

Background

- Sport can assist as newcomers settle into their local communities & Canadian society (Institute for Canadian Citizenship, 2014)
- Newcomers report various participation barriers, hindering engagement in sport (Donnelly & Nakamura, 2006)
- Newcomers strongly connect winter sports (e.g., ice skating and ice hockey) to Canadian identity (ICC, 2014)

Study Purpose

To explore the lived experiences of newcomers to Canada in introductory winter sport programs.

WinSport Welcomes Newcomers

- Intersectoral collaboration involving diverse stakeholders
- Aim: To introduce newcomers to skating, skiing, and snowboarding
- Enrolled newcomers in existing programs (to promote opportunities for integration)

Theory & Methods

- Informed by socially constructed ideas of race, ethnicity, & Canadian multiculturalism (Bannerji, 2000; Frisby, 2014; Gunaratnam, 2003)
- Qualitative case study methodology (Stake, 2005)
- Multiple qualitative methods:
 - Semi-structured in-depth interviews
 - Photo elicitation focus group
 - Observations
 - Reflexive journaling
 - Document analysis

Results

1) Valuing winter sport participation

- a) Canadian identity
- b) Integration

2) Learning winter sport skills contributing to family cohesion

3) Navigating barriers to winter sport participation

4) Appreciating opportunities to engage with “Canadians” and Canadian Culture

5) Spurring interest in future winter sport participation

“So the whole family could learn. I think it’s, it’s nice. After I came to Canada, I found here in Canada people like to do- go out uh as a family. So, I hope that we could go out skiing as a family, not only the kids. So, as parents, we would like to also to join. So yes, that’s great!” (Parent)

“Oh [the settlement services councillor] sent us a form to fill. And I was trying to, to do it myself, but it was a little bit complicated for me, so I asked my husband who knows more, better English and he did all the form. And then we—a few days ago, we got another form from WinSport. It’s a waiver or something. And I was trying to do again myself, but it was difficult.” (Parent)



Recommendations

“Uh The program could increase its times and add in more activities. **The program could uh maybe double the time to run three hours instead of one and a half hours.** People like uh me travel from uh from the other side of the city to go skiing and also, there’s more time uh they could learn more about skiing and get uh more practice. Secondly, **WinSport uh could add more activities like curling or hockey** to be better as people would get a chance uh to experience a sport that uh they had never tried before.” (Participant)