

Portuguese Speaking Interagency Network



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Globalization, Settlement and Post-Settlement of Older and Emerging Portuguese-Speaking Communities

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Mission/Mandate

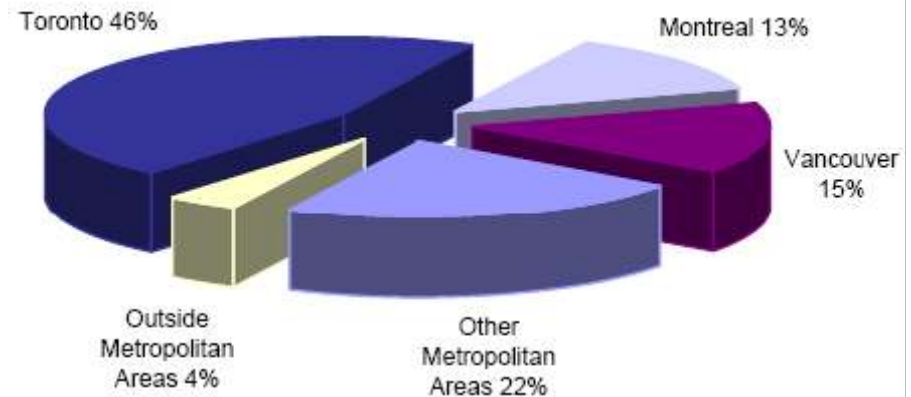
PIN is a non profit organization that has served the Portuguese speaking communities since 1978.

- ❑ PIN's Mission is to enable community participation and bridge support systems that foster social inclusion and social justice through research, public education and advocacy.
- ❑ PIN's Mandate is to increase capacity of the Portuguese Speaking Communities through equitable access to programs and services that enhance their civic, political and social representation and participation in Canadian Society.

Immigration Settlement in Canada

- ❑ Shifts in Canada's immigration policy over the past few years have changed the number and source of immigration to Canada.
- ❑ Between 1991 and 2000, 2.2 million immigrants came to Canada - the highest number in any decade this century.
- ❑ Nearly half of all newcomers to Canada settle in Toronto.

Immigrant Settlement Locations (2000-01)



Portuguese Speaking Communities

- ❑ Canada is home to several Portuguese speaking communities: Portugal (Açores and Madeira), Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guine-Bissau, and Goa. (No registered information on residents from S. Tomé e Príncipe.)
- ❑ The Portuguese community was the first to settle in Canada, later followed by the Brazilian, Angolan and Mozambican. These younger communities have arrived in Canada in much smaller numbers.
- ❑ “There is little research and little information on their immigration experiences or exact information on their numbers in Canada”

Portuguese Immigration to Canada

- ❑ Portuguese Immigration to North America occurred in the 19th and 20th centuries. (Portuguese fishermen traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to the Grand Banks since the 15th century. Many geographical marks have names derived from the Portuguese language. For example, Labrador is derived from “lavrado”.)
- ❑ The “official” wave of immigration to Canada began in 1953 with a group of men aboard the Saturnia from Açores, Madeira and the Continent. Immigration peaked in the mid 1970’s.
- ❑ With immigration policies that invited a broad labour force with few limitations, and allowed extended family sponsorship, people were arriving with legal documentation in masses.
- ❑ The Açores has produced the majority of immigrants to North America.

(Source: 50 Anos de Emigração Açores – Canadá & A Canadian Profile – Toronto’s Portuguese and Brazilian Communities)

Profile of the Portuguese Community in Canada

- ❑ It is estimated that between 500 000 to 600 000 Portuguese of first, second and third generation live in Canada.
- ❑ The province of Ontario alone registers around 232 000 individuals, the largest number of Portuguese immigrants.
- ❑ This population arrived with low literacy, few trades and some farming experience. The majority settled and live in urban areas with the largest concentrations in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

(Source: 50 Anos de Emigração, Açores-Canadá)

Brazilian Immigration to Canada

- ❑ Between 1986 and 2000, around 1,400 000 Brazilians left to immigrate to North America, Western Europe, Japan and Australia.
- ❑ The majority of immigrants were young, middle-class and well educated professionals from urban centres.
- ❑ Immigration to North America also included a large number of lower-middle class, semi-skilled and unskilled young adults.
- ❑ The region of Governador Valadares, rich in precious stones, attracted many Americans which led to a network of collaboration and a migratory chain.

Brazilian Immigration to Canada

- ❑ Before the 1980's there is little immigration from Brazil to Canada. After 1985 immigration increased.
- ❑ It is estimated that between 1986 and 2004, over 10,000 Brazilians arrived in Canada, around 30% of them had no legal documentation.
- ❑ They face many difficulties of settlement in Canada because of the differences in the climate, culture and life style.
- ❑ In Toronto many of them first settled in the area well known as "Little Portugal" to have the benefits of social services, local businesses, and network with the Portuguese speaking population. It helped their adaptation to the new country.

(Source: A Canadian Profile: Toronto's Portuguese and Brazilian Communities)

Immigration from Angola

- ❑ Between 1998 and 2001, an estimated 5,000 Angolans arrived in Canada.
- ❑ They entered the country with “refugee” status, they follow the regular process, that many times leads them not to establish contacts with the portuguese speaking communities.
- ❑ The majority of them were refugees, most were young men from urban centres.
- ❑ Immigration to North America included a large number of lower-middle class, semi-skilled and unskilled young adults. Most of them had high school level education.
- ❑ They fled the civil conflict in Angola. When the war finished many decided to go back. It is estimated 3,000 Angolans are living in Ontario.

Immigration from Mozambique

- ❑ There is little information available about this community however, it is estimated that in Toronto alone there are over 3000 Mozambicans.
- ❑ According to a study undertaken by Professor Carlos Teixeira, the Mozambicans demonstrated a good network of contacts when they arrived in Toronto, which greatly facilitated their settlement process.
- ❑ They also associate with the Portuguese social service organizations to help them with their settlement.

Settling in Toronto

Toronto is home to virtually all of the world's culture groups and is the city where more than 100 languages and dialects are spoken.

- Between 2001 and 2005, the Toronto CMA (Census Metropolitan Areas) attracted an average of 107,000 international immigrants each year, The City of Toronto welcomed two thirds (69,000). As well, 10,738 foreign students.

(Source: The Monitor, Fall 2005 - Citizenship and Immigration Canada)



DIVERSITY

- ❑ Almost three-quarters of Torontonians aged 15 or older have direct ties to immigration.
- ❑ About one-half (52%) are themselves immigrants while another 22% are 2nd generation immigrants with at least one parent born outside of Canada. The remaining 26% is comprised of individuals who were born in Canada to two Canadian-born parents.

(Source: Immigrants in Canada's Census Metropolitan Areas
- Grant Schellenberg, Statistics Canada).

Snap shot of the Portuguese Speaking Community in Toronto

- Statistics confirm that the Portuguese speaking community has:
 - Low levels of unemployment among youth and adults (no correlation between academics and unemployment)
 - One of the highest rate of home ownership in Toronto at $\frac{3}{4}$ of the community
 - Families generally have a lower incidence of poverty than the average therefore fewer people living below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO)
 - Low child poverty rates, 24.6% vs. 33.9%

(Source: Ethno-Racial Inequality in the City of Toronto: An Analysis of the 1996 Census.)

Portuguese Speaking in Toronto

- Statistics confirm that the Portuguese speaking community in Toronto has;
 - A high percentage of people who do not speak English, 20.4% vs. 6.1 % of general population
 - In their homes, 59.8% do not speak one of the official languages vs. 28.8 % of the general public
 - Fewest High School Graduates at 15.4% (vs. 22%) with 51.4% having no High School (vs. 14.1%)
 - The lowest rate of university graduates at 3.6% (vs.17.2%)
 - Families earn below the median income, due to lack of people in professions and managerial positions, both less than 1/3 the Toronto average.
- (Source: Ethno-Racial Inequality in the City of Toronto: An Analysis of the 1996 Census.)

Settling in a new Country

- ❑ In order to ensure that immigrants and refugees gain equal, adequate and universal access to social services, it is essential to assure there are non-discriminatory eligibility for services for all immigrants and refugees.
- ❑ Adequate accessibility must also be based on the service delivery system being sensitive to the needs of the immigrants and refugees.

Successful Settlement Requires

- **Education Skill and language training:**

Acquiring official language skills is a critical factor in settlement for new immigrants, one that is necessary for participating effectively in the labour market as well as other aspects of society.

- **Health:**

PIN works with community partners to ensure that marginalized equity seeking groups, such as recent immigrants and refugees to Canada, especially those from racialized communities, have adequate access to health services.

- **Housing:**

Affordable housing is critical for immigrant and refugee communities that are already experiencing high levels of poverty.

- **Labour Market and Employment;**

People should be able to access and enjoy the rights and benefits of effective labour market participation.

Informal Supports

- ❑ **Family and extended Family**
- ❑ **Churches (95 % of Portuguese are Roman Catholic)**
- ❑ **Friends and neighbors**
- ❑ These were their most important networks to find work and accommodations in addition to social and emotional support.

Social Service Providers

- ❑ First socio-cultural club was the First Portuguese Canadian Cultural Centre 1956. Other social, cultural, educational, recreational and social service associations followed.
- ❑ In Ontario there are about 4200 businesses, 105 clubs and associations, 40 schools and 26 churches.
- ❑ Agencies began to serve the community with English classes, settlement services and other programs as the needs became apparent.
- ❑ Community based organizations have worked hard to address the problems such as substance abuse, woman abuse and mental health issues. Programs are limited due in part to lack of funding, geography and lack of interest in hiring Portuguese speaking staff.
- ❑ Only a few agencies serve only Portuguese speaking communities (PIN, Abrigo, PMHAC-Portuguese Mental Health & Addictions)

The communities that settled later in Toronto

The Portuguese speaking communities that arrived in Toronto after the Portuguese, quickly started to associate with the support systems in place in the Portuguese community. However, despite the mutual language there are many cultural differences that created barriers.

- There are cultural and historical issues that permeate through attitudes and behaviours.
- According to some individuals from other Portuguese Speaking Communities they do not feel represented or included and feel they have experienced discrimination.

Creating an inclusive environment

- ❑ The role of ethno specific grass roots organizations such as “PIN” is to advocate for inclusive access (linguistically and culturally sensitive services) that are representative of the diversity in the city.
- ❑ Advocating for Supports and Programs that respond to areas of greater need such as: Health, Domestic Violence, Child Protection, Income Security, Education, Programs for Seniors, etc.

Social Inclusion

PIN amended its mandate to include serving the “Portuguese Speaking Communities”. As well PIN has invested in having a volunteer board that represents the diversity of the community.

- Today the board is made up of people from Brazil, Angola, Mozambique and Portugal.
- The strategic plan has changed direction to encompass the needs of all communities.

Community Development

- When working from a community development model we work with people instead of working for people. We develop strength based programs and create space for meaningful contribution to the development, implementation and evaluation of services.
- Building individual and community capacity and bridging people to a full and meaningful life in the Canadian society. It is the responsibility of the service provider to invest in processes that support people in their transition from newcomer to an active member of the community through activities that do not create dependency or help to support a stagnant community.

