

# The Immigrant Immunization Research Pilot Project, an initiative of the Loyer Da Silva Research Chair in Public Health Nursing



uOttawa

Faculté des sciences de la santé  
Faculty of Health Sciences

**Type of Project:** Research/Education

**Organization:** University of Ottawa, Faculty of Health Sciences  
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## Objectives:

1. To develop a trial information kit that is adaptable for use by new Canadians and immigrant families across Canada
2. To educate and motivate an identified immigrant community to acquire the necessary immunizations for admission to school.
3. To test the trial information kit and assess its effectiveness.

**Target Audience:** Parents

**Project Summary:** New immigrants, refugees and foreign born children adopted by Canadian families may not have received the required vaccines or not have the necessary documents to demonstrate that they were adequately immunized. In many cases, differences in language and culture will play a key role in complying with Canadian regulations regarding vaccination. Other factors which can have a negative impact on immunization of children can also include philosophical or religious beliefs, and the level of education of parents.

This project will work in partnership with community service centres that provide direct services to immigrants in the Ottawa Region. A small focus group will be conducted with low income immigrants to gather information regarding customs and habits, knowledge base regarding immunization (i.e., perceived need and associated values) and provincial regulations. Based on findings, information material in the various languages of participants will be developed. Information sessions will then be held with four other groups of immigrants (study groups) to assess the value of the information kit. These groups will be made up of approximately 80-100 families who have children aged 0 to 2 years.

Follow-up with the study groups regarding compliance with immunization schedules will be carried out at six month and nine month intervals. Validation will be through immunization record reviews of the preschoolers. Feedback from the study group members will also be collected regarding the education approach and tools.

**Planned Completion Date: December 2009**