

# RDI



RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

## PROJECT TIMELINE

June 2024 - May 2025

## PROJECT FUNDERS

\$25,000 of project funding is being provided through a SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant

**SSHRC**  **CRSH**  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council  
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines

**blip** | BRANDON  
LOCAL  
IMMIGRATION  
PARTNERSHIP

## WORDS FROM THE PROJECT PARTNER

*Through this project, BLIP reaffirms its commitment to helping newcomers in their successful integration and building a sustainable Welcoming Community.*

- Katrina Casulla

 **BRANDON  
UNIVERSITY**

# New Project Announcement

Newcomer Integration through  
Community Engagement in Brandon, Manitoba

## MEET THE PROJECT PARTNERS

The Rural Development Institute (RDI) is a research centre at Brandon University that conducts community-based research projects, focusing on a variety of topics. This summer, RDI is collaborating on a participatory action project with the Brandon Local Immigration Partnership (BLIP) - a program of the Brandon Neighborhood Renewal Corporation (BNRC). Among their many initiatives, BLIP assists community-based partners who seek to support residents and newcomers access their personal needs.

## THE PROJECT

This year, Dr. Wayne Kelly, Shirlyn Kunaratnam and Felix Ntenhene will be collaborating with BLIP Coordinator - Katrina Casulla - to identify gaps in current services for newcomers in Brandon, Manitoba. The project has been designed with a participatory action lens, where newcomers will be actively involved. The research team will be organizing focus group conversations with immigrants and newcomers to evaluate if the current suite of initiatives and partnership programming offered by BLIP are effectively addressing challenges and needs. Following the focus group conversations, the research team will also have discussions with service organizations serving in Brandon to share the information gathered. As part of this research, partners at BLIP will develop a data portal with the help of the research team to ensure that all the immigration and newcomer related information is accessible in one digital location.

## OUTCOMES

This project aims to create a more inclusive, supportive, and thriving environment for all residents. By prioritizing the voices of newcomers and immigrants, this project may support the development of targeted intervention that facilitate better integration, ultimately enhancing their quality of life. The contribution to decision-making may also empower participants, which is crucial for their successful integration into the community.



Meet the Team! (From left to right) Shirlyn Kunaratnam, Felix Ntenhene, Katrina Casulla and Dr. Wayne Kelly.

Make sure to visit the [Immigration Initiative Project Page](#) for all project updates!