

Consultation Highlights

It is crucial that women as well as groups representing them participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of immigration policies.



Diversity of Perspectives:

Women bring a unique perspective to immigration issues and often have a different perspective than men due to their life experiences, familial roles and social interactions.



Equitable Representation:

Immigration policies disproportionately affect women, whether they are immigrant women or members of their families. Their inclusion in the decision-making process ensures equal representation and a fair say in the decisions that directly affect them.



Policy Effectiveness:

Involving women in all stages of policymaking, from conception to evaluation, leads to more effective and appropriate policies. Their participation makes it possible to better understand the real needs of immigrant communities and to identify more relevant and sustainable solutions.



The Fight Against Unequal Power Structures:

Historically, immigration policies have taken very little account of women's realities. Encouraging the participation of female perspectives challenges these unequal power structures and encourages working towards a more equitable and inclusive society.



Social Justice:

The lack of women's participation in immigration policies can create new types of marginalization. By enabling their active participation, policies can be developed to promote gender equality and mitigate the specific obstacles that women face in immigration-related matters.



Pan-Canadian Strategy for Francophone Immigrant Women in Minority Communities: Breaking Down Barriers for Equitable Integration



Explanatory Sheet

Chapter 2: By, For and With Francophone Women

Issues

Establishing formal and inclusive ways of enabling the active participation of women and the groups that represent them is essential. Women's views must be heard at all stages (design, implementation and evaluation) of government initiatives on immigration. Including these perspectives throughout the process ensures a more comprehensive and accurate assessment of the real impact of these initiatives on the lives of Francophone immigrant women in minority communities.

By participating in the program evaluation, women can accurately identify gaps, successes and challenges, as well as the adjustments needed to continuously improve initiatives. In addition, this strengthens the legitimacy and credibility of evaluation processes, ensuring that they truly reflect the experiences and needs of women.



To learn more on the Pan-Canadian strategy, visit immigration.affc.ca/en



Objective 2: By, for and with Francophone women and women's organizations representing them.

By incorporating perspectives from female users at every stage of the program development process, initiatives can be better tailored to meet the unique challenges faced by immigrant women, thus contributing to their empowerment and success in their new lives.

Recommended Strategies

Establish working groups focusing on gender and immigration

Specific working groups made up of immigrant women, representatives of women's organizations and gender experts make it possible to look at issues specific to women in the context of immigration and to establish policy recommendations.

Plan a budget for participation

Allocate part of the budget dedicated to immigration for initiatives specifically focused on Francophone immigrant women, allowing women and organizations to actively participate in decision-making regarding the allocation of resources.

Organize regular consultation forums

Periodic consultation meetings where Francophone immigrant women and organizations can express their needs, concerns and ideas regarding immigration policies and programs.



Establish advisory committees on gender and immigration

Establish formal advisory committees with representatives from governments, civilians and women's organizations to advise the government on gender issues in immigration policies and programs.

Good GBA+ practices

Inspired by the inspiring practices of the NIF and in collaboration with feminist organizations, the AFFC can bring together projects and good practices inspired by GBA+ in order to promote and publicize inspiring field projects.

Develop the skills of individuals that work with women

Retaining expertise in the regions and developing the capacities of those involved in order to adapt activities for women by adopting a flexible approach that is open to sociocultural realities.

For example, training materials have been developed on the following subjects: community leadership, the mental load of immigrant women in Canada, mentoring for Francophone immigrant women, and several others. These tools can be adapted to the social and cultural context of the different provinces and territories not participating in the initial project. These training sessions have been offered to these organizations, which provide them locally in their provinces/territories.

■ **Les Essentielles (Yukon)**

■ **Réseau-Femmes Colombie-Britannique - RFCB (British Columbia)**

■ **Pluri-elles (Manitoba)**

■ **Le Mouvement ontarien pour les femmes immigrantes francophones - MOFIF (Ontario)**

■ **La Fédération des femmes acadiennes de la Nouvelle-Écosse - FFANE (Nova Scotia)**