

# BLUEPRINT PROJECT

Newsletter



## News from the Blueprint Project

We hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the days of summer. As we gear up for an exciting launch in the fall, we wanted to share some important updates regarding our progress, staff transitions, and the highly anticipated launch of the project.

Over the past few months, the Blueprint Project has undergone some organizational changes. While we bid farewell to valued team members and Community of Practice members who have moved on to new endeavors, we warmly welcome fresh perspectives and invite new CoP participants to join our tables. We welcome Irene Hoffart as the new facilitator for the Newcomer, Immigrant, and Refugee CoP.

The Indigenous CoP has been continuing their work, as has the 2SLGBTQ+ CoP, who are currently progressing towards the release of the Guide for Gaps evaluation tool on the ACWS website. The self-assessment tool will consist of a series of statements designed to help you identify your team's areas of strength as well as your opportunities to further promote inclusion for 2SLGBTQ+ in your community.

If you are interested in joining one of the CoPs, please email us at [voice@acws.ca](mailto:voice@acws.ca). We are recruiting members for the Indigenous CoP, the Newcomer, Immigrant, and Refugee CoP, and the 2SLGBTQ+ CoP.

**This project has been supported through Women and Gender Equality Canada's Women's Program.**



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[acws.ca/blueprintproject](https://acws.ca/blueprintproject)



## MEET IRENE HOFFART

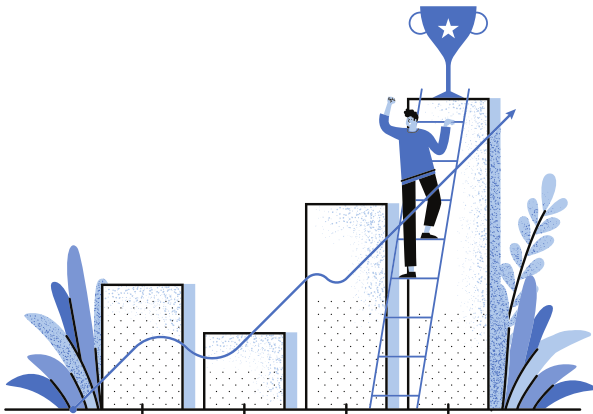
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Irene Hoffart is a director of Synergy Research Group – a well-known and respected consulting firm in Calgary. Irene has completed a Master of Social Work degree with Management Specialization at the University of Calgary. Upon her graduation Irene was an instructor at the University of Calgary for several years, teaching evaluation and research courses. Irene also comes with her own settlement experience, having immigrated as a teenager from Russia with her family.

As a Director of Synergy Research Group, Irene has been providing evaluation, research and accountability-related services to non-profit, government and funding organizations in Calgary and across Alberta for over 20 years. Irene has an impressive track record of almost 60 research and evaluation projects focusing on a number of issues and populations including domestic violence, homelessness, children and youth, Indigenous and immigrant communities, clients with alcohol and drug abuse issues and in conflict with the law, seniors and many

others. Much of her consulting career has been devoted to addressing the issues of violence and abuse, through many years of supporting Alberta Council Women's Shelters evaluation and research needs.

Irene believes that there are many groups in our society that do not have equal opportunity and access to services that address their needs. To that end, external consulting approaches can enrich the non-profit sector service delivery and assist agencies improve project sustainability, capacity and performance. Irene believes that an ideal team is one which combines external and internal expertise. Team members from the client side contribute an understanding of the organization, project and its context. Team members from the consultant side contribute an impartial view as well as facilitation, analysis, research and evaluation skills. Irene is excited to have an opportunity to work with NIR Community of Practice, supporting the group's networking and action efforts.



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## YOUR EVALUATIVE FEEDBACK

The Blueprint Project is a collaborative effort, and your input is crucial to its success. We value your insights, and we encourage you to provide us with your evaluative feedback. Your perspectives will help us move the project forward, making it even more relevant and impactful for survivors.

Please reach out to Jessamyn Luiz  
<jessamyn@dialoguesinaction.com>, to complete your evaluations, if you have not already done so.



## PRESENTING OUR FINDINGS

### Launch Date Announcement:

Mark your calendars and save the date! We are thrilled to announce that the official launch of the Blueprint Project is scheduled for **September 19 and 20**. The findings of the Blueprint Project will be presented as part of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters week of activities around their Annual General Meeting in Edmonton.

The public launch event will include:

- Open engagement with community partners
- What we've learned throughout the lifecycle of the project; what's worked and what can be improved upon?
- Guest speakers (who would you like to hear from? Let us know!)



Blueprint Project participants who require travel to attend will be reimbursed. Please watch your inbox for more details to come.

## LOOKING FORWARD

As we head into the future of the Blueprint Project, we look forward to its next chapter and evolution. We are eager to welcome you all at our launch event in September and have some surprises in store, including inspiring keynote speakers, interactive sessions, and an opportunity to connect with fellow community members who share a passion for supporting survivors in their healing journey.

