

Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To make recommendations to City Council regarding policies, procedures and guidelines that address the needs and concerns of people who are immigrants or refugees. To do this based on one or more of the following areas of focus for this term:
- ◆ To explore Immigrant and Refugee Housing gaps, barriers and needs in the City of Hamilton.
- ◆ To explore Employment barriers and needs for Immigrants and Refugees in the City of Hamilton
- ◆ To explore Education barriers and needs for Immigrants and refugees in the city of Hamilton
- ◆ To partner with community services to provide an information day for immigrants and refugees.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ Formed working groups on Housing, Education, Employment and Open House (which then transformed to Newcomer Day)
- ◆ Invited and heard from presenters from various shelters in Hamilton regarding the increase in access and extended stays in shelters by newcomers. Discussion, statistics and findings can be found in I & R Volunteer Advisory Committee Meeting minutes for February 8, 2018.
- ◆ Invited presentation from *JVN Development* about their financially accessible homeownership condominium build.
- ◆ Heard presentation from HIPC and formed partnerships to address Immigrant and Refugee needs.
- ◆ Provided feedback on the Equity Toolkit
- ◆ Partnered with the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council to plan and execute Hamilton Newcomer Day occurring Summer of 2018
- ◆ Based on information discovered through working group's research and guest presentations, agreed, as a committee, to focus on "housing" as the topic for recommendations to City Council.

FUTURE GOALS

- ◆ To continue to explore issues that affect Immigrants and Refugees in the City of Hamilton
- ◆ To formally advise Council on immigrant and refugee housing needs based on information collected.
- ◆ To explore opportunities to achieve quorum regularly: including but not limited to childminding funding for committee members, and looking at acceptable solutions to eliminate poor attendance as the limiting factor to advancing objectives and the work of the Committee.
- ◆ To look at Committee mandate in new term and ensure the mandate is clear and outcome focused.