



HIPC Seeks Members for New Committees

Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) is a community table housed within the City of Hamilton and funded by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada. With partners from various sectors – including settlement, education, business, health, social services, and persons with lived experience – we work together to create a welcoming community with relevant and accessible services.

HIPC member organizations collaborate on projects and engage in advocacy to support local settlement and integration. Most members represent a partner organization, but HIPC also holds space for individuals with lived experience of immigration. For more information, please visit our website at www.HamiltonImmigration.ca

HIPC is launching three new committees and seeks members.

HIPC Committees

HIPC undertakes the implementation of its [community plan \(2025-2028\)](#) predominantly through the work of its committees and working groups. The impact statement of the community plan is: “Hamilton is a welcoming community where newcomers have a positive settlement experience and feel a sense of belonging.” This plan focuses on three strategies:

1. **Welcome**,
2. **Settle**, and
3. **Belong**.

Each strategy is supported by a committee, with outcomes, focus areas, and activities listed below.

Committee members serve a three-year term, lasting until the community plan is completed in March 2028.

WELCOME COMMITTEE

This committee will identify and implement collaborative activities that aim to ensure
a) newcomers feel welcomed and connected to services they need, and
b) service providers and other community members have greater skills and capacity to meet newcomer needs.

Focus areas and activities:

- Information access and coordination:
 - Conduct research on immigrant experiences
 - Identify gaps and improve access to settlement services for newcomers across permanent and non-permanent status
- A welcoming culture:
 - Advocate for and promote a welcoming culture
- Responding to the unexpected:
 - Ensure accessible, trauma-informed legal services and tailored public legal education sessions
 - Convene relevant partners to discuss emerging challenges and identify next steps, while coordinating supports and resources in times of crisis.

Potential projects:

- Hamilton Immigrant Survey
- Hamilton Newcomer Day (annual)
- Welcoming Week Information Fair (annual)
- Directory of services for newcomers
- Legal education sessions
- Emerging issues response coordination

Ideal candidates include individuals from the following sectors or organizations:

- Non-profit organizations beyond settlement
- Informal networks
- Settlement service providers
- Postsecondary
- Police/Emergency Services
- Communications/Media
- Public Library
- Francophone
- Other interested community leaders/members

SETTLE COMMITTEE

This committee will identify and implement collaborative activities that aim to ensure

- a) newcomers have greater access to appropriate services,
- b) employers are more equipped to hire and retain newcomers, and
- c) service providers offer more appropriate and accessible services.

Focus areas and activities:

- Employment:
 - Promote the benefits of immigration and support employer hiring and retention of newcomers.
 - Share research and resources on newcomer employment, IDEA (inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility) practices, and workplace rights.
- Language and education:
 - Strengthen partnerships with schools, language providers, and post-secondary institutions.
- Healthcare:
 - Deliver culturally safe and trauma-informed health care.
- Housing and affordability:
 - Advocate about newcomer housing and shelter needs and provide up-to-date resources.

Potential projects:

- Hamilton Employers Hire Immigrants campaign and website
- Guide to finding housing for newcomers
- Newcomer-friendly resources and holding workshops around workplace rights, tenant rights etc.,
- Advocating for trauma-informed healthcare or bridging programs for internationally trained healthcare professionals
- Settlement sector community of practice

Ideal candidates include individuals from the following sectors or organizations:

- Settlement service providers
- Employers
- Chamber(s) of Commerce
- School boards
- Health
- Postsecondary
- Municipal government (Economic Development, Housing Services, Housing Secretariat)
- Non-profit organizations beyond settlement (focused on housing, health, and employment)
- Francophone
- Other interested community leaders/members

BELONG COMMITTEE

This committee will identify and implement collaborative activities that aim to ensure
a) newcomers feel celebrated, included, and safe, and
b) other community members work actively to counter hate and discrimination, valuing newcomer leadership and contributions.

Focus areas and activities:

- Anti-discrimination:
 - Advocate on issues and raise awareness of discrimination and hate that newcomers face.
 - Coordinate and host inclusion campaigns, events, and relationship building among newcomers, across cultural differences, and the host population.
- Public spaces:
 - Incorporate a newcomer lens into the creation and renovation of city assets and advocate for more events/spaces to connect newcomers and enhance their civic participation.
- Inclusion:
 - Engage the broader community in implementing the activities of this plan.

Potential projects:

- Hamilton For All campaign
- Anti-racism and anti-oppression workshops
- Resources on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA)
- HIPC annual events
- Resources to tackle anti-immigrant sentiment
- Newcomer-friendly resources on civic participation
- Service Provider Organization (SPO) Day events

Ideal candidates include individuals from the following sectors or organizations:

- Non profit organizations beyond settlement (focused on anti-hate, anti-discrimination, civic engagement)
- Municipal government (Public Works, Healthy and Safe Communities)
- Informal networks
- Police/Emergency Services
- Communications/Media
- Public Library
- Francophone
- Other interested community leaders/members

Each committee will adhere to the following four inclusion principles:

- Working collectively to realize the impact that we envision
- Leveraging newcomer leadership
- Centring newcomer lived experience, especially equity-deserving groups
- Working from an anti-racism and anti-oppression lens, promoting education and recognition of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as it relates to Indigenous and Francophone communities

We are looking for committee members who are passionate about empowering newcomers and have a combination of the following criteria:

- Knowledge of immigration and settlement issues
- Experience in working collaboratively and in partnerships
- Experience in helping implement projects and undertaking project-based activities and tasks
- Demonstrated community leadership
- Lived experience of immigration

Requirements and expectations of HIPC committee members:

- Capacity to attend and contribute to quarterly meetings (4 per year) and as required for project-based activities
- Capacity to contribute to specific project-based activities and tasks within established timelines
- Adherence to principles of anti-racism and anti-oppression
- Work towards HIPC's vision as individuals and through their organizations
- Professionals and members of the community with an informed perspective who embrace the benefits of a vibrant diverse population
- Understanding and commitment to the principles of partnership and collaboration as a means to effect positive change
- Value the multi-faceted role that immigrants play in contributing to Hamilton's growth and prosperity
- Connection across the community and ability to bring a community-wide lens
- Engage others with respect and diplomacy, and willing to explore new ways to bridge differences, and solve problems

How to Apply

If you are interested in becoming a member of one of the above committees, please complete the online form, [click here](#).

Deadline: Applications must be received by **4:00pm on April 25, 2025**.

If you require further information, please contact Sarah Wayland at 905-546-2424 ext 7565 or sarah.wayland@hamilton.ca