



Hamilton Immigration  
Partnership Council



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-2023

[hamiltonimmigration.ca](https://hamiltonimmigration.ca)  
[@HipcHamilton](https://twitter.com/HipcHamilton)

# Hamilton Immigration at a Glance

The new 2021 census shows that Canada has the largest proportion of immigrants in the population since Confederation, with immigration projected to increase.

Nearly one-quarter of Canada's total population is made up of immigrants, with Hamilton's proportion of immigrants remaining higher than the national average.

## FAST FACTS:

**26%** of Hamilton's population are immigrants

**20,000+** immigrants arrived in Hamilton from 2016-2021

**1 in 4** immigrants were international students, temporary foreign workers or refugee claimants before becoming permanent residents



**39%** are economic immigrants

**24%** are family-sponsored immigrants

**35%** are refugees

### Top source countries of recent immigrants:

India, Syria, Philippines, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, USA, and China

The proportion of non-permanent residents has nearly doubled since the 2016 census

**1 in 8** people in Hamilton predominantly speak a language other than English or French at home

Hamilton is a beneficiary of secondary migration from other parts of Canada, and from the Greater Toronto Area in particular

## About

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 approved a strategic plan for the period 2021-2025 and continues to work towards this collective impact goal: By 2025, 80% of newcomers will have a successful settlement experience and feel a sense of belonging in Hamilton.

#### 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.

### 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

 **15+** Sectors

 **28** 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

For more in-depth facts and analysis of recent immigration trends, visit: [www.hamiltonimmigration.ca](http://www.hamiltonimmigration.ca)



# Measuring Results

## HIPC YEARLY EVALUATIONS

In 2022, HIPC conducted a partner survey targeting individuals and organizations who have been involved in HIPC's Council, Committees, and Working Groups. This multi-purpose survey helped HIPC better understand how its work is perceived by its membership and to identify areas of short-term focus.

Portion of HIPC partners surveyed who agreed or strongly agreed that HIPC is doing well in these areas:

**100%**

raising awareness about services newcomers can access, supporting research on access to services, facilitating conversations and dialogues to promote community engagement among newcomers and service providers, and supporting the local response to the Ukrainian arrivals.

**95%**

advocating for the basic needs of newcomers.

**92%**

holding public-facing events to celebrate diversity, supporting community initiatives promoting anti-racism and anti-oppression, and developing resources focused on promoting the contributions of immigrants.

**90%**

leveraging immigrant leadership.

# Message from the Chair



Every year brings new challenges, but we can always count on immigrants and refugees arriving in search of safety, shelter, and opportunities. HIPC provides a unique table in Hamilton, and the work is important, even if often taking place out of the public eye. Over the past year in particular, HIPC initiatives supported incoming Afghans and Ukrainians by

convening and participating in coordinating tables that included various sectors and ethnocultural associations. In November, HIPC's Program Officer Araf and I co-presented this Hamilton model to the Pathways to Prosperity national immigration conference in Ottawa. This was a highlight of the year, along with meeting the prime minister as part of a Ukrainian welcome event last spring.

As someone with lived experience of immigration, it has been particularly special to hold the position of Chair this year. I am grateful to have been able to grow my connections with so many dedicated people working to help newcomers, and I wish our incoming chair Claudio Ruiz all the best as he takes on this role. The HIPC staff team deserves great thanks and respect for their dedication and enthusiasm.

Rashed Afif  
HIPC Chair

# Responding to the Community

HIPC continues to respond to the ongoing emergency needs of the most vulnerable in our local community. In response to larger-scale arrivals from Afghanistan beginning in 2021 and Ukraine in 2022, the HIPC team convened and continues to work with key stakeholders to organize, strategize and create resources to best support these individuals and communities.

## SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIAN NEWCOMERS

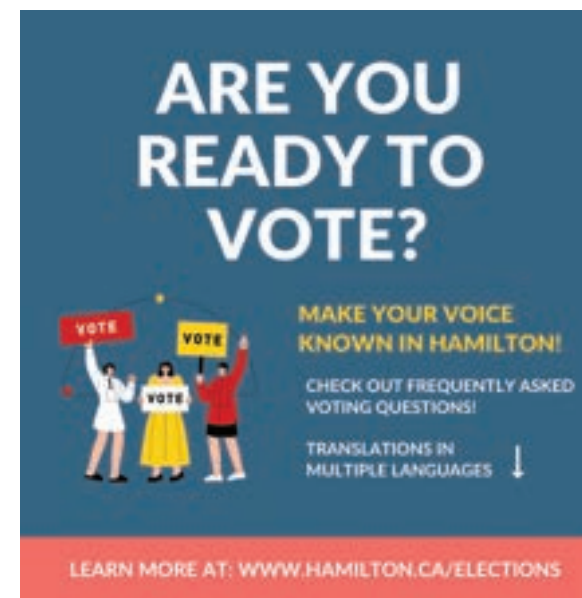
HIPC convened key community stakeholders in March 2022 to discuss a coordinated local response to the arrival of Ukrainian newcomers, eventually leading to the development of the Mayor's Advisory Committee for the Ukrainian Humanitarian Response.

The HIPC team supported the City of Hamilton's emergency response to Ukrainian arrivals, attended several welcome sessions, created and shared resources with important settlement information.



## ELECTION ENGAGEMENT

HIPC promoted multilingual resources ahead of the municipal election on social media (Instagram, Twitter) and in the biweekly ImmPress newsletter to help engage and educate newcomers on the importance of voting.



## WELCOMING AFGHAN REFUGEES

Building off the work started in 2021, Hamilton Afghan (Re) settlement Taskforce (HART) led by HIPC continued to meet regularly in 2022 to exchange information, identify needs and find solutions to best support Afghan arrivals. Dedicated welcome and information guide for Afghans was published, shared and regularly updated based on new local and federal news.

## HOUSING

Building on HIPC's mandate to advocate for the basic needs of newcomers, HIPC offered an opportunity for its members to learn more about the City of Hamilton's role in affordable housing spaces and to dialogue about the current housing needs of newcomers. The discussion led by the City of Hamilton Housing Services staff helped members to create a common base understanding of housing, the role of municipal government, and newcomer housing situations.





# Elevating Local Voices and Experiences

## NEWCOMER WALKING TOURS

As part of the 2022 Newcomer Week line-up, the HIPC team organized several in-person walking tours to introduce newcomers to downtown Hamilton and all its offerings. Attendees came from Afghanistan, Ukraine, Colombia, Venezuela, Syria, Japan, China, Iran, France, Ivory Coast. Some participants had only been in Canada for three weeks!



## WELCOME TO CANADA

For Canada Day 2022, the HIPC staff team was able to bring a group of new immigrants and refugees to their first Hamilton Tiger-Cats game. Along with lots of introductions to Hamilton, Canadian sports, recreation and more, it was an honour to stand alongside newcomers opening up the Canadian flag as an onset to the big game.



## STORIES OF MIGRATION AND BELONGING

After the success of HIPC's first museum exhibition Stories of Migration and Belonging, created in partnership with Hamilton Civic Museums, HIPC is launching a sequel. This exhibition highlights the diverse range of settlement experiences in Hamilton by spotlighting the stories of six Hamilton immigrants through video, photos, and storytelling. From Len who arrived from Italy as a boy in 1947 to Alyna who just arrived in 2022, each person has their own compelling story to share.



## Showcasing Immigration on a Grand Scale



### NATIONAL IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE

The HIPC team represented Hamilton at several key immigration events including Canada's largest immigration conference - Pathways to Prosperity - where the team led a keynote presentation and facilitated two workshops.



Immigration Minister Sean Fraser addresses conference.

## Addressing Hate in Hamilton

### HAMILTON FOR ALL - CAMPAIGN PLANNING

With growing concern for our city's future, HIPC teamed up with Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre (HARRC), Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, No Hate in the Hammer, and City of Hamilton to plan the launch of a new community-based initiative to raise awareness and build capacity against discrimination of all kinds. Building off of previous campaigns, Hamilton for All 2023 aims to reflect the needs of several diverse groups in Hamilton.

In 2022, the planning team...

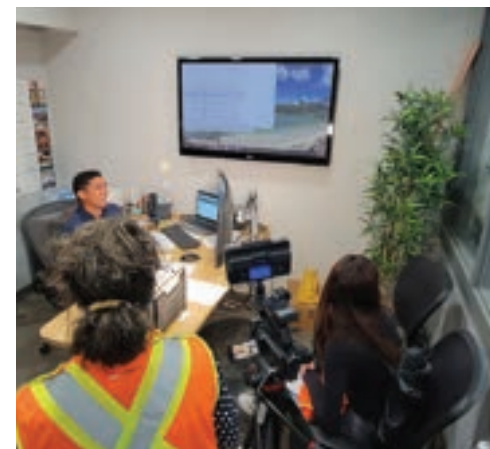
- Facilitated community focus groups with newcomers, Muslims, racialized communities, and others
- Synthesized these findings into a summary report with recommendations to shape the campaign's objectives and methods
- Formed a campaign steering committee with committed members who meet biweekly
- Campaign launch with events, anti-hate resource toolkit, and wide-spread city-wide promotion will take place in 2023.



## Engaging Hamilton Employers

### HAMILTON EMPLOYERS HIRE IMMIGRANTS

Through its Economic Stability Committee, HIPC continues to engage and educate local employers about the opportunities and benefits associated with hiring and retaining newcomer talent. Hamilton Employers Hire Immigrants is a campaign and website created by HIPC that features labour market information, testimonials, and resources for employers interested in diversifying their organizations. As part of an ongoing campaign, HIPC produced several employer champion videos to promote immigrant employment, hosted several employer-facing webinars, and continues to connect Hamilton employers with the resources and connections they need to hire and retain employees.



[WEHIREIMMIGRANTS.CA](http://WEHIREIMMIGRANTS.CA)



**HAMILTON NEWCOMER WEEK 2022**  
WED, MAY 25 - FRIDAY, MAY 27

For event details and sign-up, visit: [www.hamiltonnewcomerweek.ca](http://www.hamiltonnewcomerweek.ca)

- 1. CONNECT YOUR BUSINESS TO LOCAL IMMIGRANT TALENT
- 2. GET INVOLVED IN HAMILTON'S UKRAINIAN RESPONSE
- 3. CITIZENSHIP AND BELONGING TALK WITH ELAMIN ABDELMAHMOUD
- 4. NEWCOMER DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS!

### NEWCOMER WEEK

HIPC's signature public event Newcomer Week marks the annual opportunity to engage and connect newcomers with the broader Hamilton community.

HIPC's 2022 hybrid event line-up included informative sessions for local employers and individuals looking to support Ukrainian arrivals as well as lively discussions with a national best-selling author. For in-person offerings, HIPC conducted its first-ever newcomer downtown walking tours.



## 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. Over the past year:

**20+**  
issues of the ImmPress newsletter were sent out to

**600+**  
subscribers with content written and curated by HIPC staff on a biweekly basis

**+** Newsletter subscribers increased by **20%** while maintaining the high average open rate of

**30%**

**@** HIPC upped its social media game in one short year, leading to a **20% increase** in followers and a

**60% increase** in engagement on Instagram.

## Information Sharing and Research

HIPC studies the needs of newcomers every year and continues to publish information related to Hamilton's demographics, labour market, economy, and settlement services.

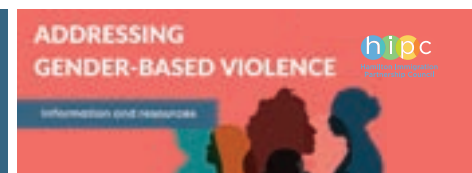
### 2022 PUBLICATIONS

	Migration and Mobility in Hamilton, 2007-2019 <i>(released February 2023)</i>
	Welcome and Information Guide <i>- in English, Ukrainian, Dari, Pashto</i>
	A Guide to Finding Housing in Hamilton <i>- in English, French, and Ukrainian</i>



### KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

HIPC shares and publishes infographic versions of research for general audiences, for example **What you should know about language diversity in Hamilton** and **What you should know about 2021 census immigration data**. HIPC also curates and disseminates timely resources related to the intersections between immigration and a wide range of following topics: **truth and reconciliation, Black history, gender-based violence, undocumented migrants, and more!**



### IMMIGRANT SURVEY - COMING SOON!

HAMILTON'S first immigrant survey will seek responses from 1000+ persons born outside Canada who now live, work or study locally – including permanent residents, Canadian citizens, refugees, temporary residents, refugee claimants, and international students aged 16+. Results will be shared to help improve services and living experiences. To be launched in 2023.

## Acknowledgments

2022-2023 accomplishments would not have been possible without the continued assistance and dedication of all those involved with the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council.

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**HIPC SECRETARIAT:** Sarah Wayland, Mohammad Araf, Natasha Hernandez



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