



Hamilton Immigration  
Partnership Council

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024







The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) is a community table that seeks to create a seamless settlement experience for immigrants in Hamilton.

With partners from various sectors – including settlement, education, business, health, social services, municipal affairs – and strong representation of persons with lived immigration experience, we work together to create a welcoming community with relevant and accessible services for all.

HIPC was established in 2009 as one of Canada's first local immigration partnerships, a network that has now spread across the country and includes more than 80 similar local tables.

## WORKING TOWARDS COLLECTIVE IMPACT

HIPC's strategic plan for the period 2021-2025 works towards a collective impact goal: By 2025, 80% of newcomers will have a successful settlement experience and feel a sense of belonging in Hamilton.

Stay tuned for HIPC's new Community Plan that will build on the discussions and recommendations from our March 2024 Community Forum.

## Recent Immigration to Hamilton



Immigration has been increasing nationally and locally over the past several years. In 2023, Hamilton admitted over 5,800 immigrants, twice as many as in 2015.

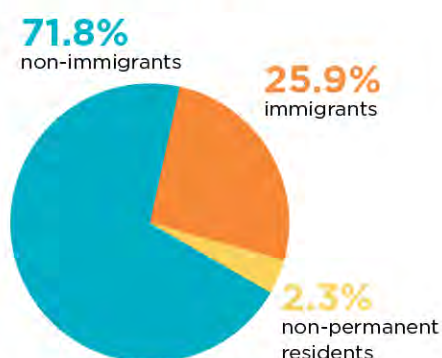


### FAST FACTS:

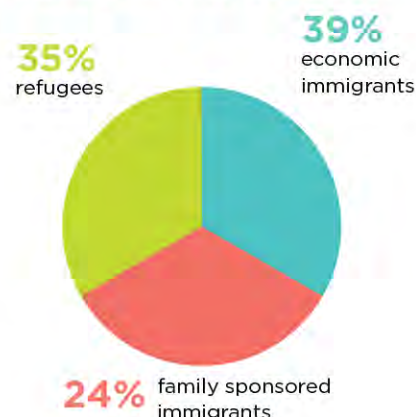
Based on 2021 census, almost 26% of Hamilton's population are immigrants and 2.3% are non-permanent residents, including international students, temporary foreign workers and refugee claimants.

Among recent immigrants in Hamilton (arrived in Canada 2016-2021), almost 4 in 10 are economic immigrants, over one-third are refugees, and about one-fourth are family sponsored immigrants.

### POPULATION



### RECENT IMMIGRANTS



### Operating Principles

- Advocating for the basic needs of newcomers
- Leveraging immigrant leadership and the inclusion of newcomer voices
- Working through an anti-racism and anti-oppression lens

### Strategic Priorities

- Economic Stability
- Social Inclusion
- Community Engagement

All strategic priorities are evaluated and measured by HIPC's Evaluation Committee.

## Message from the Chair



We live in challenging times. Canada is experiencing an affordability crisis around basic needs, including housing, and many are feeling the pinch, financially. Newcomers -- who often start their lives in Canada on the lower end of the income spectrum and face numerous barriers in the labour market -- are particularly vulnerable.

Despite these challenges, we are hopeful that working together in new ways will position us to positively

impact the lives of those we serve -- and ultimately make Hamilton a more welcoming and inclusive city for all.

In my short time as HIPC Chair, it has been important to draw attention to the needs of newcomers – including asylum seekers – and to work with all stakeholders towards having much-needed services and programs in place to support them. HIPC provides a table where various community leaders and organizations gather to share what they see on the ground and to strategize about how we can work collectively to help newcomers get the best start they deserve. This newcomer-focused collective voice is HIPC's value proposition.

This report outlines many of the key initiatives taken by HIPC in the past year, including our inaugural Immigrant Survey, results from which will help guide our strategic direction. HIPC models community listening, and we will continue to respond to emerging needs in Hamilton in a way that is innovative, collaborative, and empowering.

Thank you to the HIPC staff team and to the many organizations and community leaders who contribute to making our council responsive, effective, and accountable.

Terri Bedminster  
HIPC Chair

## HIPC MEMBERSHIP

HIPC is comprised of a Council led by a Chair and Vice Chair, four Committees each led by a Chair or Co-Chairs, and ad hoc Working Groups. A Secretariat of three staff supports the implementation of HIPC projects and events.

HIPC's membership includes a diversity of organizations and sectors, each with a vested interest in immigration and settlement in Hamilton.

- 32 Members
- 44 Committee and working group members
- 50+ Event volunteers
- 14 Sectors
- 26 Organizations
- 50% of individual members have lived the experience of immigration

- Several Working Groups created for multi-layered HIPC projects and events, resettlement response teams and anti-racism



# Year in Review



**HIPC ANNUAL EVENT**  
MARCH 2023

**HIPC MEMBER TOUR OF FAMILY SHELTER**  
AUGUST 2023

**AFRO JAZZ FEST**  
SEPTEMBER 2023

**NEWCOMER DAY**  
MAY 2023

**HIPC CABLE 14 PROGRAM**  
Refugees in Hamilton:  
Resettled & Resilient  
MAY 2023

**OPEN STREETS**  
JUNE 2023

**NEWCOMER INFORMATION FAIR**  
SEPTEMBER 2023

**CONNECT TO CAREERS JOB FAIR**  
MARCH 2024





# Hamilton's 2023 Immigrant Survey

HIPC conducted a large survey of immigrants in Hamilton.

About 700 immigrants participated in the survey and shared their experiences, challenges, needs, and contributions to the community. The survey covered many topics including housing, income, employment, service use, sense of belonging, discrimination and more.

The survey was open to anyone born outside Canada. Participants represented the diversity of the immigrant population in Hamilton.

IMMIGRATION CATEGORY	TIME IN CANADA	RACIALIZED STATUS
32% refugees	74% newcomers (arrived in Canada in the past five years)	87% racialized
18% international students	13% arrived 6-10 years ago	20% identifying as Latin American
17% family sponsored immigrants	14% arrived more than 10 years ago	14% Arab
14% economic immigrants		13% South Asian
8% Ukrainian temporary residents		12% Black
6% temporary foreign workers		12% West Asian
4% refugee claimants		
FAITH	GENDER & AGE	EDUCATION
33% identified as Christian	55% women	74% had at least a BA degree
27% Muslim	75% core working age (25-54)	65% were employed
7% Hindu		
25% as not belonging to a faith group		
TOP FIRST LANGUAGES		
50 different first languages. Most common ones were Spanish, Arabic, English and Persian		
66% spoke English well		



Some major findings from *Immigrant Voices: Hamilton Immigrant Survey 2023 Report*:

**Housing**

About 4 in 10 participants said their **housing was unaffordable**.

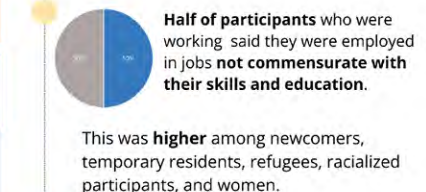
Housing unaffordability was higher among newcomers, racialized immigrants, refugee claimants, international students and Ukrainian temporary residents.



**Income and Employment**

About 7 in 10 participants said their **income was not sufficient** for their needs.

Refugees, international students and newcomers were most likely to report their income was inadequate.



**Services Used**

The most frequently used services were **public transit, health, education, and recreation** across all groups of immigrants.

## What immigrants said ...

### Well-being Indicators

About **one-third** of participants were very satisfied with their lives.

Family class immigrants reported the **highest satisfaction** among all groups of immigrants.

About 7 in 10 participants reported a **strong sense of belonging** in Hamilton.

**48%** of participants said Hamilton was a very welcoming community toward immigrants.

About 7 in 10 participants described their **settlement experience** as "good" or "excellent".

**34%** of participants reported experiencing **discrimination** in the past year.

Refugees, racialized individuals, and long-term immigrants were most likely to report discrimination.

**35%** of participants said they felt very isolated in the past year. This was **substantially higher** among international students, newcomers and racialized immigrants.

### Community Contributions

Around **one-quarter** of participants said they were volunteering or donating to charities.

**ON EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES:**

The impossibility of working in my field, doing what I know to do best, just because I still do not have the Canadian registration and this is really hard to get here.

**ON HOUSING:**

We are a family of 7 and renting a 3-bedroom house with very high rent rate and I have applied to the City Housing market price option for more than 3 years and didn't get any offers [as] the City Housing wait is more than 10 years."

The housing costs in Hamilton are unbelievably high and they increase every year significantly.

**ON SENSE OF BELONGING:**

Me and my family settled in Hamilton 10 years ago, and as I grew up here. I've learnt a lot and got connected to the communities and programs that was being offered. Overtime Hamilton has become a place of safety and welcoming. It helped me grow and achieve a lot of opportunities.

**ON COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS:**

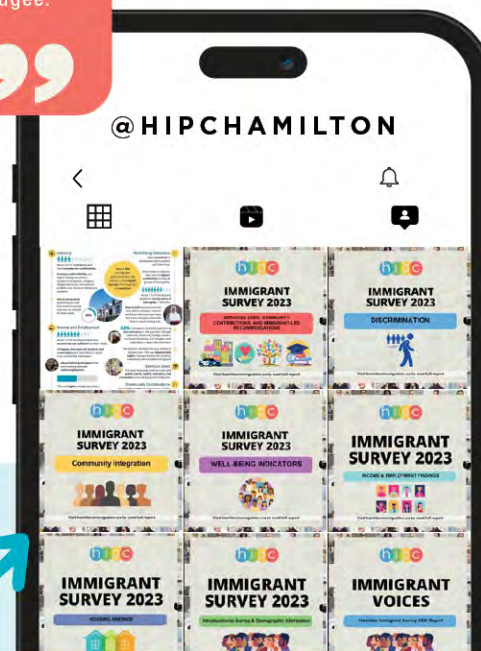
I have worked as a volunteer for different organizations in the city and for more than ten years ... looking to provide as much support to people no matter the age, status, religion etc. I love to give as much as I can because it's just a little bit of [what] I got when I came as a refugee.

### How have we shared the report?

- Presentations of findings
- Released full and summary reports
- Social media campaign
- Featured in Hamilton Spectator and Global News
- Ongoing work with CityLAB students to develop report on sense of belonging

For more in-depth fact of the 2023 Immigrant Survey, please visit [www.hamiltonimmigration.ca](http://www.hamiltonimmigration.ca).

Check out our infographics @HIPCHamilton on X & IG





# Hamilton For All Campaign

In response to concerns about growing incidences of hate and intolerance, HIPC partnered with the City of Hamilton, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, No Hate in the Hammer, and the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion on Hamilton For All, a public education campaign that launched on June 29, 2023 with a moving event attended by about 200 people. Hamilton For All envisions community-wide change through greater inclusivity and encourages conversations among Hamiltonians to unlearn assumptions about people who are different. Widely regarded as a success in the community, this campaign also received coverage by the Hamilton Spectator and TVO.

**THE BELONGING PLEDGE:** A commitment to be part of a movement for change, take a stand against hate in all its forms, and take action to nurture an inclusive Hamilton. Sign the “Belonging Pledge” today, as an individual or on behalf of an organization.



**DOWNLOAD MORE THAN 20 DIFFERENT POSTERS FROM THE HAMILTON FOR ALL WEBSITE!**



# Community Forum 2024

From critical discussions to insightful ideas, our March 1 Community Forum allowed diverse voices to gather together to envision the way forward for HIPC and our community partners. Facilitated by the Centre for Community Based Research, HIPC’s Community Forum was the first step towards the creation of a new community plan that will launch in 2025. Discussions were informed by initiatives undertaken by HIPC from 2022-2023, with an emphasis on the findings from the 2023 Immigrant Survey, but community members were also encouraged to bring forward pressing issues and challenges that they would like HIPC to consider.

## NEXT STEPS FOR HIPC:

- Input collected from forum participants will be discussed by the HIPC council.
- HIPC will be sharing the summary report with the public through our newsletter, social media platforms, and website.





COMMUNICATIONS

HIPC stays highly active on several platforms to keep the newcomer and greater Hamilton community informed on all things immigration.

Primary channels include HIPC’s email newsletter and HIPC social media marketing channels.



360

new followers

60+

posts

19k

people reached



100+

tweets


45k+

impressions

ImmPress

IMMIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT IN HAMILTON, BROUGHT TO YOU BY HIPC





40+

new subscribers

20+

issues

46%

open rate

2

new issue sections

HIPC Eats in #HamOnt, and From Bookshelf to Big Screen

SUBSCRIBE

ImmPress by visiting [www.hamiltonimmigration.ca](http://www.hamiltonimmigration.ca)

FOLLOW US

 @HIPCHamilton

Upcoming Projects



ONLINE DIRECTORY OF NEWCOMER SERVICES

HIPC worked with local service provider organizations to create an online directory of newcomer services. This directory connects newcomers to organizations, services and programs that help them in various aspects of their settlement journey, from language training and employment to recreation and volunteering.

The directory will soon be available in multiple languages at [www.NewcomersInHamilton.ca](http://www.NewcomersInHamilton.ca)

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF IMMIGRANTS IN HAMILTON

Building on its mandate to share knowledge of local immigration trends, HIPC will publish a demographic profile of immigrants in Hamilton based on census 2021 data. This report will present data on socio-demographic characteristics of both established and recent immigrants in the city.

The report will be available on HIPC’s website at [www.HamiltonImmigration.ca](http://www.HamiltonImmigration.ca).

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS WORKSHOP SERIES

In partnership with Solidarity Place and the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, the Employee Rights Workshop Series will take place in early Spring 2024.



SAVE the DATE

NEWCOMER DAY

An annual free event held by in May that welcomes newcomers to Hamilton, helps them understand and access a wide range of services, and celebrates their contributions.

Visit our website to stay informed of all event updates.  
[www.hamiltonnewcomerday.ca](http://www.hamiltonnewcomerday.ca)

We hope to see you there!

Acknowledgments

HIPC thanks our dedicated council, committee members, and working group members, without whom we could not accomplish anything. Our success is rooted in our collective efforts towards improving newcomer lives!

Abir Alsaid	YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford	Lily Lumsden	YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford
Ali Jafri	RBC	Lina El Ali	Wesley
Allison Stockton-Aird	Hamilton Public Library	Luc Bonaventure Ayité Amoussou	Collège Boréal
Amanda Sim	McMaster University	Maisie Raymond-Brown	YWCA Hamilton
Amy Zhang	Workforce Planning Hamilton	Mary Crea	Community Leader
Anni Kelly	Immigrants Working Centre	Medora Uppal	YWCA Hamilton
Caitlin Craven	Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion	Nabila Sissaoui	Réseau en immigration francophone du CSO
Cheryl Stepan	Hamilton Spectator	Nancy Hu	Community Leader
Colleen Hynes	Service Canada	Nilofar Yousof	Halton Multicultural Council
David Hennick	Hamilton Police Service	Noura Afify	speqtrum Hamilton in partnership with the YWCA
David Quezada	Community Leader	Olive Wahoush	McMaster University
Deborah Schwientek	YWCA Hamilton	Paul Takala	Hamilton Public Library
Elena Lazar	Ukrainian-Canadian Congress (Hamilton Chapter)	Rami Safi	Community Leader
Elham Bakri	Immigrants Working Centre	Rana Aldibs	YWCA Hamilton
Elizabeth Webb	Hamilton Community Foundation	Rashed Afif	Wesley
Erin Carr	Solidarity Place Worker Education Centre	Rosemary Aswani	Immigrants Working Centre
Fariha Ali	YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford	Sandra Scime	Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board
Grace Baldwin	Good Shepherd Family Centre	Sandra Valerie	Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
Grace Maciak	City of Hamilton Ontario Works Division	Sara Mayo	Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
Hyelnaya Wurunti	RBC	Sarah Harvie	Mohawk College
Jenna Nieman	Goodwill Amity	Suad Badri	Community Leader
Jennie Hamilton	Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee	Sue Connell	Hamilton Public Health Service
Jennifer Patterson	City of Hamilton - Economic Development Division	Tehreem Zafar	YWCA Hamilton
Joana Fejzaj	Empowerment Squared	Terri Bedminster	Refuge Newcomer Health
Khadija Hamidu	Workforce Planning Hamilton	Vinos Haidary	Afghan Association of Hamilton
Kim Martin	Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton	Violetta Nikolskaya	YWCA Hamilton
Koubra Haggar	Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion	Wasan Mohamad	Immigrants Working Centre
Larry Huibers	Housing Help Centre for Hamilton and Area	Yudara Bernard Weerakoon	Community Leader
		Zarema Mammadova	Mohawk College

HIPC thanks more than 50 event and survey volunteers!

FUNDER: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

SPONSOR: City of Hamilton

HIPC SECRETARIAT: Sarah Wayland, Mohammad Araf, Natasha Martinez, Sara Qazimllari (Summer Program Assistant)





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Partnership Council**



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