

National Denominational Survey

- This document describes findings of a national survey of Canadian Christian denominations conducted in 2014.
- All Christian denominations were invited to participate, and 38 denominations completed the survey.
- The survey was one method in a larger, ongoing 2-year national research project exploring the role of churches in assisting refugees and immigrants to settle and integrate into Canada.
- This research project is led by the Centre for Community Based Research, and funded by SSHRC. Project partners come from across the country, including Vancouver, Toronto, Kitchener, Montréal & Moncton.

• For more information about the project, please visit <http://www.communitybasedresearch.ca/Page/View/PDG>



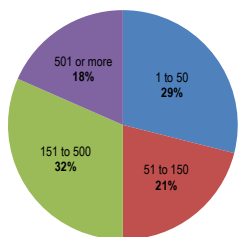
Research Questions

The survey consisted of 37 questions, attempting to answer our four main research questions:

- What short and mid-term changes in vision, structure and process would best enable church groups to be more effective in supporting immigrants to *settle and integrate*?
- How could the role of immigrant church leaders be maximized in order to advance these changes?
- What are the current research and knowledge capacities and gaps of church groups in addressing the needed changes?
- What promising practices, structures and partnerships currently exist?

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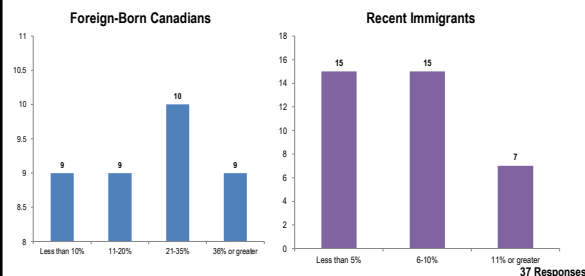
How many congregations are affiliated with your denomination?



Survey respondents represented a wide range of sizes of denominations. Responses showed an even distribution, ranging from denominations with 1-25 congregations to denominations with over 2500 congregations.

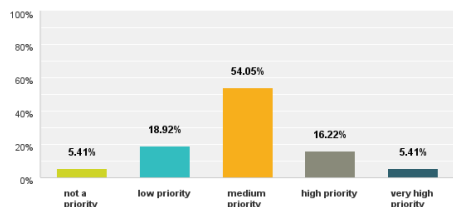
38 Responses

To the best of your knowledge, approximately what percentage of your denominational attendees are:



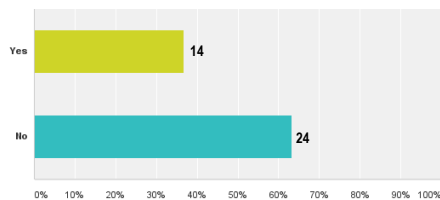
37 Responses

In your opinion, to what extent is supporting immigrant settlement and integration a priority to your denomination?

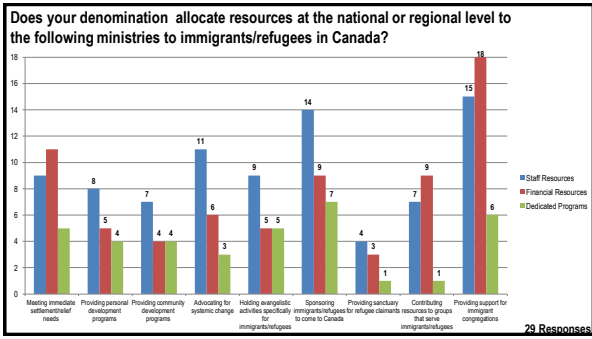
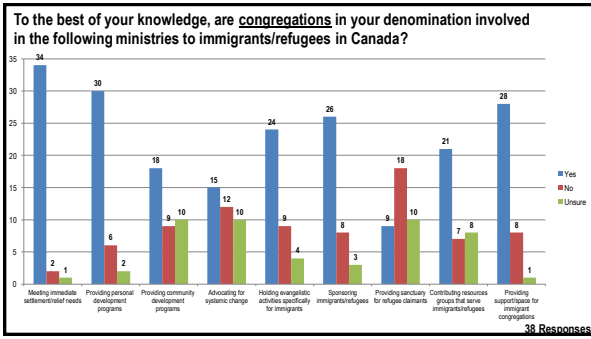
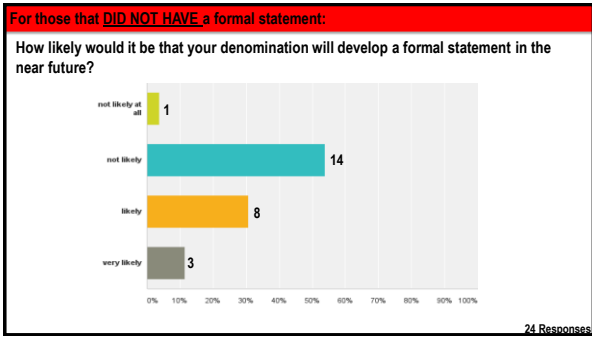
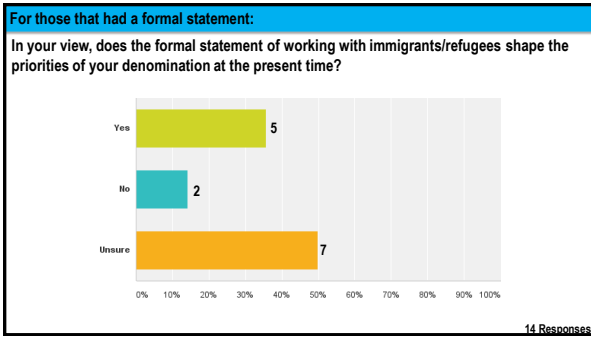
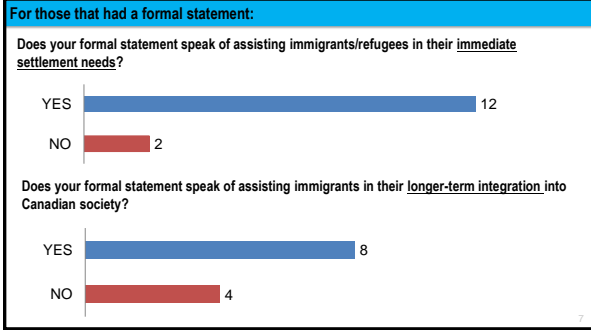


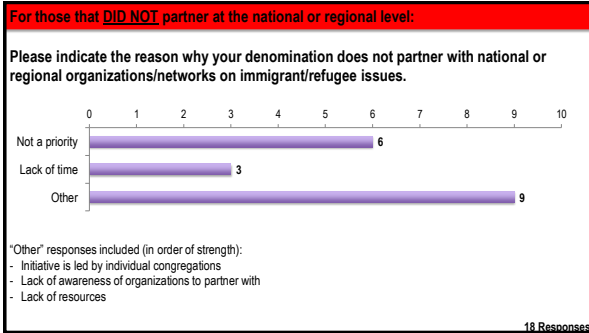
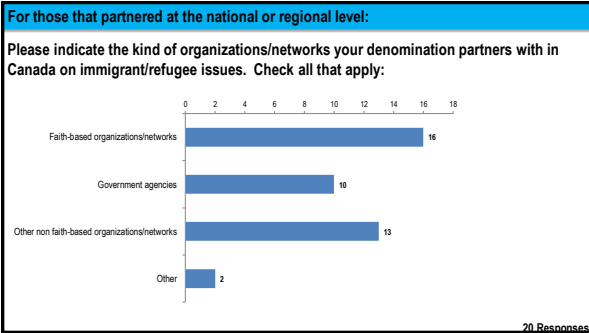
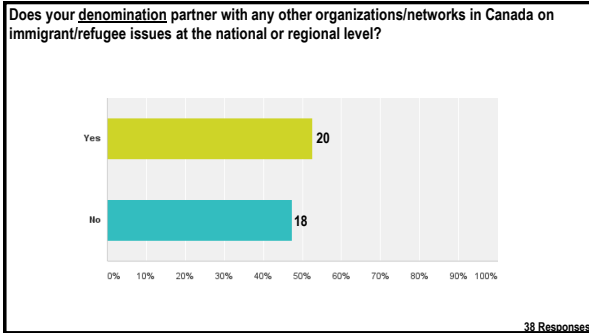
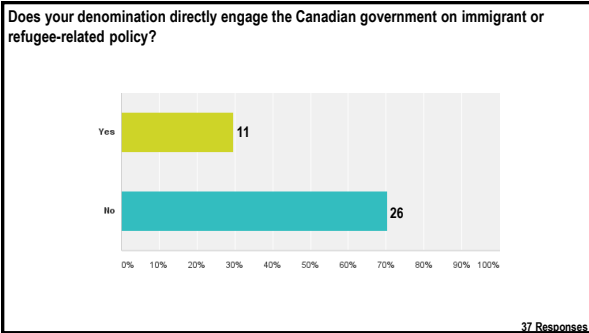
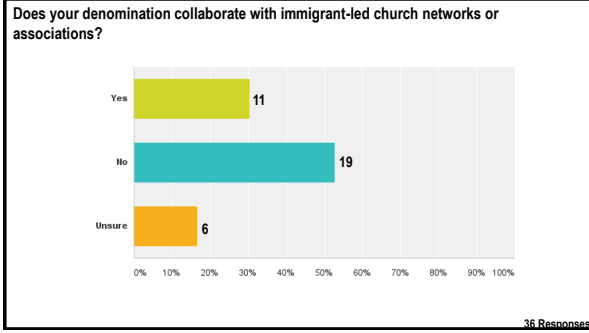
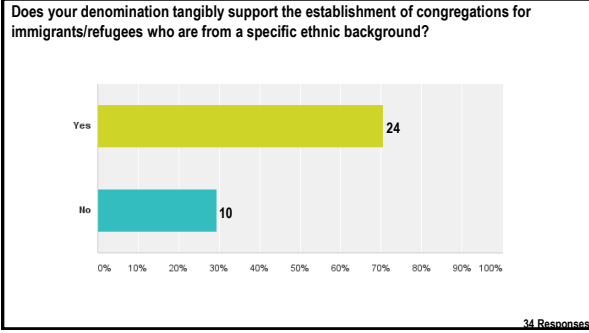
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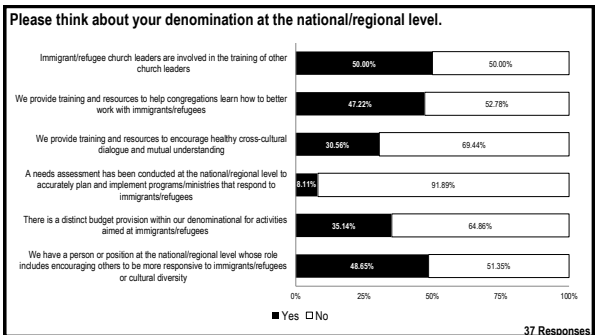
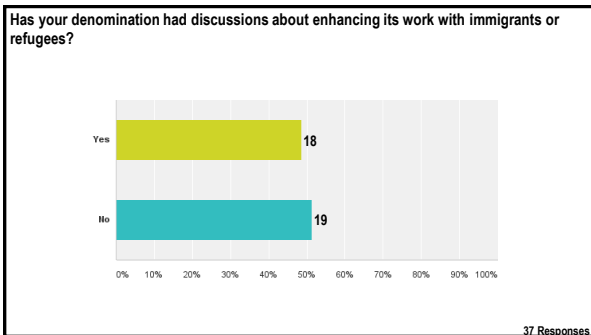
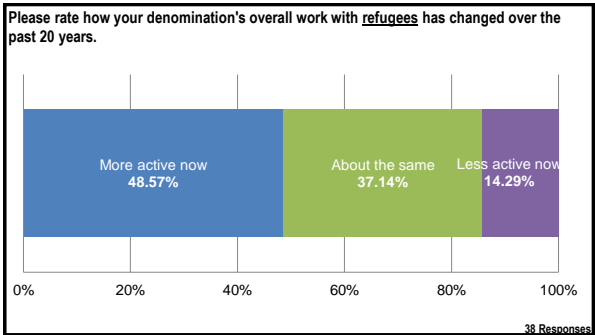
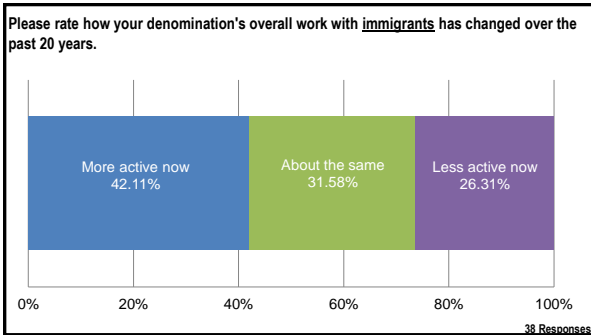
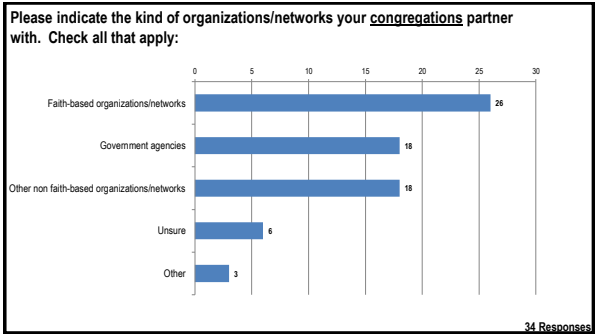
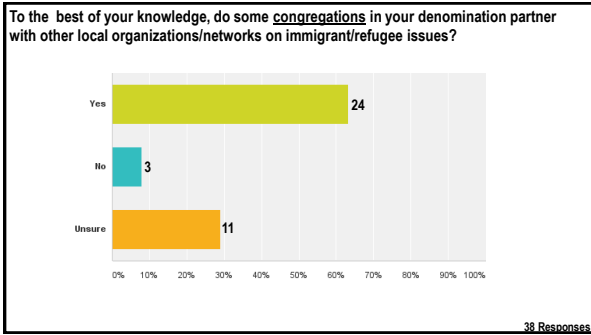
Does your denomination have a formal statement of some kind about working with immigrants?



38 Responses







To what extent do you agree with the following statements about your denomination at the national/regional level?

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
We encourage congregations to involve immigrant/refugee leaders.	74%	18%	8%
Our leaders at the national/regional level work to promote inclusion and deal with cross-cultural conflict.	76%	13%	11%
Our leaders at the national/regional level include immigrants/refugees.	54%	24%	22%
We involve immigrants/refugees in determining our denomination's role in working with immigrants/refugees.	44%	36%	20%
We utilize external resources that provide advice about how to work with immigrants/refugees	54%	30%	16%
We regularly evaluate or review our national/regional efforts in working with immigrants/refugees (at least every year).	16%	32%	52%
We make efforts to learn from immigrant/refugee church leaders when evaluating our immigrant/refugee ministry.	41%	27%	32%
We take into consideration what other groups do, when clarifying our national/regional role in working with immigrants/refugees.	51%	30%	19%

38 Responses

Overall, what has your denomination learned about working with immigrants or refugees that could be helpful to others? – Part 1/2

... about resources

- There is a need for designated resources so that programs can develop their full potential
- Meeting practical needs is a key means of community engagement
- [Refugee settlement] is very time consuming; so sharing responsibility is key
- Practical help and counsel as a new immigrant settles into Canada is greatly needed and appreciated
- Without funds and... coordination... you cannot expect grassroots activities
- Since resources [are limited], go slow as not to drain resources
- The prime resource needed is time and energy
- Finding the generosity to share without expectation is important

... about leadership

- There is a need for strong leadership to get people interested and involved
- We have learned that we need to support and encourage our ethnic churches to take the lead in reaching out to the immigrant populations
- Members of the congregation need to be passionate and supportive of such initiatives, it cannot be pastor driven
- It is worth the time to get to know the immigrant leaders personally – coaching leaders is better than providing money

Part 2/2

... about immigrants/refugees

- Often people come from a tough place and it is tough to settle in a new country
- Each wave of immigrants have their own characteristics and cannot be assumed to just fit in with the preceding wave of immigrants
- It helps a great deal to try to understand the cultural differences, and the specific challenges that people face when they come to Canada
- Providing [immigrants] with worship in their mother tongue is important
- We learned that reaching out to immigrants is a key factor in helping them to... adjust

... about relationships

- Relationship is two-way and requires work on all sides
- Working with people that are "different" can be difficult as patterns of interaction are slow to change
- Nothing happens for integration unless it is a vital goal that everyone is working towards
- There is a need for patience, understanding, a willingness to face challenges with humility...

... about networking

- ...it is important to network and learn from others
- Networking ethnic leaders is important for mutual support and encouragement. When these leaders come together, broader strategies are formed and momentum builds
- Look for organizations that can help instead of living in isolation
- Introducing [immigrant leaders] to our networks is very valuable

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In your opinion, what would be most helpful to assist congregations and denominations when working with immigrants/refugees?

Leadership development

➔

12 Respondents

Training

➔

8 Respondents

Financial resources

➔

7 Respondents

Networking

➔

7 Respondents

Intercultural competence

➔

3 Respondents

Other suggestions:

- Share Canadian data
- Increase access to decision making bodies
- Increased understanding
- Conferences
- Develop relationships with key leaders

- Practical assistance for running an immigrant church
- Strategic planning
- Publications
- Find 'success' stories