Emerging future: Challenges and opportunities of ethno-specific organizations

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Demographic shift determines needs and future service directions

- PRC is expected to become one of the largest sources of immigrants
- Change in demographics seeing immigrant Chinese coming from different socio-cultural background (unique needs, impact on youth/younger generation resulting from one child policy, intergenerational relationships)
- Different worldviews and settlement approaches and patterns
- Needs vary from metropolitan cities and second tier cities

Challenges for future practice

- Growing diversity within the Chinese community - class related issues, intra-group conflicts
- Settlement needs are beyond basic needs
- Economic needs, social and political needs, education needs, housing/employment needs, health/health care needs
- Attitude towards and pattern of service use
- Fundamental challenge to multiculturalism - acculturation vs. biculturalism

Perceptual challenges in funding consideration

- Chinese community perceived as more affluent and self-sufficient, resourceful
- Favoritism towards certain ethno-cultural groups
- Double standard attitude towards immigrant groups - being too independent but also being too much on their own
- Roles of ethno-specific organizations vs. immigrant serving organizations
- Political taboo of funding ethno-specific organizations

Organizational challenges in funding consideration

- Issues related to mandates
- Issues related to outcomes and program/service effectiveness
- Issues related to going upstream and systemic changes
- Organizational capacity to meet growing and diverse needs; to address one size can't fit all
- Building Canadian identity while maintaining cultural identity
- Professional staff and capacity issues

Future of settlement services for Chinese communities in Canada

- Are settlement services needed for the Chinese communities in Canada?
  - Higher education
  - English proficiency
  - Better financial capacity
- Assumption about demand and supply of highly skilled immigrants
- Culturally specific vs. culturally sensitive/ appropriate

Future of settlement services for Chinese communities in Canada

- New Chinese immigrants probably have better ability to build personal network and gain local support from the new environment
- Facilitation of integration - civic engagement, building social capital - what are the appropriate forms?
- Emphasize long-term integration and improved intercultural understanding - but how?
- Connection with other communities….

Conclusion and Recommendations