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Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN)

Theme: Intersectional Policies and Service Provision

The core purpose of EMCN is to enhance the quality of life for Newcomers and all Canadians. Its array of programming includes community programs and services (helping newcomers connect with others in the community); employment programs and services (support for newcomers to meet their career goals); settlement programs and services (helping newcomers access community resources and navigate complex systems); and language programs and services (language instruction, translation and interpretation).

Critical Elements

- Services are integrated - newcomers who are experiencing domestic violence can get help no matter what EMCS program they are accessing, and those services can include crisis and basic needs support, counselling, referrals as well as systemic advocacy.
- Newcomer support within the legal system is particularly important, including information about accessing and qualifying for legal services, accompany clients to appointments with lawyers and, in general, helping them negotiate the courts and the legal system.
- Capacity to provide services in newcomers' home languages is necessary in order to support them effectively.
- EMCN staff provide services in the community – strengthening engagement with clients and service accessibility.
- The focus of EMCN is on support and information provision, while respecting women's choices, ensuring her safety, as well as identifying and engaging informal supports within the woman's community.