

### Introduction

For more than a decade, MBC (formerly RIIM) researchers have collaborated with immigrant and refugee-serving agencies (a.k.a. ‘the sector’) across British Columbia on projects funded by Metropolis. Both parties stand to benefit from such cooperation, with researchers gaining insight from settlement workers and access to immigrant newcomers while settlement agencies potentially enhance their own research capacity/knowledge and have input into what questions are asked.

The principles and practices outlined below represent a common-sense approach to mutually beneficial research that respects all parties involved.

**The following charter represents guidelines for community-university research collaborations. All researchers submitting grant applications to Metropolis BC, who intend to work with NGOs, will be required to**

- a) **meet with the immigrant or refugee-serving agency with whom they wish to collaborate to discuss research;**
- b) **provide a copy of the charter/guidelines to the agency;**
- c) **obtain a letter of support for the project to accompany the grant application.**

As per SSHRC and university-specific regulations, researchers must also meet the required ethics standards for conducting research.

### The Charter: In Phase III, Metropolis BC is committed to:

- on-going consultation with the sector regarding its research needs and priorities, as well as broad dissemination of findings;
- the formation of equitable partnerships between university researchers and staff in immigrant and refugee-serving agencies that include:
  - a) consultation at the stages of research design, implementation, and dissemination;
  - b) appropriate recognition and compensation to sector agencies, staff and research participants for time spent on the research and resources used by the project;
  - c) assurances of confidentiality and informed consent for all research participants;
  - d) the ethics review committee of the PI’s home institution must approve the project;
  - e) appropriate supports to ensure the broadest participation possible, i.e., support to cover basic child care, transportation costs and translation (to ensure that non-English speakers may be included in research);
  - f) the dissemination of a summary of research findings from each project to the cooperating agency staff and, where possible, to all those who participated in the study; flexible and responsive approaches such as community meetings to test ideas and gather feedback from research participants, agencies, and researchers.
  - g) finally, dissemination should include the political sector.
- Above all, respect for the refugees and immigrants who are involved in research is paramount. Should there be a conflict of interest between researchers’ objectives and the well-being of research participants, the latter will take precedence.