

# Best Practices for Homestay

Languages Canada Conference  
March 04, 2016

Facilitated by:

Paula Jamieson, GV Victoria



# Panelists / experts

- **Stephanie Soccio** - Associate Director, Student Affairs, *Brock University*
- **Doug Ronson**, Author of *The Essential Guide for Host Families*
- **Jennifer Wilson** - Managing Director, *Canada Homestay International*
- **Constable Dale Sleightholm**, *Victoria Police Department*

# Session Format

## **1st Hour (2:15-3:15) - Panel Presentations**

- The Changing Face of Homestay in Student Services
- High Quality Host Family Orientations
- Working with Juniors/Minors & Conflict Resolution
- Protecting Students – A Police Perspective

## **Break (3:15-3:45)**

## **2nd Hour - Case Studies & Group Discussions**

- Case studies with panelists and delegates

# Workshop Participants

- New and well-seasoned Homestay Coordinators
- Program Managers and School Directors
- Public and private English and French programs
- Youth/junior programs and adult programs
- Homestay, student residence and apartments

# Participant Interaction

- There are no silly questions
- Protect the privacy and confidentiality of hosts, students and programs
- “What happens at the workshop stays at the workshop”

# Why focus on Best Practices for Homestay?

## First reason:

- Homestay is a very important part of a language student's language and cultural learning experience.

“When students feel more like family....

...they feel more like students.”

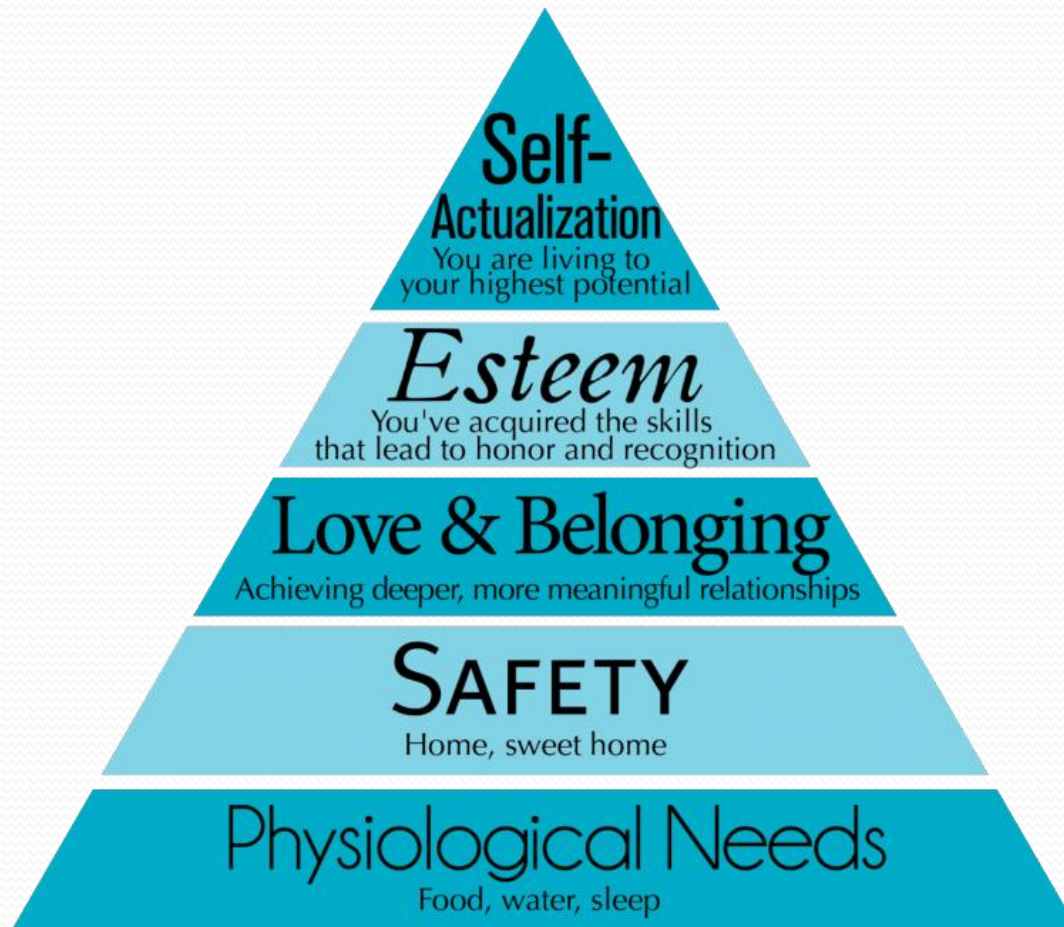
Canada Homestay Network

# Why focus on Best Practices for Homestay?

## Second reason:

- Host families hold an important position of TRUST
- Students are placed in a VULNERABLE position

# Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs





# Why focus on Best Practices for Homestay?

## **Third reason:**

- Homestay coordination and student support can be stressful work.
- Stress is generally lower when programs are operating smoothly, based on tried-and-true methods

# Why focus on Best Practices for Homestay?

## **Fourth reason:**

- Meeting STANDARDS is a requirement of accreditation
- Exceeding standards and applying BEST PRACTISES is how we continually improve and deliver the very best quality to our students



# The Changing Face of Homestay in Student Services

Stephanie Soccio

Associate Director, Student Affairs

Brock University



# High Quality Orientations for Host Families

Doug Ronson

Author of “The Essential Guide for Host Families”



# Working with Minors/Juniors & Conflict Resolution

Jennifer Wilson

Managing Director

Canada Homestay Network



# **Student Safety – A Police Perspective**

Constables Dale Sleightholm & Jan Malinoski  
Victoria Police Department

# Resources Discussed

- Languages Canada Accreditation Standards  
<http://www.orioncan.com/documents/LCS01%20QA%20Scheme%20Standards%20Rev%20May%202015.pdf>
- BC Public Safety – Protecting Children (under 19's)  
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/protecting-children/reporting-child-abuse>
- Mental Health First Aid Canada  
<http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.ca/>