

LOCAL DYNAMICS AND ELECTORAL TRANSITIONS:
INDIGENOUS, NEWCOMER, AND MAINSTREAM
PERSPECTIVES ON PEACE, CONFLICT, AND VIOLENCE
IN WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

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This article presents findings from research interviews and participatory action research carried out with Indigenous, Newcomer, and Mainstream community organizers from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (Treaty 1 Territory). Thirty-eight research interviews were conducted prior to and following the 2015 Canadian federal election. This period of social and political intensification surfaced key social issues and demonstrated different perspectives held among members of three broad-based community populations. While many of the issues raised were framed in relation to the Canadian elections, interviews provided perspectives into the complex and pressing nature of issues that impact inter-community relations on a day-to-day basis. Key themes from the interviews include settler-colonialism, immigration and resettlement, poverty, land, violence and addictions, as well as the central role of online community networks. These dynamics are discussed in relation to both local and national processes connected to peace and conflict using three major theoretical frameworks: Curle and Dugan's *progression of conflict* model, Sherif and Sherif's *realistic conflict* theory, and Lewin's *field theory* approach.
