FOREWORD: EMBRACING A NEW ERA OF INTEGRATION, INCLUSION, AND EQUITY

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The richness of Canada's cultural mosaic is both a testament to its historical openness and a challenge for its evolving identity. This publication, Measuring Integration in Canada, emerges at a time when Canada is redefining what it means to be a society that is not only diverse but inclusive and equitable. This collection of articles offers a comprehensive exploration of the frameworks, data-driven tools, and policy analyses that underpin the nation's efforts to foster integration and inclusion for immigrants, equity-seeking groups, and all Canadians.

From theoretical reflections on immigrant integration to empirical studies of social and civic participation, the articles presented here demonstrate the multidimensional nature of inclusion. They draw on data-driven tools like the Canadian Index for Measuring Integration and Inclusion (CIMII), explore the relevance of social networks and mental health in immigrant outcomes, and evaluate the intersection of diversity and public policy. Together, these contributions address questions of how to measure integration, where gaps in outcomes persist, and what actions can bridge those divides.

Thematically, this volume captures critical discussions:

New Theories and Frameworks: Jack Jedwab and Michael Haan revisit traditional concepts like the "two-way street" metaphor and assimilation theories, proposing contemporary frameworks that reflect Canada's super-diverse society.

Empirical Analysis of Outcomes: Articles by Jane Badets and Ravindra Shrestha delve into statistical insights, using models and indices to illuminate gaps in social, economic, and civic participation among immigrants.

Health and Well-being: The examination of the Healthy Immigrant Effect underscores the interplay between mental health and integration, highlighting policy imperatives for culturally competent health care.

Policy Impact and Organizational Maturity: Thomas Huddleston and the team from the Association for Canadian Studies offer insights into how integration policies and diversity models shape societal outcomes and organizational progress.

This publication is a call to action for policymakers, academics, and community leaders to adopt evidence-based approaches and collaborative solutions. As Canada continues to lead as a global model for multiculturalism, the lessons and strategies discussed here provide a roadmap for enhancing inclusion and fostering a sense of belonging for all.