth & their families

Objectives

- Engage immigrant youth and their families
- Increase access to social support
- Increase knowledge of community resources, supports, and systems
- Build community capacity by creating opportunities to volunteer
- Encourage youth involvement in community projects





Program Components

- Education
- Community Support
- Family Mentorship





Education

- Education & the school system
- The law/law enforcement
- Culture shock
- The cross cultural teen
- Mental health & Addictions
- Gender issues
- Internet and Financial crimes
- How to become successful





Community Support

- Conducts need assessment and Action Plan
- Provides follow-ups and on-going support
- Provides appropriate referrals
- Does outreach and advocacy

Support includes encouragement for youth involvement in:

- Youth Council
- Heritage day
- International day for the elimination of racial discrimination
- Anti-bullying day
- Crime Prevention Week
- Volunteering





Family Mentorship

CIA matches immigrant families with volunteer mentors.

The Family Mentorship program:

- Provides an opportunity for mentors to give back to the community
- Promotes cross cultural awareness and experiences
- Introduces immigrant youth and their families to volunteering
- Challenges racial stereotypes
- Builds support systems for immigrant youth and families
- Contributes to Crime Prevention's goal of building connected and safer communities



Successes

Two sets of participants have graduated from the Academy since it's inception in October of 2014 for a total number of 24.

90% of the graduated participants have been matched with Family Mentor.

10% declined mentorship for various reasons

So many of these participants volunteers regularly in the community along with their mentors. Some volunteered with the Special Olympic Committee, some at the International day for the elimination of racial discrimination and other community events.

Testimonial

I have been in Canada for 15 years but taking part in this program has exposed me to the workings of the System that I never knew. I am now going around telling all my friends "I don't care if you have been in this country for 20 years. You need to take these classes. You will not regret it" - *Participant*

My family and I did not feel we belonged to this community until we participated in this program. Having an opportunity to speak directly with the police officers and other professionals has positively impacted me. Every immigrant need this opportunity. - *participant*



Focus on Newcomer Youth

A youth today, a man/woman tomorrow.

The youth is at the centre of everything we do at the Cultural Integration Academy. We believe that when the immigrant youth successfully integrate into the community, they will have a better future and will in turn invest and give back to the community.

Challenges

1. Challenges faced by immigrant youth
2. Challenges to reach the youth





Challenges faced by immigrant youth

- Cross Cultural Conflict
- Racism
- Fear of rejection
- Isolation
- Bullying
- Language barriers
- Issues at school





Challenges to reach the youth

- Parents
- Know it all attitude
- Lack of interest
- Too many priorities - School, work etc





What's ahead...

The Youth in Action will utilize youth who have already graduated from the CIA program to reach “at risk newcomer youth” and introduce them to the core CIA program.





Newcomers Summer Program

CIA is offering summer programming for immigrant youth.

Two separate programs; one for children ages 11 - 15 years old &
Teens, ages 16 - 18 years old

Will consist of a combination of educational sessions, activities, and field trips.





Additional Sessions

We offer add on sessions in conjunction with other community organizations.

Future sessions may include:

- Racism
- Child protection, what you should know
- The legal system
- Becoming a good neighbour





THANK YOU





Questions???

