

# NEWCOMER SPORT PROGRAM | FINAL REPORT

## IN 2016

The Canadian government resettled

# 25,000

Government Assisted Refugees in **23 communities** across the country, many of whom were children and youth.

Accessing community sport is **OFTEN COMPLEX,** yet sport can play a vital role in a newcomer's **SENSE OF BELONGING.**



## THE NEWCOMER SPORT PROGRAM IN VICTORIA, B.C.

has helped get newcomer (refugee and immigrant) children and youth into existing quality programs as soon as basic needs such as housing and health are addressed.

### THE GOAL:

connect newcomers to their community, develop physical literacy, and have positive and successful sport experiences resulting in lifelong participation.

### THE STEPS:

**1** Help participants find the right fit for sport in their community.

**2** Help them access registration and equipment funding.

**3** Provide local sport and recreation leaders with cultural sensitivity training.

**4** Provide participants with ongoing, culturally tailored support.

## OUTCOMES:



### 52 PARTICIPANTS

between the ages of 6-19 years old, from many different countries, were registered in sport programs throughout 2016-2017.



### THE FAMILIES

have increased their social networks, feel more connected to their community, and have learned how to navigate the sport system and resources available.



### A STRONG PARTNERSHIP

was developed with the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria; they provided cultural expertise, and also learned how to connect newcomer clients to local sport programs.



### KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

- o Provide clear support on how and what is needed to register and participate.
- o Involve family members.
- o Have interpreters.
- o Understand cultural differences.

## TESTIMONIAL

*Thank you for your generosity and support for this program. Sports are not just physical activity, it's a way of life. As new refugees from Syria, my kids learned sport, kindness, and felt included and loved. These feelings they didn't experience since they left Syria in 2013.*

**Thank you. – Participant's Parent**