Allies in Refugee Integration aims to strengthen collaboration between refugee sponsors and settlement workers as they support privately sponsored refugees (PSR) in Ontario.

**WHAT IS CURRENTLY HAPPENING?**

- **Sponsors**
  - Responsible for financial, social, and emotional support of sponsored refugees.
  - Not always aware of settlement services (only 67% of PSRs say their sponsors were able to support their settlement needs).

- **Sponsored Refugees**
  - Desire access to more equitable and client-centred settlement services.
  - Agree settlement services are important but are not always aware of the services available to them.

- **Settlement Workers**
  - Provide settlement expertise and a supportive role to sponsored refugees (77% of PSRs agreed that accessing settlement services was very helpful).
  - Not funded to work with sponsors and limited in outreach to sponsored refugees.

*Based on research conducted by the ARI project with more than 360 stakeholders across Ontario.

**HOW CAN WE WORK BETTER TOGETHER?**

- **Find common ground**
  - Concentrate on what would best support PSRs

- **Clarify roles and responsibilities**
  - 51% of all stakeholders identified role confusion as the top challenge

- **Build positive relationships**
  - And leverage existing links

- **Address barriers to collaboration**
  - Including lack of training, and staff/volunteer capacity

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

ARI will be designing and implementing pilot projects to try out some of these promising practices. Our research told us that the most pressing needs of sponsors, sponsored refugees, and settlement workers are improved quality and methods of **CONNECTION**, and more accessible **INFORMATION**. We need your help to identify and pilot the most promising practices that will bring together these common allies and benefit sponsored refugees.

**Join us!** For more information visit: http://ocasi.org/allies-refugee-integration

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