



## **EMC Contract Position - Research Facilitator**

**Position:** Research Facilitator (contract)

**Posting Closing Date:** Noon, Friday, August 24, 2018 for Letters of Intent

**Purpose:** To build on the Coalition's 2017-18 community-based research on intercultural approaches to social integration (see Overview below). We want to collaborate with a researcher on the practical application of these intercultural approaches through a case study, focusing on a specific topic area, or other appropriate approaches.

### **BACKGROUNDER on EMC COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH**

The Edmonton Multicultural Coalition (EMC) is a non-profit association of culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Edmonton. Each year the Coalition undertakes a community-based research project. A Community-Based Research Advisory Committee (CRAC) provides guidance to the Coalition's Executive Director on the organization's community-based research. The results of the community research are used to identify emerging interests and needs in the community which guide the Coalition's community initiatives, new programs, training ideas and policy advocacy work.

EMC is presently looking for a Research Facilitator (or a team) with experience in community-based research. The objective of this work is to design and implement a community-based research project in formal collaboration with CRAC and the Executive Director. Consistent with the values of community-based research, the Research Facilitator will also be purposeful in connecting with Coalition Members and Community Animators to encourage community input, dialogue and collaboration in the research process. The Research Facilitator will work closely with these various stakeholders through collaborative and inclusive processes.

### **OVERVIEW of 2017-2018 INTERCULTURAL RESEARCH**

#### **EMCommon Spaces: Intercultural Approaches to Social Integration**

Through collaborative, exploratory and open-ended research a small group of community co-researchers came together to ask: What is interculturalism and how might it inform our understandings and experiences of social integration in our personal lives, communities and institutions? In other words, we asked what might an intercultural approach to social integration look like and feel like. And in what kind of spaces might it occur? Through learning and by doing we came up with practical examples of "intercultural" approaches to "social integration" together.

Our research was collaborative, exploratory, multi-modal, shared (co-created and co-documented) and “intercultural.” It was intercultural in the sense that we emphasized relations between different (and similar) cultures, where “culture” is interpreted very broadly (including, but not limited to, ethno-cultural differences).

We arrived at three themes that we felt were important to share and explore at our Share-Back event with community stakeholders: *Identity, Building Relationships, and Making Connections*. We took up these themes in the ways we approached each of our workshops: by encouraging different, multiple and changing perspectives - as opposed to one standardized or final set of answers. Emphasis was placed on being in relation - by building a common space where we can all be free to be both different and the same as we work together and try to address some of this difficult and messy work. An overall recommendation by research participants was to apply these processes to a specific case study.

## **RESEARCH OUTCOMES of NEW RESEARCH**

### **Anticipated Project & Research Outcomes:**

1. Greater understanding of the best practices in taking intercultural approaches to social integration through the practical application and testing of these approaches through a case study, focusing on a specific topic area, or other appropriate approaches.
2. Recommended actions and strategies identified for future intercultural approaches to working with diverse ethno-cultural and mainstream communities.
3. Community Members and Community Animators feel their participation/contribution to the research was respected and added real value.
4. Affirmation of the value and effectiveness of the Coalition’s collaborative and community-based approach to research.
5. Colleagues in the non-profit sector benefit from a better understanding of methods for taking an intercultural approach to working with diverse ethno-cultural and mainstream communities.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Research knowledge and skills:**

- Good understanding of qualitative and participatory research processes (design, data collection and analysis, etc.)
- Creativity and unorthodox approaches in facilitating inclusive and participatory research
- View research participants as co-researchers
- Ability to develop data collection instruments
- Ability to consolidate data for interpretation and analysis
- Ability to analyze data and make appropriate conclusions and recommendations
- Experience conducting research using participatory and feminist philosophies

**Communication and interpersonal skills:**

- Able to communicate in English, both oral and written (bilingual skills considered an asset)
- Comfortable relating to and communicating with individuals and groups from different cultures, i.e., cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, creating a culturally safe space
- Comfortable collaborating with CRAC (research advisory committee) & Executive Director
- Strong presentation and facilitation skills, including engaging with diverse groups
- Computer skills, including data entry and MS office

**Team building skills:**

- Willingness to work collaboratively within a team setting

**Availability:**

- Willingness to work flexible hours
- Must live and/or work within Edmonton

**CONDITIONS of CONTRACT****Time Period: (September 14, 2018 - June 30, 2019)**

This is a 10-month contract position. Ideally, the research will be finalized in May 2019 and the results of the research will be shared with stakeholders in a Share Back event and/or other knowledge sharing activities in June. These will be negotiated with CRAC and the EMC Executive Director as the project progresses.

The Research Facilitator will be required to develop a work plan and must commit to achieving the deliverables of the project within this time period. The position will require some evening and weekend work. As taking a community-based approach in research can be unpredictable, there is a need for flexibility with the time period.

**Compensation:** Up to \$4,500.00 paid in instalments as per contract

**SUBMISSIONS****Application Requirements:**

- 1) Resume and Letter of Intent due **Noon, Friday, August 24, 2018**
- 2) 2 research references with contact information and explanation of your collaborations
- 3) 1-2 page summary outlining your experiences with community-based research and your proposed approach to undertaking this research project

**Submit Applications to:**

Phil O'Hara,

Executive Director, Edmonton Multicultural Coalition

Submit Letters of Intent via email to: [phil@emcoalition.ca](mailto:phil@emcoalition.ca)