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Radicalization and the Prevention of Violent Extremism

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BUILDING A STRONGER CANADA

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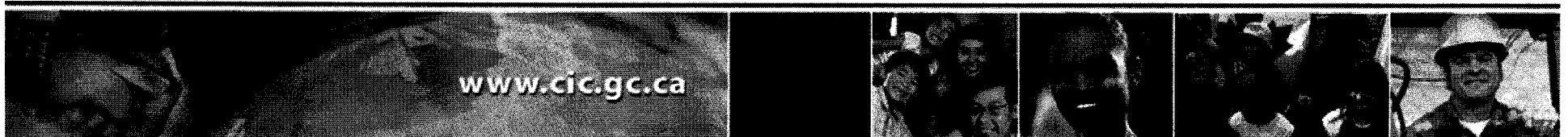
Canada

Positioning CIC's Work to Address Radicalization

Purpose: Provide a frame for a discussion of CIC's role with respect to radicalization

AGENDA:

- 1) Definitions of Radicalization**
- 2) What the Canadian Players Are Saying**
- 3) Policy Responses**
- 4) International Initiatives Also Address Social Context**
- 5) Framework for Understanding How CIC Contributes to Addressing Radicalization**
- 6) Can CIC Do More?**
- 7) Considerations**
- 8) Key Questions to Guide Way Forward**
- 9) Next Steps**



Definitions of Radicalization

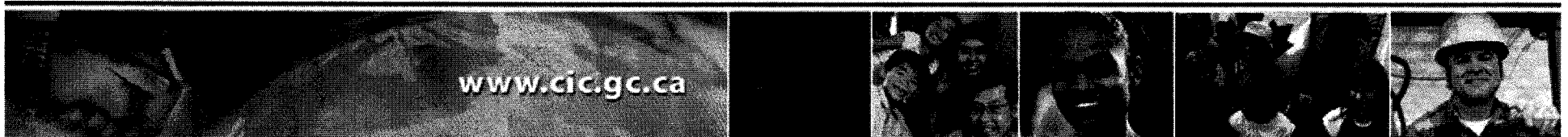
Canada (RCMP)	Process by which individuals - usually young people - are introduced to overtly ideological message and belief system that encourages movement from moderate, mainstream beliefs towards extreme views
Denmark	Radicalization is the phenomenon of people embracing opinions, views, and ideas that could lead to acts of terrorism
Netherlands	Radicalism refers to the active pursuit of and/or support for far-reaching changes in society which may constitute a danger to the continuity of the democratic legal order (aim), possibly by using undemocratic methods (means) which may harm the functioning of that order (effect)
Australia	The process of adopting, promoting or acting upon extremist beliefs. It is the process that indoctrinates a vulnerable individual and then activates them from a latent extremist mind-state to an overt extremist action-state

- **Mandates of security agencies, resources, and operational imperatives have led to relatively narrow focus on violent extremists. As a result, radicalization is often used synonymously with violent extremism**
- **This normally refers to a specific group of individuals who have been radicalized to the point of being prepared to take violent action or commit acts of terrorism**



What the Canadian Players Are Saying

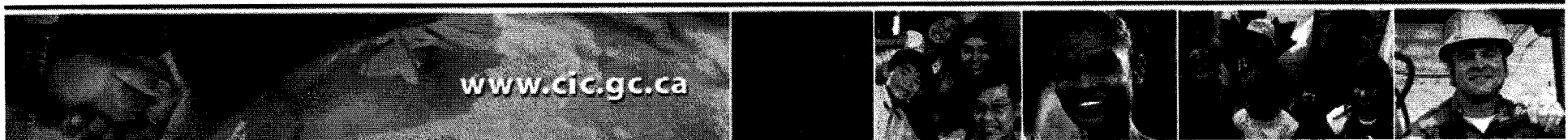
- **CSIS considers Al Qaeda-inspired extremism as most immediate threat to Canada's national security agenda, although it tracks a wide range of threats**
- **RCMP also addresses other forms of radicalization, including**
- **Scope of problem (who is radicalized) clear, but security agencies less sure about scale of problem (i.e., how many are radicalized):**
 - **High profile cases in past few years - Toronto 18, Khawaja, Charkaoui**
 - **11 convicted terrorists in prison**
 - **CSIS tracking individuals of interest**
- **Many contributing factors are psychological in nature, including identity issues, perception of grievances, disillusionment, need for belonging, conviction in need to act**



Policy Responses

- GoC has not yet developed overarching anti-radicalization (or violent extremism) strategy. However, various departments are involved in mitigating activities
- Many of these designed to build community resilience through support and prevention programming
- Overall inclusiveness of all CIC programming reduces risk, while highlighting specific initiative of multi

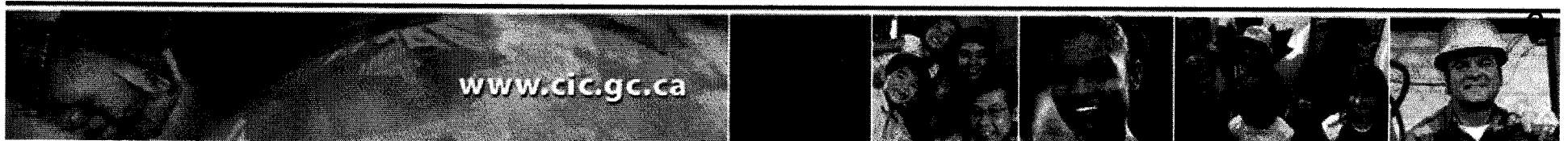
	Security Initiatives	Social Initiatives
Other Government Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intelligence ▪ Criminal Investigations ▪ Community Outreach ▪ Enforcement, e.g. policing ▪ Incarceration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Security ▪ Muslim Communities' Working Group (DFAIT) ▪ Religious Services Programming (CSC) ▪ Identity programming (PCH) ▪ Research
CIC	Safety and Security Programming (SO4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Admissibility and Selection (SO4) 	Integrated Society Programming (SO3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Settlement ▪ Integration ▪ Citizenship ▪ Multiculturalism ▪ Foreign Credentials Recognition ▪ Refugees ▪ Metropolis



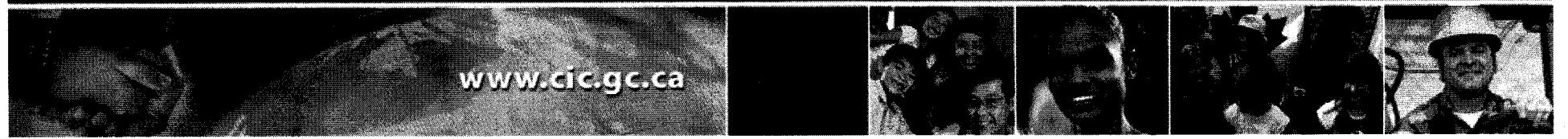
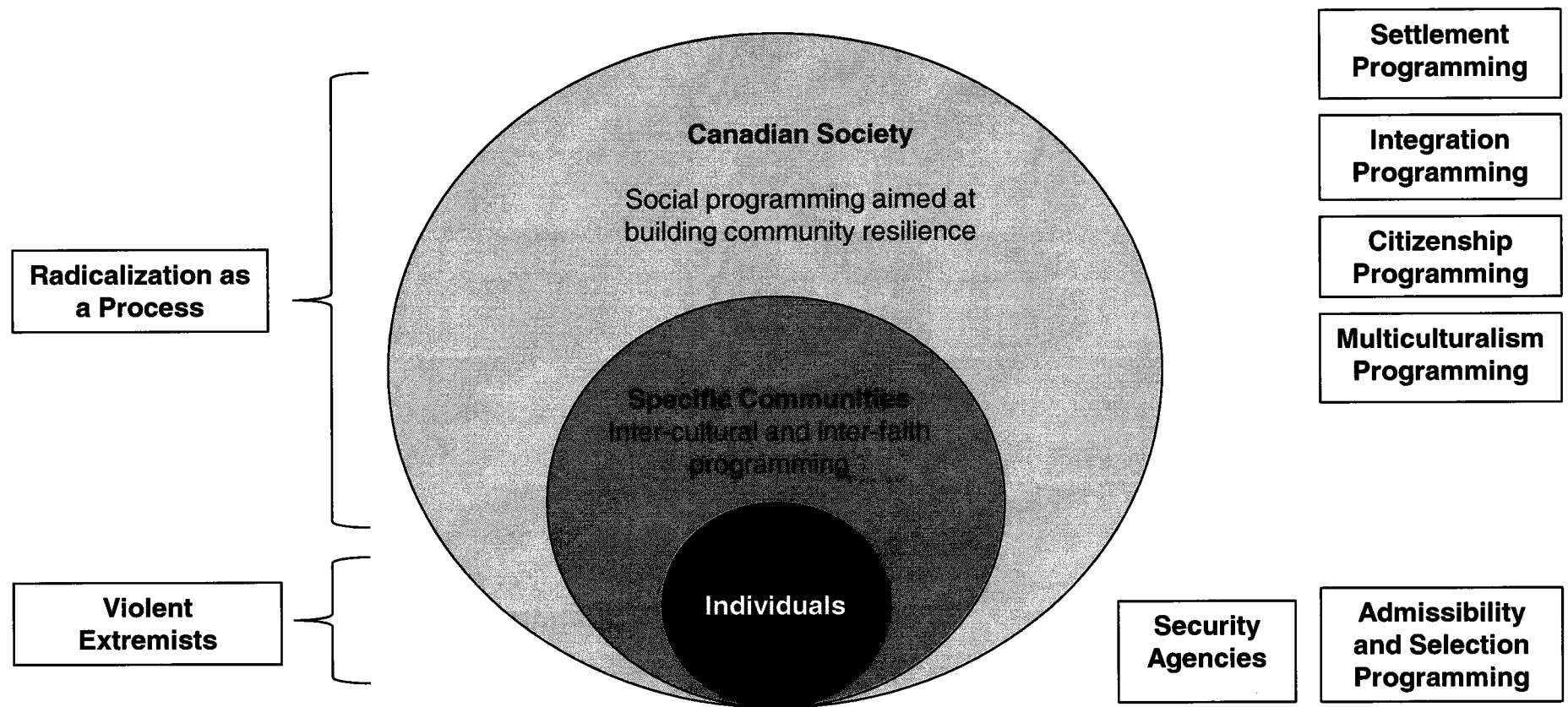
International Initiatives Also Address Social Context

- In Europe, recognition that social initiatives can mitigate factors that indirectly nurture radicalization as pathway to violent extremism
- In United States, strategy has been exclusively security focused until recently. New National Security Strategy (May 2010) highlights need to address “underlying political and economic deficits that foster instability, enable radicalization and extremism...” (Annex 2)

UK	Australia	Netherlands	Denmark
Preventing Violent Extremism – Winning Hearts and Minds - 2007	A National Action Plan to Build on Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security (NAP) - 2006	Polarisation and Radicalisation Action plan 2007-2011	A common and safe future – 2009
The purpose is to enable “local communities ... to be able to challenge robustly the ideas of those extremists who seek to undermine our way of life” – Prime Minister Tony Blair (2006)	The purpose is to reinforce social cohesion, harmony and support the national security imperative in Australia by addressing extremism, the promotion of violence and intolerance, in response to the increased threat of global religious and political terrorism	The objectives are 1) Prevention of isolation, polarization, and radicalization 2) Early signalling of these processes by administrators and professionals 3) Exclusion of people who have crossed societal boundaries and limiting their influence on others	The objectives are: 1) Through a direct, preventive effort, it must be ensured that we are prepared to identify and address specific problems related to extremism in a timely manner 2) The Government wishes to use this and other initiatives to maintain and further develop Denmark as a democratic society with freedom, responsibility, equality and opportunities for all
Four Key approaches: 1) Promoting shared values 2) Supporting local solutions 3) Building civic capacity and leadership 4) Strengthening the role of faith institutions and leaders	Areas of focus: 1) Education 2) Reinforcing values and civics education 3) Informing Australians about religious and cultural diversity 4) The training of religious leaders and teachers in Australia 5) Employment 6) Integrating communities 7) Leadership training 8) Media training 9) Communication and consultation 10) Enhancing national security	Focuses on: 1) Increasing resilience and the bond with society for individuals and groups who may be susceptible to polarisation and radicalisation and their environment 2) Increase competencies of the local government and professionals who frequently work with youths and youth groups 3) Early isolation, containment and reversal of polarisation and radicalisation 4) International cooperation	Areas of focus: 1) Direct contact with young people 2) Inclusion based on rights and obligations 3) Dialogue and information 4) Democratic cohesion 5) Efforts in vulnerable residential areas 6) Special initiatives in prisons 7) Knowledge, co-operation and partnerships
£70M (\$105M CDN)	\$38M Aus (\$34M Cdn)	28M € (\$36M Cdn)	DKK 2.2B (\$379M Cdn) (2006-2010)



Framework for Understanding How CIC Contributes to Addressing Radicalization

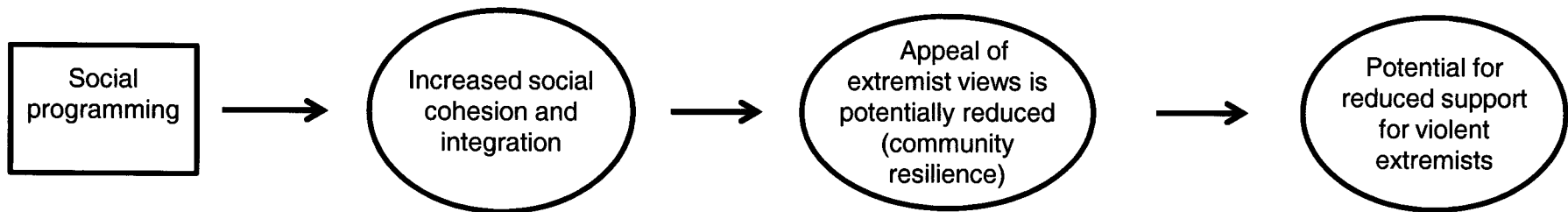


Can CIC Do More?

- **Socio-psychological factors, e.g. perception of grievance and injustice, disillusionment, nurture exclusion**
 - **Possible radicalization and steering individuals and, potentially, communities away from core Canadian values**
- **Threatens social cohesion by creating potential intra and inter-group conflicts, (a sense of “us vs. them”), and weakened sense of belonging/citizenship**
- **Overall Canadian integrated society approach (settlement, citizenship, multi) reduces potential compared to other societies**
 - **New Multi objectives of inter-cultural and inter-faith understanding, civic memory and pride, and respect for core democratic values, additional instrument to strengthen social cohesion**
 - **By targeting communities that we know are not resilient to radicalization through its programming, Multiculturalism could potentially do more to address this issue (see project e.g.’s, Annex 2)**

“...building bridges between communities, helping people, the beginning of real economic equality of opportunity, and at the same time, in a sense indirectly, combating marginal forces of radicalization”

– Minister Kenney, March 2009

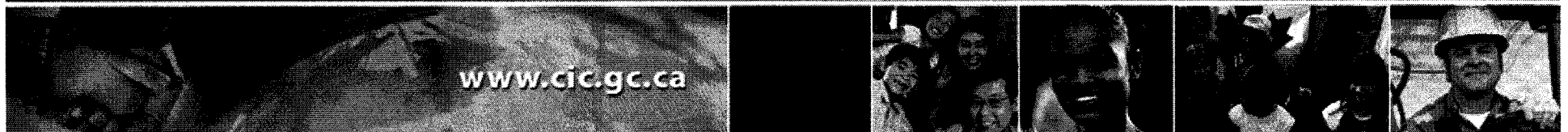


Where Can CIC Be Most Effective?

- Effectiveness of interventions will depend on nature of drivers for radicalization within different communities

	Lack of Economic Integration	Socio-Psychological (Values)	External Conflicts	Canadian Foreign Policy
Al-Queda		X		X
	X	X	X	
		X	X	
		X	X	

- For maximum impact, programming through integration, citizenship, or multiculturalism would need to focus on main source of grievance

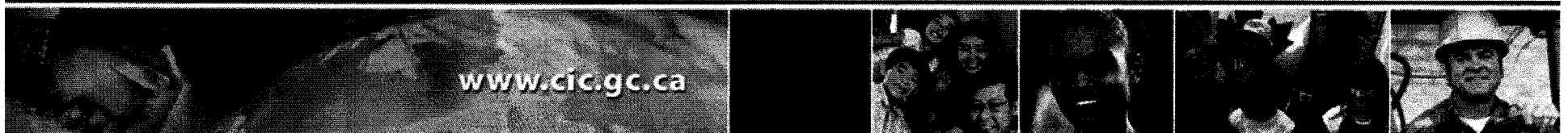


Other Considerations

- Most groups at risk of radicalization as a pathway to violent extremism are new Canadians and/or minority groups - challenge is targeting programming while not creating perception that communities are targeted
- Building communities more resilient to violent extremism can also build general resilience (e.g. Gang activity, drug trafficking)
- Risks of combining social programming and anti-radicalization strategies
 - Part of UK strategy has been heavily criticized and has exacerbated tensions between Muslim communities and authorities
 - Mistrust of programming, difficulty in identifying “leaders”
 - Important to continue to decouple radicalization strategies from counter-terrorism
 - Confirmed in recently released DEMOS report

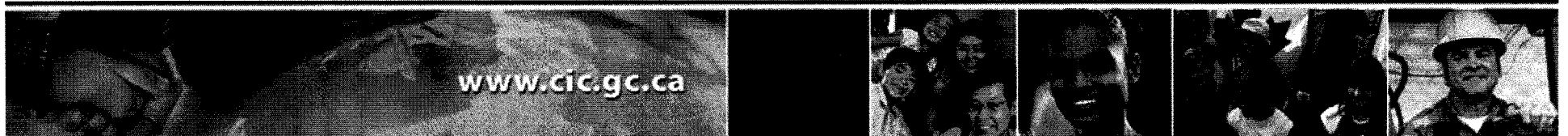
“Dos and Don’t” of Counter Radicalization Strategies

1. Set clear metrics
2. Build in-depth knowledge of radicalization process and clients/communities
3. Programming flexibility
 - Approaches are not universal
 - Engage many partners and communities
 - Be open to experts and approaches in other areas, e.g. Anti-gang programs
4. Local initiatives are most effective
5. Patience is a virtue
(Vidino, Foreign Policy 2010)



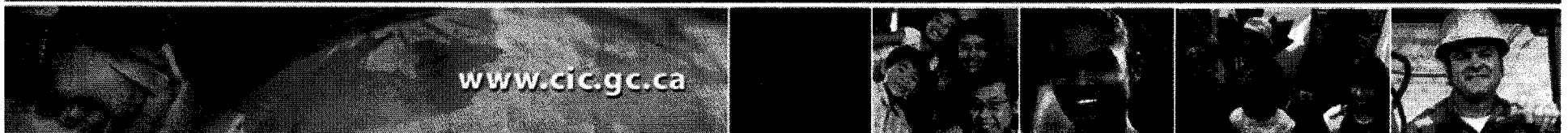
Key Questions to Guide Way Forward

- 1. Should CIC play a leadership role in addressing the social factors that contribute towards radicalization as a pathway to violent extremism?**
- 2. Should CIC implement strategies addressing specific issues and communities or should CIC focus on social cohesion in general?**
- 3. How should CIC try to address other extremist views that may threaten social cohesion (e.g. religious fundamentalism)?**
- 4. Given attribution challenges related to this issue, how can CIC demonstrate the effectiveness of its work in this area?**



Next Steps

- **Continue working with security agencies on development of an integrated GoC strategy on radicalization**
- **Presentation to Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Security (Oct/Nov)**
- **Roundtable with community organizations and academics to verify approach (Oct/Nov)**
- **Participation in international engagement activities:**
 - **Proposed Canada/U.S. Bilateral with Public Safety and Dept of Homeland Security (July 15)**
 - **US-led Countering Violent Extremism workshops, (December and next spring)**
 - **Other international events (e.g. U.S.- EU Seminar on Preventing Violent Extremism, June 16-17, 2010)**





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**Citizenship and Multiculturalism Branch
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Canada

Annex 1: Sample of Multiculturalism Projects Addressing Radicalization

Somali – Jewish Canadian Mentorship Project (2009-2011)

An interfaith pilot program in Toronto that matches Somali teens who are new to workforce with community businesses, and facilitates creation of internships and mentoring relationships for teens with professionals from Jewish community.

Intended Result: Build long-term community cohesion and create successful cadre of young Somali-Canadian professionals who can assume leadership roles in their own community and contribute to Canadian society at large

Multiculturalism Program Contribution: \$473,640

MY CANADA - Canadian Council of Muslim Women (2009-2011)

Multi-pronged approach to preventing radicalization in Canada which provides necessary tools and skills to address concerns young Muslim Canadians are facing.

Intended Result: Youth who have a better understanding of the rule of law, Canadian identity, dealing with local challenges, and learning how to prevent radicalization

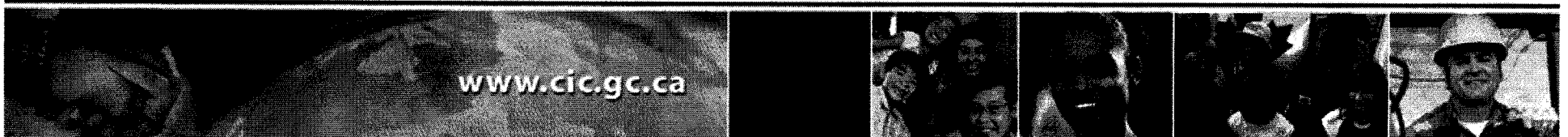
Multiculturalism Program Contribution: \$441, 476

Diversity is Youth Peer Leaders: Canadian Centre for Diversity (2009-2013)

Combination of training and peer leadership for students in 300 high schools across Canada, including the creation of online tools to reach remote communities.

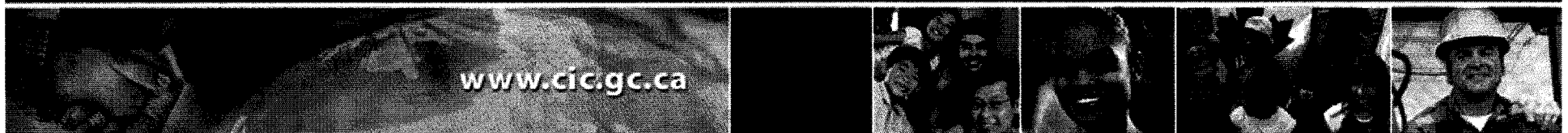
Intended Results: Build a network of skilled and trained young leaders focused on preventing and responding to conflicts effectively; provide a community of support within high schools and communities to reinforce social cohesion and inclusion within Canadian society, while strengthening the resiliency of communities in Canada.

Multiculturalism Program Contribution: \$1, 198,000



Annex 2: Provincial Approaches to Radicalization

- Current provincial approaches to radicalization/ violent extremism are focused on policing/security issues. Activities include: community outreach/engagement; counter-terrorism awareness for communities and first responders; investigating hate crimes and/or criminal extremism; strategic intelligence ; and local and national partnerships.
- The **Ontario Provincial Police** investigative and specialized response services include the: Behavioural Sciences – Research Unit (knowledge of offenders behaviour and characteristics); Provincial Anti-Terrorism Unit (operations related to international, domestic and issue specific terrorism); and Hate Crimes/ Extremism Unit (targeting individuals or organizations involved in hate crimes and/or criminal extremism).
- The **Sûreté du Québec** current focus is on intelligence gathering and protections.
- In British Columbia the **RCMP's** E Division which, utilizes a two-pronged approach: training and preparation focused on detection and prevention; and continual visits to communities to educate and foster trust and understanding. The National RCMP Terrorism strategy is carried out by the Integration National Security Enforcement Team (INSET) whose activities have included: the Community Outreach Program (COP); and a National Security Conference.



Annex 2: U.S. Approach to Radicalization

- National Strategy for Homeland Security (October 2007) outlines four principal objectives for preventing violent Islamic extremist radicalization:
 1. Engage key communities as partners in the War on Terror through public-private task forces and forums, as well as discussions about U.S. foreign and domestic policy concerns
 2. Identify and counter the sources of radicalization
 - Support community initiatives that publicly condemn terrorism
 - Develop a clear communications plan with respect to U.S. Policies
 - Increased cooperation with all levels of government and Muslim communities to counter radicalization in prisons
 3. Enhance Federal, State, local, and Tribal government capacities to address radicalization
 - Increased education of government officials at all levels with respect to radicalization
 - Encouraging interagency training and career opportunities to foster expertise
 - Improved information sharing at all levels of government
 4. Continue to advance the understanding of radicalization through greater support of relevant public and private research, and continued engagement with Muslim communities
- National Security Strategy (May 2010) now highlights need to address “underlying political and economic deficits that foster instability, enable radicalization and extremism...”
 - In order to build community resilience to radicalization, the U.S. Government will invest in intelligence to understand the threat and expand community engagement and development programs to empower communities

