



**THE WAY WE LIVE**

# Creating a Welcoming Community for Syrian Refugees: Lessons Learned

TRANSFORMING | **EDMONTON**

BRINGING OUR CITY VISION TO LIFE

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THE CITY OF  
**Edmonton**

# An Edmonton for All



## Local coordination mechanisms

	What went well?	What were the challenges?	What would we do differently?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local level engagement and partnerships will have lasting positive impacts</li> <li>Cooperation, flexibility, and involvement of local officers are key to successful local partnerships</li> <li>Ongoing conversations with western region and meetings started early and were very helpful</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Municipal involvement with provincial/territorial and national governments needed early on</li> <li>RAP providers and municipalities don't have information on PSRs in their area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have municipalities be a part of the destining conversations at a policy level. Provide destining information to enable local services to prepare</li> </ul>

## Information / communications

	What went well?	What were the challenges?	What would we do differently?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used the media to relay a positive message –raise awareness</li> <li>Community action plan network improved local communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better communications needed period.</li> <li>Media were ahead of everyone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Municipalities being a part of early dialogues around destining and the impact of overall policy changes (ie: forgiveness of loans for particular group) to inform the greater impact from a community perspective.</li> </ul>

## Leadership, funding, planning, and capacity building

	What went well?	What were the challenges?	What would we do differently?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial/territorial funding was helpful to harness local involvement</li> <li>• Some provinces funded umbrella groups and it has revitalized their purpose</li> <li>• Emergency preparedness approach worked early on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community expected municipal leadership to be frontline in regards to media and service provision reaction. But without early on and continued engagement of municipal leadership this was difficult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term municipal involvement in immigration and settlement policies and decisions.</li> </ul>

# Top Lessons

Integration, Coordination, Communication

# Post arrival supports

- Community Orientation
- Health
- Employment
- Children and Youth
- Adult Education

# THANK YOU!

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