



York Region's Local Immigration Partnership Initiative

IMMIGRATION SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

Through the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) initiative, The Regional Municipality of York is working with a broad cross-section of community stakeholders to develop a “made in York Region” Immigration Settlement Strategy. Through the Strategy, we have an opportunity to help guide how our communities develop so that we can adapt to demographic and economic change. The Strategy aims to help newcomers integrate into their communities both socially and economically. By achieving this, newcomer residents can help keep York Region economically vibrant and competitive.

Three reasons why immigration matters to York Region's businesses, local economy and our communities:

Newcomers are educated and highly skilled and can meet your needs in time of skilled labour shortages.

You have a better return on investment made on training and education since newcomers tend to be younger and may have longer work force retention.

⁴By 2031, it is projected that 55% of the region's population will be immigrants. By hiring people who reflect the customers you seek to attract, it is easier to develop your business and increase economic activity.

Underutilization of newcomers accounts for a loss of between \$4 to \$6 billion to the Canadian economy.

~ Conference Board of Canada, 2008

Immigration will be a key driver of York Region's economic growth

York Region's population is growing and rapidly diversifying. York Region's population increased from 931,874 in 2006 to 1,058,229 as of October, 2010². On average, 10,000 recent immigrants land directly in York Region each year representing about 32% of York Region's growth³.

New business and market development:

Immigrant population growth is important to the economic and cultural prosperity of York Region because it has created an increased and diverse demand for products and services. Businesses in York Region have opportunities to expand

their markets to address the needs of newcomers. These opportunities range from investments in venture capital resources for immigrant-owned businesses and for an evolving market for ethnically-themed entertainment, recreational and retail facilities.

The kind of spirit that drives newcomers to leave their home

countries and risk everything to begin again in Canada translates easily into entrepreneurial initiative. Newcomers traditionally open businesses such as restaurants and grocery stores, but today they are also starting construction companies, travel agencies, and a wide range of other enterprises.

¹Planning and Development Department, Regional Municipality of York

²Planning and Development Department, Regional Municipality of York

³Citizenship and Immigration Canada

York Region's Local Immigration Partnership initiative is funded by:



Citizenship and Immigration Canada

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Addressing skilled labour needs:

York Region’s employers will soon experience labour shortages due to the aging workforce. Twenty five per cent of York Region’s workforce will retire in the next five to 10 years. ⁴By 2011, it is estimated that immigration will account for 100% of Canada’s net labour force growth.

Global competitiveness:

At a time when Canada’s population is aging and is not naturally increasing, immigrants are critical to helping the region compete globally, grow economically and continue to be a vibrant community. Immigrants bring a wealth of assets – from professional degrees, diverse cultures and languages, and global networks – that are key factors in attracting global investments and expanding business opportunities.

Role of Employers



Employers are critical partners in building a community that is economically vibrant and draws on the skills and talents of all our residents. By doing this, there is a potential opportunity to create a competitive advantage for York Region employers. The next phase of the Local Immigration Partnership initiative will look at ways to engage employers in using the skills that immigrants bring to York Region.

If you would like to be involved in the implementation of the Immigration Settlement Strategy, or to learn more about hiring or engaging immigrants, email yrimmigrationpartnership@york.ca.

⁴Aging Workforce Study program, The Regional Municipality of York

The Community Partnership Council that works collaboratively with York Region includes the following cross-sectoral representatives:

The Regional Municipality of York	York Regional Police
Town of Markham	York Central Hospital
Town of Richmond Hill	York Region District School Board
City of Vaughan	York Catholic District School Board
Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC)	Conseil scolaire de district due Centre-Sud-Ouest
Catholic Community Services of York Region	United Way of York Region
COSTI Immigrant Services	Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Social Enterprise for Canada	Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
Centre for Information and Community Services of Ontario	Ontario Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities
Job Skills	Service Canada
Workforce Planning Board	
Ryerson University	

FACTS ABOUT IMMIGRANTS ACCORDING TO 2006 CENSUS DATA:

- About 47,000 recent immigrants arrived in York Region between 2001 and 2006.
- The majority of recent immigrants in York Region are of working age (53%).
- 60% of recent immigrants with a university degree are working in jobs that require less than a university degree.
- Recent immigrants have the highest proportion of people with either a bachelor’s degree or post-graduate degree (50%).
- In York Region, 80% of recent immigrant households are homeowners.
- Recent immigrants represent 6% of York Region’s labour market.
- The top five places where recent immigrants obtained post-secondary education outside of Canada are China, India, South Korea, Philippines and United States of America
- Recent immigrants in York Region were more represented in the fields of architecture, engineering and related technologies and in the fields of mathematics, computer and physical sciences.

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York Region Local Immigration PARTNERSHIP