

Supporting Immigrant Entrepreneurs

Background

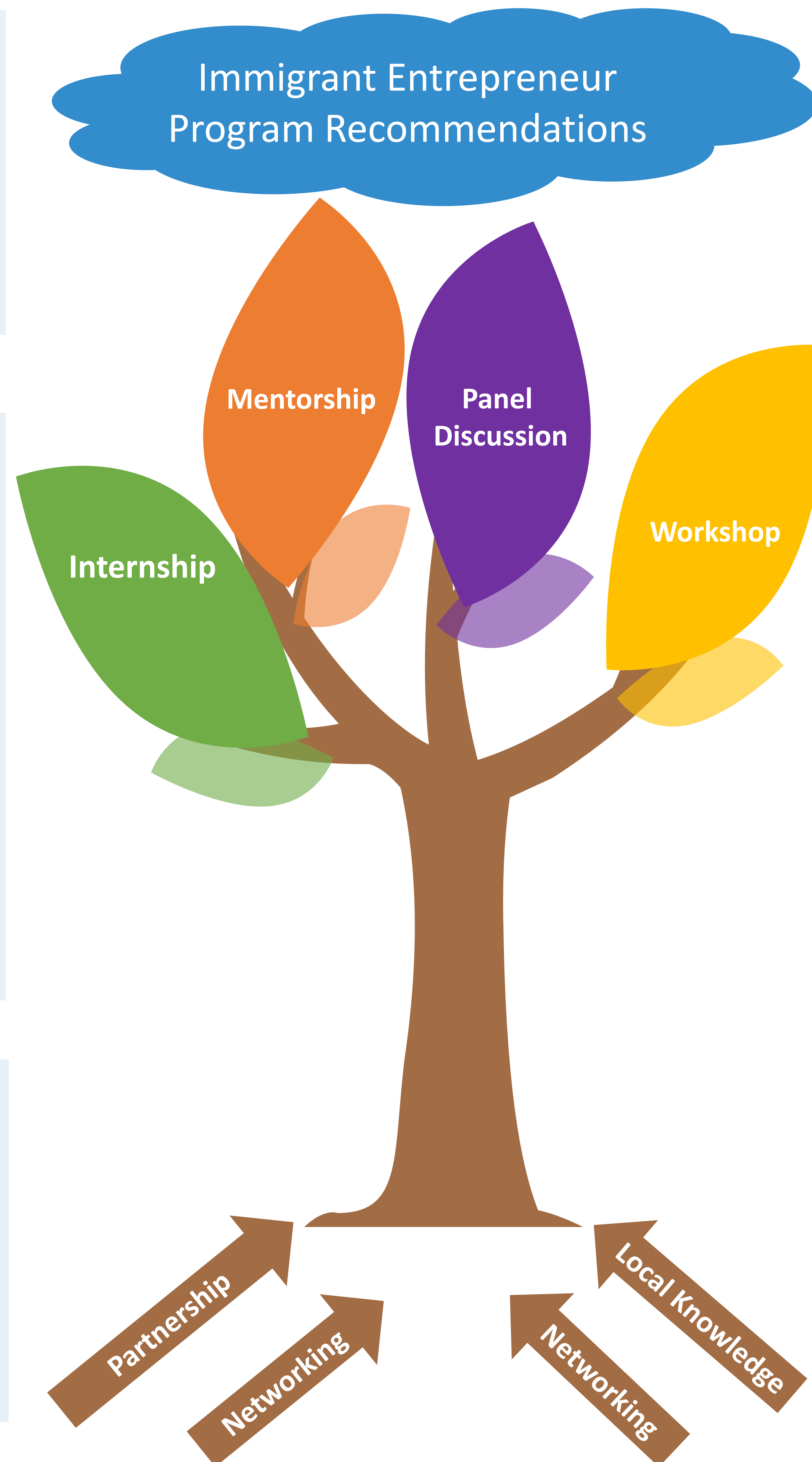
- The City of Peterborough currently has the highest percentage of immigrant entrepreneurs in Canada. This makes it especially important to focus on implanting programs in order to better assist new and existing immigrant entrepreneurs and allow them to integrate into the community to their fullest potential

Research Questions

- What approaches to supporting existing and new immigrant entrepreneurs are being used, and to what degree of success, in other communities?
- What services or organizations work better than others in facilitating these immigrant entrepreneurs?
- In general, how successful have immigrant entrepreneurs been in Peterborough up to this point?
- What support systems for immigrant entrepreneurs current exist in Peterborough? How successful are these programs?
- What type of support(s) must be provided for the immigrant entrepreneur community in Peterborough to be successful?

Methodology

- Literature Review
- Case Studies
 - To identify best practices in other communities
- Interviews
 - Program representatives in Peterborough
 - Program Representatives in other communities
 - Immigrant entrepreneurs in Peterborough



Findings

- Immigrant entrepreneurs are diverse with a variety of skill levels and previous experience
- Best practices identified from case studies and interviews with program representatives from other communities:
 - Panel Discussion
 - Networking with multiple resources
 - Mentorship and Internship Programs
 - Development of Canadian business experience and local market knowledge
 - Develop entrepreneurial skills
 - Networking development
 - Workshops
 - Language, with focus on business

“Establish clear guidelines for mentor and mentee relationship”

“It is important to ensure that the services are personalized and locally oriented”

“Aid in every stage of entrepreneurship: the idea, the start-up, growth and expansion”

Next Steps

- Identifying potential immigrant entrepreneurs
- Quantitative data collection
- Develop resource of programs and/or services in Peterborough that could be used by immigrant entrepreneurs
- Research programs to support co-operative entrepreneurship