

Supporting Immigrants in your Community – What Can Residents Do?

Learn more

- Learn more about immigration
 - Check out ISANS' [Better Together – Introduction to Immigration](#)
 - Check out Immigration Matters <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/campaigns/immigration-matters.html>
- Diversify your news sources
- Learn a new language
- Attend a Diversity workshop or a training on Inter-Cultural Awareness
 - [Check out ISANS' one day introductory Building Intercultural Competence workshop](#)
 - [Check out ISANS' train-the trainer Welcome Ambassador Program](#)

Welcome and get to know newcomers

- Support a local small business run by an immigrant. Check out ISANS' Immigrant Marketplace App on [Google Play Store](#) and [Apple App Store](#)
- Invite a newcomer family over for supper
- Volunteer to support newcomers
 - [Check out ISANS' many volunteer roles](#)

Take a lead in your community

- Challenge racist remarks – in your home, workplace, place of worship (is there a resource we can refer people to?)
- Host a diversity lunch at your workplace & invite a newcomer to speak
- Host a welcoming event
 - [Check out Supper Nova Multicultural Potluck as an example](#)

Check out Promising Practices

Partnering with local libraries – Pictou and Antigonish are cited as examples in the toolkit **Welcoming Immigrants and Refugees to Canada: The Role of Municipalities - Toolkit for Inclusive Municipalities in Canada and Beyond** (2019, page 19)

Resources for Municipalities

Strategies / Toolkits

Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities: [Welcoming Immigrants and Refugees to Canada: The Role of Municipalities - Toolkit for Inclusive Municipalities in Canada and Beyond](#) (2019)

Cities of Migration: [Immigrant Futures Toolkit for City Leaders](#) (2020)

Federation of Canadian Municipalities: [Starting On Solid Ground: The Municipal Role In Immigrant Settlement](#) (2011)

Statistics / Updates

- [2016 Census Data](#)
- [Canadian Government: Immigration Matters in Halifax 2019](#)

ISANS Resources

- [Better Together – Introduction to Immigration](#)
- [Onboarding Employer Toolkit](#)

Government of Canada Resources

- [Immigration Matters](#)

Immigration to Nova Scotia Statistics and Themes: September 2020

Immigration to Nova Scotia

Permanent Residents to Nova Scotia (Source: IRCC)

Year	Permanent Residents
2012	2342
2014	2670
2016	5485
2018	5970

Issues for Immigration at Municipal Level

Housing:

- Safe and affordable housing
- Rental accommodations for large families

Transportation

- Public transportation services
- Options for those with mobility issues

Community Resources

- Immigrant support services
- Cultural and religious community supports
- Policies and programs that build welcoming and diverse communities

Permanent resident voting rights in municipal elections:

- Proposed by Halifax Regional Council , waiting for provincial government response
<http://legacycontent.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/141202ca1133.pdf>
<http://legacycontent.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/151110ca1142.pdf>

Federal Policies for Immigration at Municipal Level

New Municipal Nominee Program

From the Federal Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada Mandate Letter for the Honourable Marco Mendicino

Introduce a Municipal Nominee Program that will allow local communities, chambers of commerce and local labour councils to directly sponsor permanent immigrants. At least 5,000 new spaces will be dedicated for this program.

[Read the full mandate letter here.](#)

From Canadian Liberal Party Platform 2019: Municipal Nominee Program

We will make it easier for communities to welcome the workers they need most.

While immigration benefits Canada as a whole, not every community – including those experiencing serious labour shortages – is able to make the most of the contributions new Canadians can bring.

To make sure that communities of all sizes are better able to attract and support new Canadians, we will move forward with a Municipal Nominee Program. This program will allow local communities, chambers of commerce, and local labour councils to directly sponsor permanent immigrants.

[Read the full platform here.](#)

Atlantic Immigration Pilot

The pilot helps employers in Atlantic Canada hire foreign skilled workers who want to immigrate to Atlantic Canada and international graduates who want to stay in Atlantic Canada after they graduate.

In Nova Scotia 1,150 companies are designated under the pilot from various sectors - food and hospitality, truck drivers, education, health care, computer programmers and fish and seafood are participating in the pilot, with a 60/40 split between Halifax and other areas of the province.

Read more about the Atlantic Immigration Pilot here:

- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Nova Scotia Office of Immigration](#)
- [ISANS](#)

From the Federal Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada Mandate Letter for the Honourable Marco Mendicino

You will also take the steps required to make the Atlantic Immigration Pilot permanent. At least 5,000 new spaces will be dedicated for this program.

[Read the full mandate letter here.](#)