

# **Planning with Multicultural Diversity in Small Cities in Canada: A Study of Immigrant Lived-Experiences in Brooks, Alberta**

## **Abstract**

Immigration, ethnic settlement, and global migration are processes which shape diversity in Canadian cities. There is rich literature vis-à-vis immigrant settlement in large, gateway cities. Less is known about the lived-experiences of racialized immigrants in small cities and the implications of planning with diversity in those contexts. This research explored the challenges and opportunities of racialized immigrants settling in a small city from a place-based and integration perspective and explored the role of municipalities in attracting and retaining immigrants in small cities. Case study research of Brooks, Alberta was conducted involving interviews with racialized immigrants, a municipal official, and a local immigration organization staff. This study had reinforced the primary reason of immigrant settlement in small cities were based on economic and family-related factors, but highlight the role of the municipality in retaining immigrants in small cities is to cultivate an inclusive community by acclaiming diversity through a place-based approach.

## **Biography of Author**

**Ryan Lok** is completing his Master of Planning in Urban Development degree at Ryerson University. Prior to his graduate studies, Ryan completed a Bachelor of Arts in Urban-Studies with a Minor in Sociology from the University of Calgary in 2019. In 2016, Ryan interned at a community organization in Kuala Lumpur which focused on capacity-building and poverty-reduction. Ryan's research focuses on multicultural-diversity in Canada through examining the lived-experiences of racialized immigrants living in small municipalities through a place-based and integration perspective. His research interests include: community planning and development, multicultural and intercultural integration, and geographies of immigration and racialized settlement.