



Taking Faith Seriously in Newcomer Family Support

Symposium on Gender, Family, and Marital Relationships Among Arab
Refugee Families in Canada

London, Ontario
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Rich Janzen



CENTRE FOR
COMMUNITY
BASED RESEARCH

Faith and Settlement Partnerships Project

Collaboratively exploring partnerships among faith-based groups and government-funded settlement organizations.

The project's goal is to determine how these types of partnerships can better lead to positive settlement outcomes for newcomers.

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Main research questions

1. Vision

To what extent are faith/settlement partnerships viewed positively?

2. Structure

What types of partnerships presently exist and how could they be improved?

3. Process

How can effective partnerships be better facilitated?

Project partners



Methods

- International literature review
- Organizational survey (4 LIPs)
- 6 case studies
 - Tyndale Intercultural Ministry Centre
 - The Salvation Army
 - World Renew
 - Interfaith Council of Peel
 - Muslim Social Services KW
 - Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration

Why take faith seriously?

Because...

- Recent immigrants are more religious than Canadian-born
- Many newcomers turn to their faith communities (as trusted places) for support upon arrival
- They don't always access government-funded services
- Faith offers meaning when adjusting to a new home
- It provides a spiritual dimension to the settlement experience
- **Because many newcomers take faith seriously.**

But how to do this?

- Build partnerships between faith groups and settlement services
 - Able to connect natural places of support and professional support
- Sadly, these partnerships are underdeveloped in Canada today
 - Many reasons for this, often rooted in societal tension

What do we know about these partnerships?

- They exist
- They are diverse
- They are challenging
- They have been possible because...
 - a trust built through personal relationships
 - a common language built through dialogue
 - a willingness to share ownership in supporting newcomers

How do we encourage these partnerships?

- Explore differences
- Share stories
- Advocate
- Shift cultures
- Formalize partnerships



Coming Soon

Faith & Settlement Partnerships:
Setting Immigrants & Canada up for Success

**A How-to Guide for faith groups and
settlement organizations wishing to partner**



Future contact:

Rich Janzen

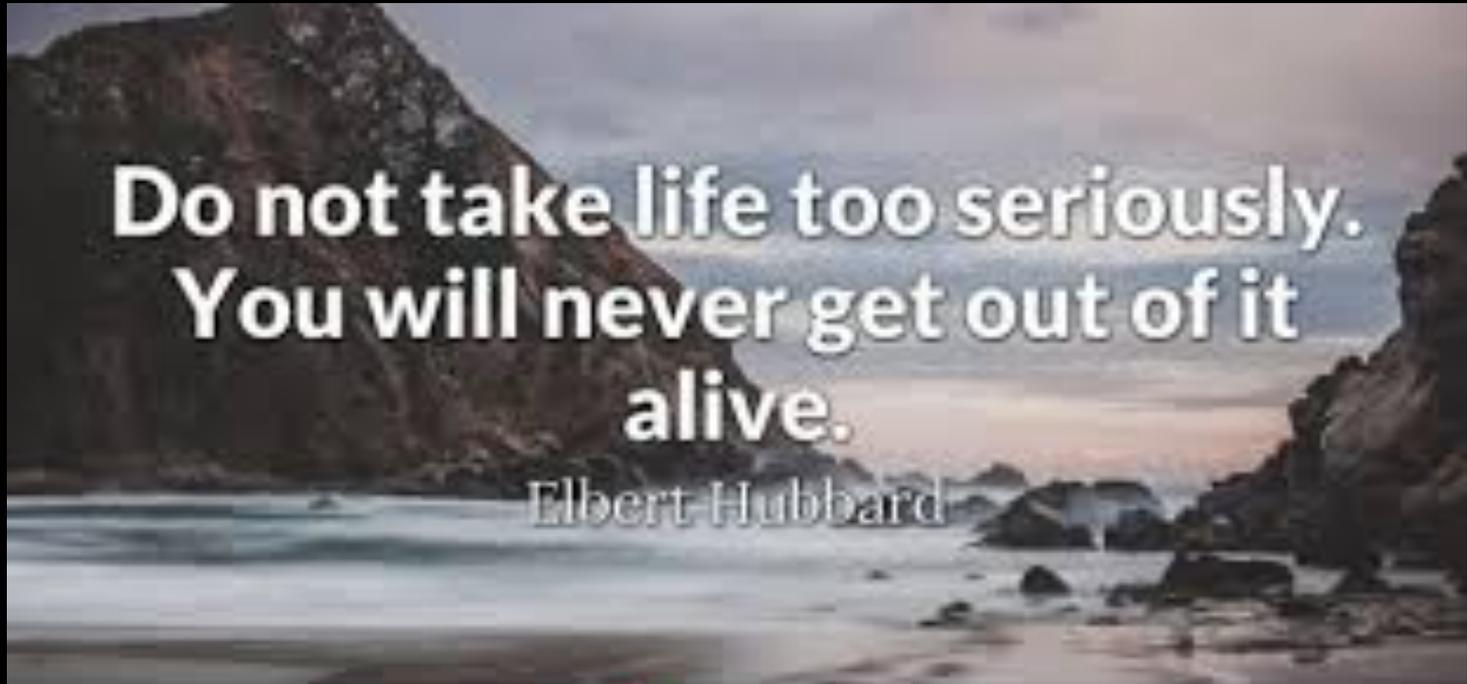
Centre for Community Based Research

rich@communitybasedresearch.ca

Project website:

www.communitybasedresearch.ca/Page/View/Faith_&_SettlementPartnerships

Taking faith seriously



**Do not take life too seriously.
You will never get out of it
alive.**

Elbert Hubbard

