

**Organizer:** **Dr. Anubha Mehta**  
 Organization: Region of Peel  
 E-mail:

Title of Workshop/ Roundtable: Building the Best of Canada locally with the Best of Immigration; A Model for Community Building with the Diversity and Talent of Immigration

Format : Pr sentation suivie de discussion  
 Theme: Welcome Communities

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**Name of first Presenter/ Speaker:** Dr. Anubha Mehta  
 E-mail address:  
 Organisation: The Region of Peel  
**Title/Theme of Discussion:** Are you welcome? Universal Principles for Sustainable Integration

**Name of second Speaker:** Evelyn Myrie  
 E-mail address:  
 Organisation: Peel Newcomer Strategy Group  
**Title/Theme of Discussion:** A Community Model for Settlement and Integration of Newcomers

**Name of third Speaker:** Varsha Naik  
 E-mail address:  
 Organisation: Peel District School Board  
**Title/Theme of Discussion:** Faith Forward: A Model for Newcomer Integration, Access and Engagement

**Name of fourth Speaker:** Dr. Sarah Wayland  
 E-mail address:  
**Title/Theme of Discussion:** Building Inter-Generational Newcomer Human Capital and Meeting their Human Service Needs

**Name of fifth Speaker:** Maureen Brown  
 E-mail address:  
 Organisation: Diversity TrainersPlus  
**Title/Theme of Discussion:** Lessons Learnt: Inclusion Action Plans of Canadian Municipalities

### Abstract

Canadian prosperity and quality of life today is contingent on the successful integration of newcomers and the nature of cohesive exchange of knowledge, faith and experiences that takes place with this ever growing diversity. Our workshop presents learning from immigration research, a coordinated approach for integrated planning, infrastructural growth and optimal models for client focused service. We share successful multi stakeholder initiatives and models of inclusion that can be adapted/ replicated in local communities nationally for sustainable growth.

### Summary

Canada is built on immigration. Canada's prosperity and quality of life is dependent on the successful integration of new comers. Canadian demographic , socio-cultural and labour market growth today and into the future is contingent on how successful we are in competing for the best international talent, integrating their services and their diversity of skills and worldviews to boost our economy as well as social processes. Canada will lose its competitive international edge to attract, retain and harness the best human capital of the world if it is not able to provide equitable opportunities for newcomers settlement, contribution, progress and well being. The focus is not just on who we bring into the country but the nature of cohesive exchange (and transfer) of information, knowledge, faith and experiences that takes place with our residents through the integration process of this ever growing diversity.

Within this context, our inter-sectoral workshop informs on the silent revolution that is taking place at one of the most dynamic and diverse regions of Canada, Peel Region , and how multi- stakeholder collaborations have taken leadership to step up to the opportunity (and challenge) that this new immigrant diversity is posing to it's progress.

Our presenters will share a new approach for long term sustainable integration of immigrants based on the recommendations of six research papers by top subject matter experts and funded by the Citizenship and Immigration Canada. These recommendations are now being shared and used by other municipalities as a resource for immigrant programs, task forces, ward support and creating new service geographies.

Our presenters also offer replicable models which presently are (and can be) adapted to other similar local, national (and international) contexts.

**Dr. Anubha Mehta:** will speak about the five universal principles that could underline any immigration strategy and the salient recommendations of the six immigration research papers: Initial Health Status and Needs of Immigrants; Social Cohesion, Social Exclusion, Social Capital; Meeting the Needs of Immigrants Throughout the Life Cycle; From Generation to Generation: Utilizing the Human Capital of Immigrant Parents to Benefit Families; Neighbourhood Patterns and Housing Needs of Immigrants; and Meeting the Human Service Needs of Immigrants

**Evelyn Myrie:** will talk about a newly created “No Wrong Door” model of the Peel New Comer Strategy Group for improving cross-Canada settlement services, mainstream organizations, communities and informal service providers. This presentation will provide participants with four key principles in designing progressive settlement programs based on best practices research literature review, community Consultations with newcomers and community stakeholders.

**Varsha Naik:** will discuss the impact of faith and culture on public education and its outcome on new-comer settlement, access and engagement; a model and strategy with powerful implications; and award-winning resources and samples that you can use right away.

**Dr. Sarah Wayland** will discuss an inter-generational asset based approach to draw on the strengths of human capital of immigrant parents for the successful integration of children and youth; the multi layered life cycle human service immigrant needs and matching service delivery possibilities.

**Maureen Brown:** shares lessons learned from developing inclusion action plans and equity policies for Canadian municipalities which have experienced swift reality changes with almost overnight growth of racialized immigrants. For many municipalities the economic benefits of immigration are being touted as answers to ailing industries or as new sources of growth and this is affecting the role municipalities are expected to play in the lives of new immigrants.

Together the presenters will provide a shared / interactive dialogue on how the change in the profile of the migrants who enter Canada today, (from predominantly European to highly educated and skilled racialized minorities ) interplays with the dynamic of racism, power and privilege regarding immigrant access, opportunities and inclusion.

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## Our Information can be used for a Workshop Format due to the following reasons:

- What we will be bringing to your conference is being **replicated at national and international levels** as ‘best practices’ for newcomer settlement and integration. We have 5 confirmed speakers, each an authority in their own fields.
- The story of the Region of Peel is one of national importance. We are the **first and only** government in Canada to receive the National [Quality Institute’s Gold Award for 2006 and the Order of Excellence in 2009](#). This means that our quality of planning and delivering citizen focused services with the most culturally competent employees has led to building highest levels of trust and confidence amongst its residents ( almost 50% of our population is made up of immigrants from diverse backgrounds). Our residents have provided proof of this with their feedback in the past two year- 2008-09.
- The Region of Peel’s Immigration Papers that we bring to your conference are a part of a national campaign that have been researched and written by the [top Canadian academia and subject matter experts](#), just like the composition of your committee that was responsible for selection of our proposal.
- The District School Board’s Faith Forward initiative was presented in [California last year](#) and since then has been picked up by others in [Canada](#). It has been produced with the inputs of [renowned faith leaders](#) in the community with national/ international linkages and

talks of how faith translates into cultural values for behaviours, expectations and integration for large part of our national newcomer diversity.

- Your conference will be the **first to publically** hear the final report on the nationally launched ' No Wrong Door' service model containing strategy trends and 4 Pillars for effective integration of immigrants. The final report is being released in the first week of March 2010- just before the conference.
- Our educator on Municipal **Benchmarking** imparts information that is beneficial to any sector of our economy. This is also **first of its kind** information that will help policy makers, service providers, businesses, employers across Canada in making those critical decisions before providing opportunities to new comers.