

# Implementation of the Welcoming Francophone Communities Initiative

Francophone Settlement Policy  
Settlement and Integration Policy Branch

Regional summits on Francophone settlement  
September 2018



## **Presentation objectives**

- Present the Welcoming Francophone Communities Initiative
- Continue joint planning process
- Identify next steps

# Welcoming Francophone Communities: a component of the pathway

## Ultimate Outcomes

### French-speaking immigrants:

- settle in greater numbers in Francophone minority communities;
- have access to quality reception, settlement and integration services that are adapted to their needs and provided in the official language of their choice;
- find employment in keeping with their training and experience;
- are integrated into the various spheres (social, economic and cultural) of community life.

## VISION

*French-speaking newcomers have the opportunity to settle and integrate in French and to make a positive contribution to Canadian society and the vitality of Francophone communities. This is supported by a Francophone integration pathway, from pre-arrival to citizenship.*

**Improved core  
settlement services  
(\$ Settlement/OLAP)**

**Welcoming Francophone  
Communities  
(\$ OLAP)**

**Strengthened  
Francophone settlement  
sector  
(\$ OLAP)**

# Responding to needs of the community

## *Consultation findings*

- Take into account the specific realities of FMCs through specific measures
- Need to support opportunities for connections between the immigrant and his community
- Propose separate funding programs for FMCs
- Support implementation “by and for” Francophone communities

## Sources of inspiration

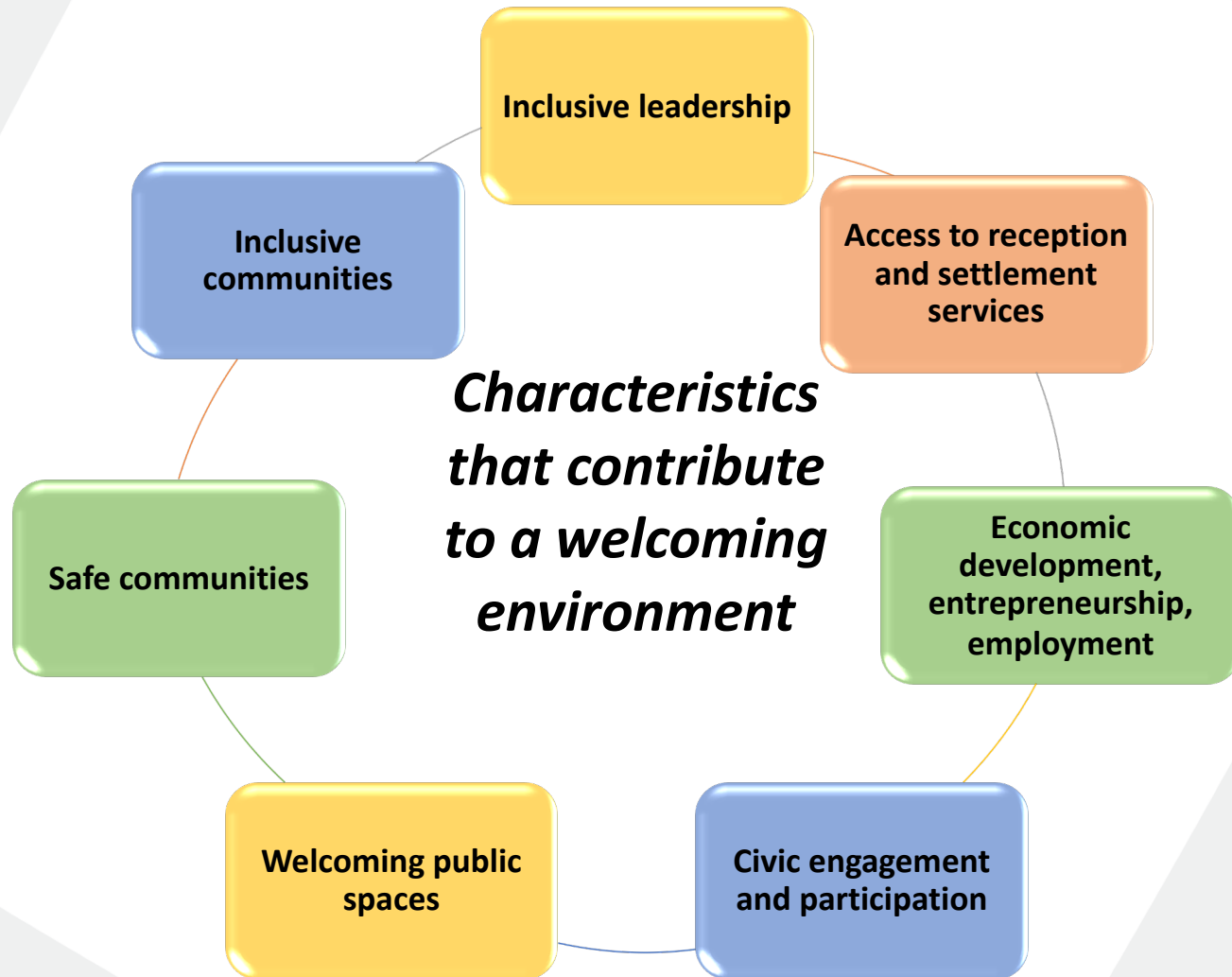
- Employment and Social Development Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy
- Characteristics of a welcoming community (Esses et al.)
- Welcoming Cities in Australia; Welcoming Communities in New Zealand; Welcoming America in the USA; Intercultural Cities in Europe
- Concept of welcoming, dynamic and inclusive community (*Sentiers du leadership*)

# Definition of a welcoming community

*According to the Sentiers du leadership:*

- a place where the desire to receive and welcome newcomers is very great and everyone strives to create an environment in which newcomers feel at home;
- access to Francophone reception and settlement services.

# Characteristics of a welcoming community



Characteristics	Descriptions
<b>Inclusive leadership</b>	Local authorities and Francophone community leaders work together to create a welcoming and inclusive community, facilitating connections between newcomers and members of the welcoming community. They advocate a dialogue that promotes diversity and inclusion.
<b>Equitable access to services and activities</b>	Newcomers have access to services and resources in French and related to the Francophone community to enable them to successfully integrate.
<b>Economic development, entrepreneurship and employment</b>	The welcoming community recognizes, values and leverages the expertise that French-speaking newcomers bring to the region in order to increase its economic vitality.
<b>Civic engagement and participation</b>	Newcomers participate in the various community, civic and political activities of the welcoming Francophone community.
<b>Welcoming public spaces</b>	Francophone public spaces and recreational facilities are accessible, facilitate social cohesion, improve the quality of life and improve the integration of newcomers into the welcoming community.
<b>Safe communities</b>	Francophone welcoming communities encourage exchanges between newcomers and authorities in order to develop a good level of trust.
<b>Inclusive communities</b>	Newcomers feel that their identity is respected and feel integrated into the Francophone welcoming community. Community members have a positive attitude towards newcomers. They trust and understand each other.



# Workshop 1

- We have grouped the characteristics of a welcoming community into 7 major components. We would like to know if these characteristics speak to you.
- As part of our initiative, if we were to focus on four main characteristics, which ones would you choose?
- We invite you to stick a post-it under each of the 4 characteristics that you think should be a priority for this initiative

## ***Part 2***

# Implementation of the Welcoming Francophone Communities Initiative

# The Welcoming Francophone Communities Initiative as proposed by IRCC

Support **partnership and community-based approaches** that will foster:

- the integration and retention of immigrants in Francophone communities;
- links between newcomers and the Francophone community;
- community responsiveness and the creation of an environment in which newcomers feel welcome;
- a response adapted to the needs of French-speaking newcomers (women, youth, vulnerable populations, etc.).

Encourage the "by and for Francophones" approach by providing a distinct Francophone fund for projects identified by the community (community-based funding)

## Implementation of the initiative hinges on 3 key elements

- Identifying communities
- Establishing an advisory board for each community
- Developing a community plan that is specific to the welcoming Francophone community

## Identifying communities

- A pilot project implemented in a few locations
- Use of existing advisory mechanisms
- Choice of welcoming communities based on criteria
- Choices that will have a measurable impact

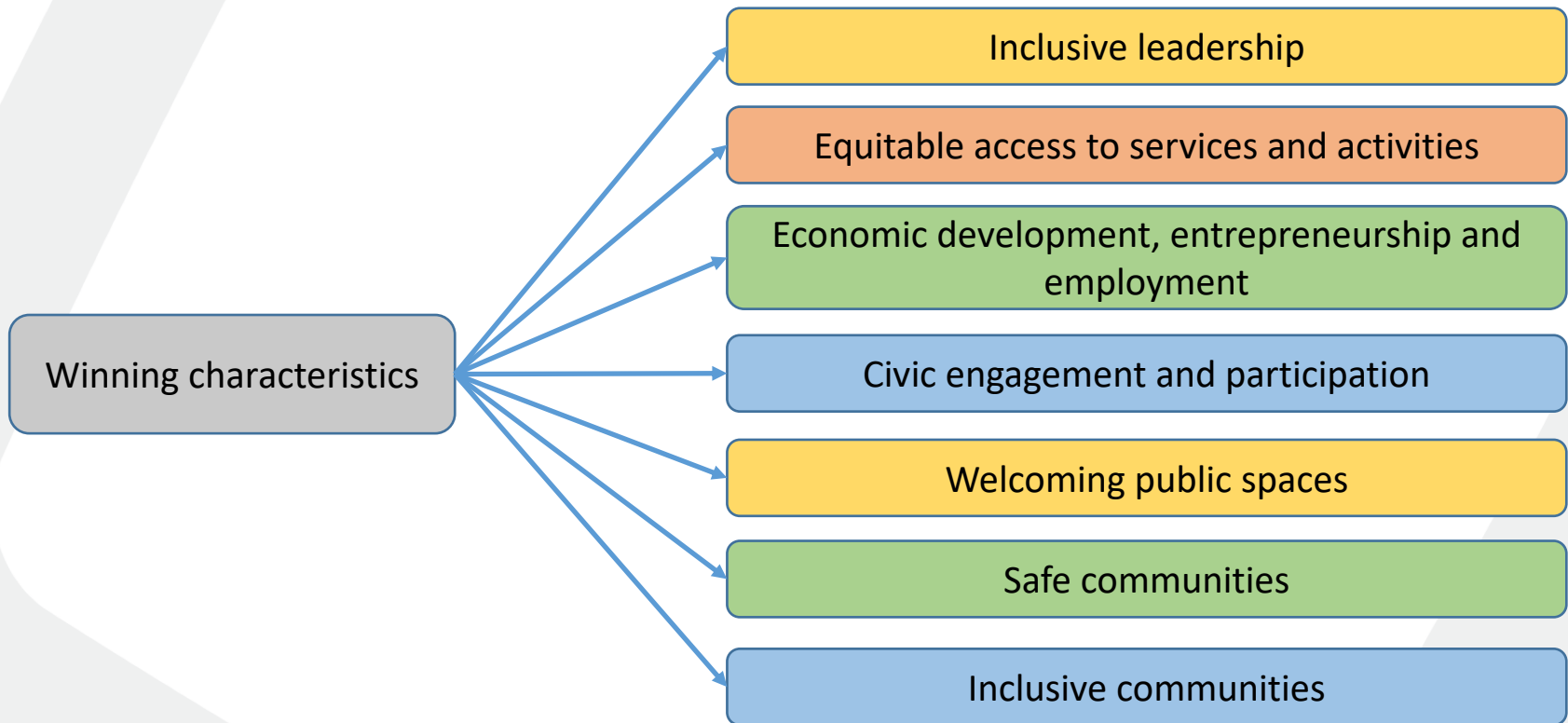
## Identifying communities (cont.)

### *Criteria*

- Presence of French-speaking immigrants
- Availability of French language services
- The community demonstrates a need to attract and retain French-speaking newcomers (social and economic)
- The community is willing to be involved in the project
- A limited geographic scale

# Identifying communities (cont.)

*A favorable environment to achieve the desired characteristics*



## Workshop 2

***What could be the potential communities for this initiative?***

Please meet with your provincial RIF representatives in the following rooms:



# Communauté francophone accueillante (CFA)

## Document de travail

Nom du RIF :

Date :

Merci d'identifier des communautés pouvant répondre aux critères de sélection mentionnés ci-dessous. Cocher les critères auxquels la communauté répond puis étoffer votre réponse en complétant la case commentaires.

COMMUNAUTÉS	CRITÈRES DE SÉLECTION**					CARACTÉRISTIQUES	
	1	2	3	4	5	Commentaires	Y-a-t-il un terreau fertile pour réaliser les différentes caractéristiques énoncées au préalable? Si oui expliquez.

### \*\* Critères de sélection

1 - Présence d'immigrants francophones

2 - Services francophones disponibles

3 - La communauté démontre un besoin d'attraction et rétention des nouveaux arrivants d'expression française (social et économique)

4 - La communauté a la volonté d'être impliquée dans le projet.

5 - A une échelle locale

## ***Part 3***

# Implementation of the Welcoming Francophone Communities Initiative

# Using a distinct Francophone fund

- Financial envelope known in advance
  - Potential annual budget of \$4M for the initiative (national)
  - 14 potential welcoming communities
- Decision-making related to funding in the hands of the community
- The plan for the welcoming Francophone community will be funded once it is submitted to IRCC, provided it meets the requirements of the initiative

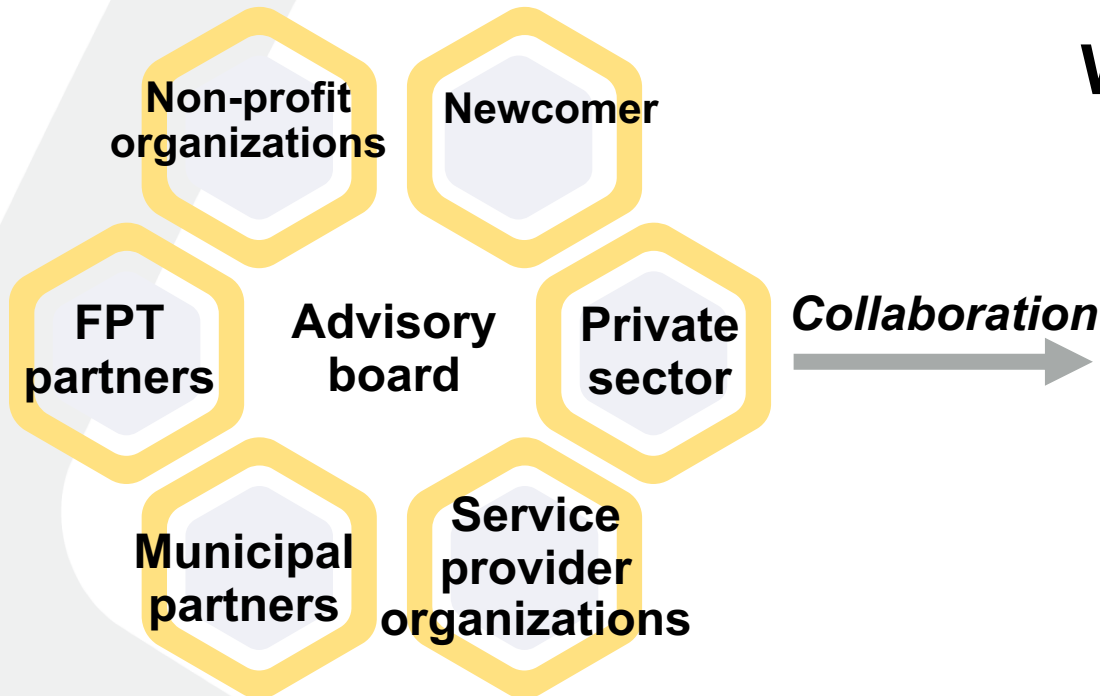
# The Community Advisory Boards (CAB)

- The role of advisory boards could include:
  - Needs analysis (evidence)
  - Identification of priorities in the welcoming community
  - Identification of key obstacles
  - Identification of activities/projects making up the community plan, accompanied by necessary funding
- The criteria and parameters of the advisory boards could include the following:
  - Member representation
  - Knowledge of the situation on the ground
  - Control and decision-making mechanisms
  - Impartiality
- IRCC plans to develop a toolkit to support the functioning of boards

## **Developing a community plan that is specific to the welcoming Francophone community**

- The development of the plan and activities will be done based on previously selected characteristics
- Plans will need to fit within the parameters of the initiative:
  - The initiative's objectives (e.g. establishing connections, promoting a feeling of inclusion)
  - The Settlement Program's terms and conditions
  - Collaborative governance (advisory board)
  - Cooperation among players (partnership)
  - Measuring results

# Welcoming Francophone community advisory board



# Welcoming Francophone community plan

- Agreement on local priorities
- Identification of problems and solutions
- Proposed projects

## Workshop 3

Now that you have an idea of the Welcoming Francophone Communities Initiative, and you know the importance of the role of the Advisory Boards, we would like to hear from you:

On your tables, you will find a page that summarizes the key elements of an Advisory Board, in your opinion, are there any missing elements, if so, which ones?

Document de travail

**Cadre de référence des Communautés francophones accueillantes (CFA):**  
**Les éléments clés d'un conseil consultatif communautaire**

Le présent document vise à proposer un cadre de référence pour la constitution de conseils consultatifs communautaires en soutien aux CFA, ainsi que les critères d'un cadre de gouvernance qui guiderait la relation entre les différentes parties prenantes des CFA.

# Steps for the implementation of Welcoming Francophone Communities (WFC)

Step 1

- Identification of welcoming Francophone communities – Fall 2018

Step 2

- Creation of the Advisory Council – February 2019

Step 3

- Welcoming Francophone community plan:
  - Analysis of current situation (settlement needs and gaps)
  - Identification of expected results (related to characteristics)
  - Identification of activities to achieve expected results

Step 4

- Submission of the Welcoming Francophone communities plans to IRCC – Summer 2019

Step 5

- Implementation of planned activities – April 2020



# Steps for the implementation of Welcoming Francophone Communities (WFC) (cont.)

2018-2023

Funding for the *Action Plan for Official Languages 2018-2023: Investing in our Future* will enable IRCC to implement three new measures to support the consolidation of the Francophone Integration Pathway, including the Welcoming Francophone Communities Initiative.

2018-2020

Welcoming Francophone communities are identified;  
Advisory Councils are set up;  
Plans are written and submitted to IRCC  
Funding is allocated for 2020-2023

2020-2023

Implementation of activities outlined in community plans  
Annual activity report submitted to IRCC  
Monitoring of results and adjustments as needed