



Report of the Commissioner of Community and Health Services

A Place to Thrive: York Region's 2024 to 2027 Plan for Newcomer Inclusion

1. Recommendations

1. Council approve A Place to Thrive: York Region's 2024 to 2027 Plan for Newcomer Inclusion (Attachment 1).
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report and attachment to the Clerks of local municipalities, Newcomer Inclusion Table of York Region, Human Services Planning Board of York Region, and York Region Municipal Diversity and Inclusion Group.

2. Purpose

In [April 2023](#), Council approved three priorities for A Place to Thrive: York Region's 2024 to 2027 Plan For Newcomer Inclusion (Plan for Newcomer Inclusion). This Report seeks Council approval of A Place to Thrive: York Region's 2024 to 2027 (Attachment 1).

Key Points:

- In [April 2023](#), Council approved the Framework for the York Region Newcomer Inclusion Plan (framework) to support the success of newcomers settling in York Region under three priority areas - Economic Prosperity, Social Inclusion and Healthy Communities
- York Region staff developed collective actions for each priority area in consultation with local municipalities, members of [Newcomer Inclusion Table of York Region](#) (formerly Community Partnership Council) and other community partners
- The recommended collective actions set out in Attachment 1 were endorsed by the Newcomer Inclusion Table in September 2023

- Bi-annual progress reports are planned for Q2 2025 and Q2 2027. An updated Plan for Newcomer Inclusion will be presented to Council for consideration in 2027
- A newcomer refers to permanent residents, refugees, or temporary residents (including students, workers, or temporary resident permit holders) who have been in Canada for less than five years.

3. Background

Immigration plays an important role in York Region's population growth and prosperity

According to recent census figures, recent immigrants who have been in Canada for less than five years and were admitted as permanent residents (economic migrants, sponsored family members, refugees designated for resettlement) represented more than 84% (53,495 out of 63,455) of York Region's population growth between 2016 and 2021. York Region also welcomes temporary residents, such as international students, foreign workers, those fleeing conflict, and asylum seekers, many of whom transition to permanent residency.

Given the scale and importance of newcomers to our population and workforce growth, successful inclusion of newcomers is a priority that will maintain and build York Region's vitality and prosperity.

York Region supports successful delivery and coordination of newcomer services through the federally funded Local Immigration Partnership

Since 2009, York Region has hosted a Local Immigration Partnership, a federally funded, community-based collaborative engaging local partners to support newcomer settlement and inclusion. Like other Local Immigration Partnerships hosted by municipal governments, the Region is funded to provide indirect services such as research, strategic planning and coordination of services. Direct services are provided by community agencies funded directly by the Provincial and/or Federal governments. A list of newcomer settlement service providers in York Region is provided in Appendix A.

A newcomer plan is a requirement of the Region's Local Immigration Partnership contract with the federal government. It is informed by the Newcomer Inclusion Table, comprised of Council-appointed members with representation from municipal government, settlement and employment services, workforce development, education, health, policing, housing and newcomer residents.

Partnership is critical for successful newcomer inclusion. A collective approach is needed as no one partner is accountable for all programs, services and policies related to this work.

The goal of the York Region’s Plan for Newcomer Inclusion is to support newcomers to succeed so York Region communities can thrive

The Plan for Newcomer Inclusion presents a vision for how we will collectively support newcomer health and well-being, build welcoming communities where everyone belongs, and promote equitable and prosperous economic pathways for diverse groups of newcomers.

All actions from the previous 2017-2021 York Region Newcomer Strategy were successfully achieved and outlined in the [April 2023](#) report. There was no newcomer plan for 2021 to 2024 as the Region and its partners focused on pandemic response efforts and new events, such as resettling individuals and families fleeing conflict. The updated Plan for Newcomer Inclusion considers and incorporates insights gained through these experiences and builds on what was learned through the 2017 to 2021 York Region Newcomer Strategy.

Council approved three priority areas for the 2024 to 2027 Plan – Economic Prosperity, Social Inclusion and Healthy Communities – as fundamental areas of effective newcomer settlement and inclusion. The updated Plan builds on the work of the previous strategy, such as promoting inclusive workplaces and strengthening social cohesion, while also adding a new priority area (Healthy Communities) that responds to a wider range of newcomer needs.

4. Analysis

Development of the Plan for Newcomer Inclusion was informed by further consultations following Council’s approval of the framework in April 2023

Following Council’s approval of the framework, further consultations with community partners, newcomer residents, Newcomer Inclusion Table members, and municipal and Regional staff resulted in developing 13 collective actions under the three priority areas (Attachment 1). The Newcomer Inclusion Table endorsed these collective actions in September 2023. Implementation activities and performance measures developed by staff are provided in Attachment 1.

Actions aim to complement existing efforts and improve local conditions for settlement and inclusion for diverse newcomers

These actions aim to leverage existing community investments and expertise and align with federal and provincial priorities. Actions also complement initiatives addressing complex challenges, such as responding to migrant influxes, the [10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan](#) (e.g., enhancing newcomers’ awareness of housing supports and their legal rights) and the [York Region Economic Development Action Plan 2024-2027](#) (e.g., promoting resources that help employers better engage newcomer talent).

Proposed actions consider diverse populations of newcomers, such as skilled immigrants, family-class migrants, refugees designated for resettlement, seniors, youth, international students, asylum seekers, newcomers experiencing low-income, and newcomers living with disabilities.

Staff will support implementation of the Plan for Newcomer Inclusion and monitor impact

Local Immigration Partnership staff will provide bi-annual progress reports in Q2 2025 and Q2 2027 and will:

- Support implementation by working with partners, including newcomers, local municipalities and service providers
- Monitor the implementation and impact of activities
- Monitor community-level indicators, demographic, socioeconomic and policy changes so the Plan for Newcomer Inclusion remains responsive to newcomers' needs

Working groups reporting to the Newcomer Inclusion Table supported development of the Plan for Newcomer Inclusion and will support its implementation. Collective actions for each priority area and related performance measures are set out in Attachment 1.

The Plan for Newcomer Inclusion supports York Region's Vision for strong, caring and safe communities

The Plan for Newcomer Inclusion's priority areas, objectives and collective actions align with other York Region strategies and plans, including [Vision](#) (Economic Vitality and Healthy Communities), the [Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region](#) (Community Well-Being, Community Safety, Mental Health, and Economic Stability), the York Region Economic Development Action Plan (business, innovation and talent) and the [Inclusion Charter for York Region](#)'s vision for a welcoming and inclusive community where everyone can reach their full potential.

5. Financial Considerations

Total gross expenditures in the 2024 approved operating budget for the Plan for Newcomer Inclusion are \$310,600. The federal government funds \$300,000 (97%) and the remaining \$10,600 (3%) is funded through tax levy.

Any cost impacts beyond 2024 will be addressed through the budget process as required.

Staff will continue to pursue opportunities to access senior government funding to address newcomers' needs.

6. Local Impact

York Region welcomes thousands of newcomers every year who choose to settle in our communities. As local municipalities deliver important programs and services to a diverse range of residents, including newcomers, continued engagement with local municipalities is important.

Engaging in areas such as economic development, community services, and diversity and inclusion will inform implementation of each action in the Plan for Newcomer Inclusion and support success.

7. Conclusion and Next Steps

Given the scale and importance of newcomers to our population and workforce growth, successful settlement, inclusion, health and well-being of newcomers are a priority for the Region's continued growth and prosperity. While immigration and support for immigrants fall under federal and provincial responsibility, settlement success also depends on the efforts of municipalities and community partners. Subject to Council approval, successful implementation of the Plan for Newcomer Inclusion will build on actions implemented through previous strategies, help optimize existing community resources, and will further strengthen community partnerships, all aimed at improving local conditions for newcomers to settle and integrate more effectively, contributing to a Region where every person can thrive.

For more information on this report, please contact Mary Boushel, Director Strategies and Partnerships Branch at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74182. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



Recommended by:

Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services



Approved for Submission:

Erin Mahoney
Chief Administrative Officer

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Appendix A - Newcomer settlement service providers in York Region

Attachment 1- A Place to Thrive: York Region's 2024 to 2027 Plan for Newcomer Inclusion (eDOCS # 15900032)

Newcomer settlement service providers in York Region

Funded federally by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
(source: <https://ircc.canada.ca/english/newcomers/services/index.asp>):

- Achēv
- Association des francophones de la région de York
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Catholic Community Services of York Region
- Centre for Immigrant and Community Services
- COSTI Immigrant Services
- Jewish Immigrant Aid Services
- Jewish Vocational Service of Metropolitan Toronto
- Job Skills
- Social Enterprise for Canada
- The Cross-Cultural Community Services Association
- The Housing Help Centre
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- York Region District School Board

Funded provincially by Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
(source: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/getting-settled-ontario#section-1>)

- Achēv
- Catholic Community Services of York Region
- Centre for Immigrant and Community Services
- COSTI Immigrant Services
- Jewish Immigrant Aid Services
- Parya Trillium Foundation
- Social Enterprise for Canada
- The Cross-Cultural Community Services Association

The York Region Local Immigration Partnership also works with non-settlement organizations that also help facilitate newcomer settlement and inclusion and inform development and implementation of a Plan for Newcomer Inclusion. This is coordinated through the [Newcomer Inclusion Table of York Region](#) and its working groups.