

A Proposal for a Community Organization LEVEL 3

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A Proposal to Establish a Community Organization

Between 1981 and 1991 over 1.2 million people immigrated into Canada. Over half of those people, 55%, chose to make their home right here in Ontario. Our proposed organization, 'New Canadians', would concentrate on helping to integrate these newcomers into our community and Canadian society while still helping them to retain their own unique culture.

From the perspective of anthropology, Canada has always been an attractive choice for many people from other countries. It offers ample opportunities and allows people to keep their own culture and beliefs instead of having to suppress them. People's ability to travel has become much easier, therefore allowing more people to come to Canada even if they are an ocean away. Not only has the ability to travel increased the desire for change and a better life, but it seems very attainable to many people. Due to globalization people have become more aware of other countries and the opportunities they offer. Our organization would help the individuals to keep their own cultural practices and beliefs while living in our local community by connecting them with similar cultural groups.

When beginning a new life in a strange country the experience can be psychologically overwhelming. It is easy to become withdrawn and develop self-consciousness. This becomes a repetitive cycle and can be very hard to break out of without help. Often language barriers complicate things further. The inability to communicate can be very frustrating and again, may cause people to withdraw. With the help of our organization language barriers will be broken down, individuals will get the support they need to stay out of such destructive cycles and they will be given the chance to start off their new lives on the right foot. By having a less stressful beginning, newcomers will adjust to our community more quickly.

It is very important for New Canadians to get connected with their new society as soon as possible. Many people leave their home countries because of problems in society such as war, conflict or poverty; it is critical for them to make a positive connection with their new country. When they come to Canada it may be very difficult to locate all the resources they need, such as education, employment, religion, and community organizations. It is also very challenging to find establishments that are trustworthy and introductions to reliable and helpful groups can be very

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calming. Family morale will be much higher as well. If the family has confidence that they will be okay, they will be less likely to get worked up over small details.

Our organization, New Canadians, will be a local support centre for anyone entering our community, whether it is on a permanent basis or just for work for a few months. First and foremost it will provide access to numerous resources. Not only will individuals and families get the immediate assistance they need, it will act as a contact with other organizations. For example, newcomers will receive assistance in finding a school for children, furthering current education, or meeting certain criteria to get work permits. As well there will be connections to all cultural and religious organizations in the area, such as churches, synagogues, temples, and ethnic clubs. Finding affordable housing, health care and taking care of legal matters (i.e. tax returns, citizenship, business grants etc.) can also be a problem without guidance. In addition, there will be language and literacy courses to either learn the basics for just brush up on their English. Our organization will be very beneficial not only to the people themselves but it will also promote multiculturalism in our community by having different cultures working together to help further eliminate cultural and ethnic obstacles.

It is predicted that with the help of our organization, many New Canadians will find their introduction into our community and Canadian culture a positive experience. With the assistance to succeed many people will be able to provide a higher standard of living for their families and have a bright future ahead of them. It is also hoped that this program will further enrich our community by encouraging New Canadians to keep and share their own cultures.

We hope that you will support our proposed organization as it will have many benefits for our community.

Bibliography

Bain, Colin M. Canadian Society: A Changing Tapestry. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1994.

Hawkes, Charles et al. Images of Society. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2001.

www.ocasi.org

www.showmetheway.ca

Teacher's Notes**Knowledge/Understanding**

- The student identifies and describes the needs of new Canadians with considerable accuracy, noting both their reasons for emigrating and the challenges they face when they reach Canada (e.g., “Many people leave their home countries because of problems in society such as war, conflict or poverty; it is critical for them to make a positive connection with their new country.”).
- The student describes the “New Canadians” organization with considerable clarity, stating its purpose (“helping to integrate these newcomers into our community and Canadian society while still helping them to retain their own unique culture”), scope (“a local support centre for anyone entering our community”), and functions (e.g., “provide access to numerous resources”, “act as a contact with other organizations”).

Thinking/Inquiry

- The student assesses the influence of the social forces that have contributed to the needs of new Canadians with considerable accuracy, as illustrated by the following:
 - a) The student explains that increased ability to travel and greater awareness of “other countries and the opportunities they offer” make it easier and more desirable for people to come to Canada, “even if they are an ocean away”. The implication is that the more ethnically and culturally diverse immigrants are, the more assistance they will need in integrating into Canadian society. (Anthropology)
 - b) The student notes that the experience of “beginning a new life in a strange country ... can be psychologically overwhelming” and that immigrants can easily become “withdrawn” as a result. More specifically, the student identifies “language barriers” as a factor contributing to this tendency: “The inability to communicate can be very frustrating and again, may cause people to withdraw.” (Psychology)

- c) The student recognizes that many immigrants “leave their home countries because of problems in society such as war, conflict or poverty”. These new Canadians are in particular need of support since it may be very difficult for them “to locate all the resources they need, such as education, employment, religion, and community organizations”. (Sociology)

Communication

- The student justifies the formation of the new organization with considerable effectiveness, not only describing what its main functions will be but also providing specific examples of how it will help its clients (e.g., “... newcomers will receive assistance in finding a school for children, furthering current education, or meeting certain criteria to get work permits.”). The student also points out that, besides assisting the individuals concerned, the organization will benefit the community as a whole “by having different cultures working together to help further eliminate cultural and ethnic obstacles”.
- The student uses social science terminology with considerable appropriateness and accuracy (e.g., “globalization”, “self-consciousness”, “multiculturalism”, “cultural and ethnic obstacles”). However, the student does not seem to understand the meaning of “repetitive cycle” and “destructive cycles”.

Application

- The student makes predictions about the impact of the organization that are of considerable appropriateness (e.g., it will provide a “positive experience” for new Canadians coming into the community and will help them succeed so that they will “have a bright future ahead of them”; it will also enrich the local community).

LEVEL 3

Comments

This work is representative of a solid level-3 performance. The student demonstrates a considerable degree of achievement of the expectations in all four categories of knowledge and skills.

The result is a clear and effective proposal.

Next Steps

In order to improve his or her achievement, the student needs to:

- provide more specific details regarding the structure and function of the organization;
- provide less generalized and more specific examples of the impact of the proposed organization on individuals and their families.