

Innovating for Impact |² Innover pour Impacter

Our journey to build capacity in the settlement sector in Atlantic Canada

Where we started

This program has been designed by ARAISA - the umbrella group for organizations providing immigrant settlement services in Atlantic Canada - and Inspiring Communities - the Social Innovation and evaluation hub in Atlantic Canada. We wanted to join forces and expertise to create a unique training program.

Together we decided to onboard this ambitious project to bring IRCC funded agencies from Atlantic Canada together, at the same table, with Francophone and Anglophone organizations. Together, we will learn how we can build capacity in S R&D and build evidence. It has been a complex learning journey for us and we are very proud to invite you to join this journey.

Where we are now

An advisory committee has been established to provide a critical eye to the program.

The first cohort will soon be selected. If an organization is interested, they can apply to participate. On our side, we will be making a selection based on an evaluation grid. Once selected, the participating organizations will then designate members of their team to represent them during the training.

Where we want to arrive!

In April we are going to launch the training for the first cohort. We will provide ongoing coaching as well.

As capacity is built, project prototypes will be created in a collaborative way. They will be tested, evaluated, adjusted, and then tested again. On top of that, organizations will become better coordinated with each other and able to create and maintain healthy partnerships.

Through this iterative process, participants will develop the tools to address settlement services challenges - aiming to better meet the needs of newcomers and increase their sense of belonging.

Who can be part of this journey with us?

To be part of this journey you first need to be a IRCC funded agency in the Atlantic Canada.

We acknowledge that you may be already doing some aspects of Social R&D and outcome measurements. However, we want to support you in learning or challenge tools and mechanisms to

measure the impact of your mission while collaborating with other IRCC funded agencies in Atlantic Canada.

We also understand that thinking about Social R&D and Social innovation can be intimidating. However, we like to think that innovation is not always about new. For instance, in a spaceship, the most innovative way to write is by using a pencil.

The program

The program is divided into 5 online modules. There will also be an in-person session that will take place at the end of May paired with the ARAISA Atlantic Regional Settlement Summit (May 31 to June 2).

The modules will be structured to cover capacity building on Social R&D, outcome measurement, partnership building, learning from promising practices, and much more. Did we also mention lots of fun? Now you know! We will be using lots of engagement tools and activities that can expand your toolkit.

We are planning weekly Zoom sessions of 2.5 hour. Some work will be required in between sessions but we will make it as minimum as possible.

The training sessions will start end of April and continue until the end of June when the prototype phase starts.

And if this program is a cake, the prototype is the cherry on top of it. The prototype phase will be a great opportunity to test your idea with seed money support from the project.

You want to apply?

Reach out to us! You can send an email to: impact@araisa.ca and we will follow-up with you.