Negotiating the Cultural Context of Community Care

BRIEF SUMMARY

This book chapter examines the cultural landscape of Canada and the composition of the Canadian population, the history of multiculturalism in Canada, and its benefits provides a context for community development practice. Key findings from the book chapter include:

❑ In 2016, over 296,346 people immigrated to Canada. This represents 77,995 in the family class; 155,997 as economic immigrants; 58,911 as resettled refugees and protected persons; and 3,430 as other immigrants.

❑ In 2016, the majority of immigrants came from the Philippines, India, Syria, and the People's Republic of China.

❑ The primary objectives of Canada's immigration program are reuniting families, contributing to economic development, and protecting refugees

❑ In 2016, 22.3% of Canadians, identified themselves as members of a visible minority, of which 98.5% resided in an urban area.

❑ In 1971, Canada officially became the first country to adopt a multicultural policy.

❑ Key barriers to multiculturalism include prejudice, ethnocentrism stereotyping, racism, and discrimination.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Cultural competency requires organizations to:

❑ Have a defined set of values and principles, and demonstrate behaviours, attitudes, policies, and structures that enable them to work effectively cross-culturally.

❑ Have the capacity to value diversity, conduct self-assessment, manage the dynamics of difference, acquire and institutionalize cultural knowledge, and adapt to diversity and the cultural contexts of the communities they serve.

❑ Incorporate the above in all aspects of policy making, administration, practice and service delivery, systematically involve consumers, key stakeholders, and communities

❑ Embracing the value of diverse cultures, along with the perspectives and insights they generate, builds new ways to achieve social change and community well-being.

Further Information

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