

EDMONTON NEWCOMER INCLUSION STRATEGY

More people are moving around the world than ever before. People move to new cities or countries for many reasons – often, to escape poverty, war, or natural disasters.

These moves take great courage, as people trade familiar landscapes and communities for the unknown. In these moves, we all want the same things: to live in peace, find

good work, meet our basic needs, and create a bright future for our families. We would all hope that there is a warm welcome for us at the end of such a journey.

Newcomers in Canada

Canada has long been known as a cultural mosaic. We are made strong and beautiful by our people's differences. One in four people living in Canada migrated here. We welcome more newcomers each year, and we know our country is better for it.

WHAT WE HEARD

"I would like to transition into a more professional job, but the opportunities are menial jobs. I feel like I'm not giving my best self, and I'm losing out. I'm using my hands, not my brain. I was a chemical engineer back home."

Of all the people who make Canada their new home, many choose to settle in Edmonton. The cost of living is lower than the country's other large cities, and we have diverse communities to help people feel at home. In Edmonton, we have one of the fastest-growing migrant populations of any major Canadian city. Therefore, we must make sure that we can help newcomers create a life here. Settling into a new country brings many challenges: getting a good job, finding safe and affordable housing, and meeting your day-to-day needs. It's difficult to navigate the city when everything is new to you.



A newcomer is someone who was born outside Canada and who migrated here within the last ten years. Their reasons for coming here are as varied as their cultural backgrounds, as are the resources they bring with them, and their family and employment contexts. All migrants bring cultural wealth, knowledge and skills that benefit all Canadians.



How ELIP's Strategy Will Help Newcomers

The **Edmonton Local Immigration Partnership (ELIP)** is the city's largest collective of organizations and leaders from immigrant-serving and related sectors. ELIP's mission is to bring communities, organizations (including employers and all levels of government) and individuals together to co-create solutions to meet newcomers' hopes and needs.

WHAT WE HEARD

"It's really about empowering the newcomer vs. giving handouts."

Our vision is that Edmonton is a city that welcomes, enables, and nurtures newcomers to thrive and belong. To make our vision become a reality, we must come together to actively support newcomers. Therefore, ELIP presents this **Edmonton Newcomer Inclusion Strategy** to guide its work in finding solutions to the many challenges newcomers face, such as:

- Finding appropriate employment, housing, healthcare and education.

- Gaining opportunities for connection and cultural exchange.
- Feeling safe and secure, and knowing that they belong in our communities.

One of our goals in the Edmonton Newcomer Inclusion Strategy is to make sure that newcomers

have opportunities to make their voices heard. Newcomers need to be involved in discussions about policies, services, and decisions that affect them. The strategy includes plans to help newcomers understand the ways that they can actively participate in shaping their new home city.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

The ELIP Newcomer Inclusion Strategy has a multi-pronged approach with a number of priorities and desired outcomes. The priority areas of work include:

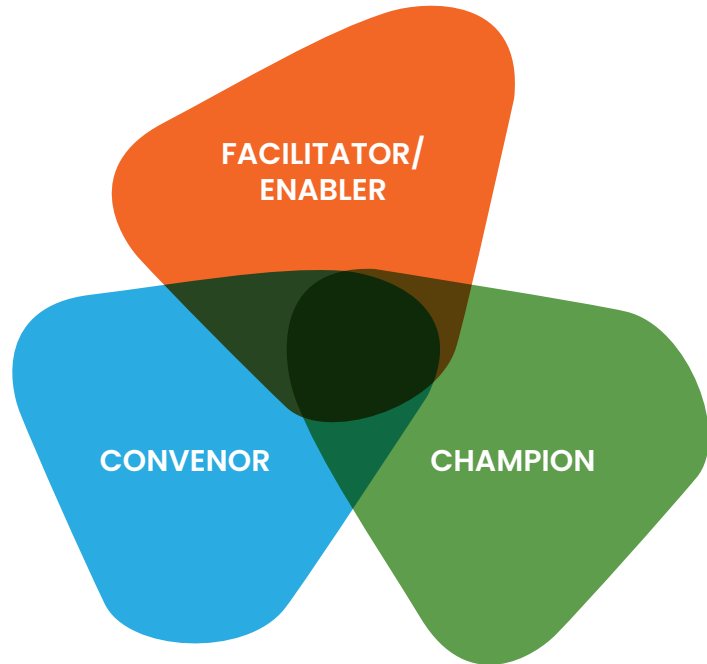
- **Advancing community voices to ensure newcomers are well-positioned to advocate for themselves and others**
- **Research with, for, and by the people**
- **Championing newcomer inclusion policies within our institutions**
- **Building an innovative newcomer inclusion resource hub**
- **Enhancing services for newcomers through collaboration and partnerships**
- **Shifting the narrative about newcomers and immigration**
- **Supporting Reconciliation and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples**

ELIP's Roles in the Strategy

ELIP has a broad understanding of the challenges and opportunities migrants face. We also have connections to those who work within government systems, on the frontlines, and in the community.

WHAT WE HEARD

"As a catalyst, ELIP must ensure that organizations and community leaders work together to offer tailored and relevant support to newcomers."



Therefore, in guiding the Edmonton Newcomer Inclusion Strategy, ELIP will take on three key roles: Convenor, Facilitator/Enabler, and Champion. As **Convenor**, ELIP will bring together (convene) those who work with newcomers to better understand issues and challenges, find solutions, and take action. As **Facilitator/Enabler**, ELIP will take action by making

connections with both systems and community, by organizing information, and by designing processes to address newcomers' challenges. As **Champion**, ELIP will lead in ensuring that issues affecting newcomers — and their solutions — are seen as important in Edmonton.

WHAT WE HEARD

"Service providers across all sectors are so busy doing the work and don't connect enough. [We] would like to see more participation of agencies to come together and have that voice."

The Edmonton Newcomer Inclusion Strategy

OUR VISION

Edmonton is a city that welcomes, enables and nurtures newcomers to thrive, prosper and belong in their new homeland.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

Enable and facilitate newcomers to bring their voices forward on decisions and actions that impact their lives in the city.

Create and facilitate opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and problem-solving among service providers, employers, community leaders and advocates to better serve newcomers.

Advocate for the wider recognition of migrants' cultural wealth and foster reconciliation building with Indigenous peoples.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Advance the community voice

Research with, for, and by the people

Build an innovative newcomer inclusion resource hub

Enhance services to newcomers through collaboration and partnerships

Champion newcomer inclusion policies

Shift the narrative about migrants as city builders

Support Reconciliation and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

ELIP ROLES

**FACILITATOR/
ENABLER**

CONVENOR

CHAMPION

Newcomers Are Part of Edmonton's Bright Future

Our communities, city, and country are better because of newcomers. New people bring fresh ideas and new ways of thinking. Our individual histories, especially difficult experiences, can be sources of knowledge and power. Often, newcomers have faced challenges that have made them stronger, smarter, and more capable. We can learn and grow from each other.

Newcomers' presence here is a gift.

As humans, we all deserve dignity, independence, and freedom. These rights should be reflected in our policies, services, and communities. The Edmonton Newcomer Inclusion Strategy will help our city reach its full potential as a welcoming, supportive new home for the people who settle here.

If you want to learn more about ELIP's Newcomer Inclusion Strategy, you can find the full document here: elip.ca/edmonton-data-and-stats



WHAT WE HEARD

"Newcomers see themselves as contributors — resources, skills and experiences."