

An aerial night view of the Montreal skyline, showing illuminated skyscrapers and city lights. The text is overlaid on this background.

The *Vivons nos quartiers* initiative in Montreal

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Today's Message

Comparing different integration models with similar realities

- There are new categories of migrants, facing new situations arriving in Canadian cities;
- There are new service providers and stakeholders, and they are as much part of the picture
- These two facts create sources of misunderstanding and confusion.
- The complexity of immigration creates a need for continuous training and networking so that people become more rapidly embedded in local settlement networks.
- Making connections between people is what *Vivons nos quartiers* is all about!

Focus on practices:

2 case studies of the *Vivions nos quartiers* initiative.

- CASE 1: Adjunct committee of key stakeholders for Asylum seekers
- CASE 2: Training for neighborhood frontline workers
- What can we learn from these 2 cases?

Brief context and timeline of events:

Stresses on the settlement sector in Montreal since 2015

- Fall 2015, Prime minister Trudeau announces the arrival of 25k Syrian refugees in the coming months
- January 2016 arrival of thousands of GARs and privately sponsored refugees from Syria – makes the headlines
- November 2016: Election of Donald Trump ; Asylum seekers start arriving from the U.S.
- January 2017: Prime minister Turdeau tweets *“To those fleeing persecution, terror & war, Canadians will welcome you, regardless of your faith. Diversity is our strength #WelcomeToCanada”*
- Since early 2017: Important increase in irregular border crossing mainly in Manitoba and Quebec
- Roxham Road is known internationally: Temporary shelters, service providers are over limit capacity, and extended processing time for hearing by the Refugee Protection Division = this is *“the new normal”*

Vivons nos quartiers: fostering inclusive and welcoming neighbourhoods

- A collaboration between members of the community, governments and academic sectors with the aim of exchanging best practices and actions.
- Role of Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI)
- Role of the research team, Concordia University

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Montreal, showing a large park area in the foreground with several ponds and walking paths. In the background, there are numerous high-rise buildings and a dense urban landscape. The image is slightly faded to serve as a background for the text.

2 case studies: Best practices in settlement and integration in Montreal's neighborhoods:

- CASE 1 - A meeting session for the Adjunct committee of key stakeholders for Asylum seekers
- CASE 2 - A training day in the life of neighborhood frontline worker on the the trajectories of Asylum seekers

Conclusion:

What can we learn from these 2 cases

- **In case 1:** What is happening in the room is precious concertation across government levels and community stakeholders. They are informing their collaterals in real time about the different situations and issues that arise in their services and on the ground.
- **In case 2:** There are new clients facing new situations: Front line workers need to be up to date with immigrations statuses and services, continuous and relevant group training helps break isolation and adapt to new conjunctures. This can be facilitated by making arrangements with other available neighbourhood resources.
- From a situation of crisis, the mobilization of various stakeholders is showing good potential to offer newcomers more welcoming and inclusive communities in Montreal.
- These examples emerge as informal models. In the meantime, the Quebec government are starting to talk about implanting a structure that may resemble the models of LIPs, but this has yet to come.

A nighttime aerial view of a city skyline, likely New York City, with numerous skyscrapers illuminated. A prominent blue beam of light is visible on the left side, originating from a building. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the city lights providing the primary illumination.

Thank you!

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