The challenges of working with volunteers during the resettlement of Syrian Refugees in Gatineau, Quebec

BMRC-IRMU Final Partnership Meeting

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Place of volunteers in the infrastructure of resettlement services

- Unprecedented mobilization of volunteers
- Lack of organization for channelling their energy
 - $\circ~$ Creation of independent volunteer groups
- Difficult collaboration between the service provider and independent volunteers
 - Confidentiality, legitimacy, security issues





→ How to establish the legitimacy of these initiatives without dampening the momentum as they undeniably help build the resilience of refugees?

Municipal government support for mono-ethnic groups

- Municipal governments increasingly called upon to act on inclusion
 - City of Gatineau more active than ever in the welcoming of refugees
- Some citizens wanted more intercultural rapprochement activities
 - City's policy to only fund activities that appeal to all ethnic groups.





→ How to support certain groups of immigrants who have special needs with targeted activities that can promote their resilience?

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 - Preston, V. PI, Belkhodja, C., Gabriel, C., Lochhead, C., Douglas, D., Dyson, D., Zikic, J., Hennebry, J., Shields, J., Veronis, L., Hynie, M., Mandell, N., Bhuyan, R., Ghosh, S. and collaborators. Migration and Resilience in Urban Canada - Immigration et résilience en milieu urbain (BMRC-IMRU): Discovering Strengths and Building Capacity, Partnership Grant. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, SSHRC#896-2016-1004, 2,499,525\$, 2016-2021.
 - Pour plus d'informations sur le projet : <u>http://bmrc-irmu.info.yorku.ca/</u>
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