

Addressing Poverty in Recent Immigrant Communities



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Addressing Poverty in Recent Immigrant Communities

Understanding CASSA:

CASSA is a social justice umbrella organization working with Ontario's diverse South Asian communities.

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Understanding CASSA:

Our Mission:

- To facilitate the economic, social, political and cultural empowerment of South Asians by serving as a resource for information, research, mobilization, coordination and leadership on social justice issues affecting our communities.
- To create social change by building alliances and working collaboratively with those who share a vision of empowering all communities to participate in defining Canada's future

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Understanding CASSA:

Our Vision:

- We envision and strive for a Canada free of all forms of discrimination in which all communities are free from marginalization and are fully empowered to participate in defining Canada's political, economic, social and cultural future.

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Current Strategic Priorities (2008-2010)

- Addressing Poverty within South Asian Communities
- Coordination of Access to Health and Wellness
- Strengthening the communities' capacity to address inter-generational and family relationship Issues
- Creating Welcoming Communities across Medium-sized municipalities
- Strengthening responsiveness to our community stakeholders

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Past Accomplishments:

- Access to Employment for Internationally Trained Professionals and Trades
- Hate Crime Prevention
- Income Security for Immigrant Seniors
- Domestic Violence Related Services Improvement
- Youth Engagement through Example
- Alternative Planning through Collaboration

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Understanding South Asians:

- Identity of Solidarity
- Diversity within South Asians
- Understanding the diversity in religions, languages, sexual orientations, geographic origins, immigration status and history, gender roles etc.

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Understanding Where I am Coming From:

- Immigration
- Education
- Work experience
- Lived experience

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Poverty in South Asian Communities:

- Employment
- Education
- Health
- Housing

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Poverty in South Asian Communities:

- Employment:
 - Lack of access to job market
 - Lack of Recognition of Credentials/Experience
 - Precarious employment
 - Lack of Awareness

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Poverty in South Asian Communities:

- Education:
 - Lack of targeted after-school program
 - Drop-out and disproportionate student discipline
 - Lack of ESL and Community Liaison Support
 - Lack of Parental Engagement
 - Multiple Demands on Youth
 - Lack of Engagement of Students

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Poverty in South Asian Communities:

- Health:
 - Lack of accessible health promotion support
 - Stigma around accessing sexual and mental health support
 - Lack of awareness around chronic diseases
 - Inability to proactively engage in health due to financial and family commitments

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Poverty in South Asian Communities:

- Housing:
 - Lack of Affordable Housing
 - Hidden Homelessness
 - Substandard Housing

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CASSA and Poverty Reduction:

- local campaigns through member agencies
- coalition with racialized communities – Colour of Poverty
- coalition with advocates from all communities – 25 in 5
- relationship with Government of Ontario

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Colour of Poverty Network:

- Reality of poverty amongst racialized communities
- Child poverty in racialized communities
- Immigrant Poverty Vs Racialization of Poverty
- Roots of Youth Violence Report
- Racial Disparities in Education, Employment, Justice, Health, Food Security, Housing, Income & Immigration

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Social Change Vs Charity Models:

- Engagement of immigrants
- Empowerment of the participants
- Decision making and Advocacy options

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Smart Settlement:

- Beyond ESL and Employment
- Inclusive Governance and Services by Municipalities
- Inclusive Education by school boards
- Inclusive Service Provision by non-profit sector

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Thank You!

Q & A