



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Information Report Number 17-303**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Cheryl Hitchen, Social Policy & Strategic Community
Development Manager
Date of Meeting: November 7, 2017
Subject: Immigration Status Update

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on immigration in Kingston including statistical data; various ongoing community programs that support settlement in the community; projects and initiatives including many in which the City is a key partner; and some of the challenges and opportunities with respect to immigration going forward.

Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer | Not required |
| Denis Leger, Commissioner, Corporate & Emergency Services | Not required |
| Mark Van Buren, Acting Commissioner, Transportation & Infrastructure Services | Not required |

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Options/Discussion:

Immigration in Kingston by the Numbers

The information below provides data on immigrants in Kingston based on the 2016 Census. More detailed data will be presented in the fifth of a series of City of Kingston Census Bulletins which are available on the City’s website. This data shows that there has been a small growth in the number of immigrants in the community but the composition of immigrants is changing with an increase in the number of visible minorities. The immigrants who arrived before 2001, many from Europe, are aging, while recent immigrants are arriving primarily from Asian countries. This aligns with the patterns in the rest of Ontario and Canada.

In addition to this data, there has been a strong growth in the number of student arrivals at St. Lawrence College and Queen’s University as well as the school boards. In total, there are more than 3,000 international students in Kingston this year. While data on temporary workers is only available at the provincial level, anecdotal data from service providers suggests that Kingston has between 100 and 200 temporary foreign workers annually.

Immigration Data for City of Kingston – 2016 Census

Dates of Immigration:

Cumulative, up to 2001 - 11,195; 2001-2005 - 1,435; 2006-2010 - 1,575; 2011-2016 - 1,630

Overall Immigrant Population (15,840 - 13.2% pop.) Recent Immigrants (2011-2016: 1,630)

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|--|------------|
| Median Age: | 56.3 years | | 33.5 years |
|-------------|------------|--|------------|

Admission Categories:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|-------|
| Economic Immigrants | 57.0% | | 62.6% |
| Immigrants Sponsored by Family | 30.5% | | 28.5% |
| Refugees | 12.3% | | 8.6% |

Place of Birth:

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| United Kingdom | 18.3% | China | 12.0% |
| United States | 7.6% | Philippines | 8.0% |
| Portugal | 7.5% | India | 8.0% |
| China | 6.0% | United States | 6.7% |
| India | 4.6% | Iran | 6.7% |

Non-Official Languages Most Often Spoken at Home:

| | | | |
|------------|------|-----------------|------|
| Portuguese | 5.1% | Mandarin | 8.3% |
| Mandarin | 2.7% | Arabic | 8.0% |
| Spanish | 2.6% | Persian (Farsi) | 6.4% |

Visible Minorities (% of population)

| | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| Kingston | 7.2% | 7.4% | 9.7% |
| Ontario | 22.8% | 25.9% | 29.3% |
| Canada | 16.2% | 19.1% | 22.3% |

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Community Services for Immigrants

Although many community partners are playing a role in the successful settlement and integration of immigrants in the community, some agencies are specifically funded and mandated by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and/or the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) to work with the newest members of the community.

Four main areas are described below: direct settlement support, the resettlement assistance program, language training and indirect settlement services.

Direct Settlement Support

The Kingston Community Health Centres (KCHC) provides settlement support through their Immigration Services Kingston and Area (ISKA) program. The program is funded to provide the client with a needs assessment, information and referral, one-on-one and group sessions (groups such as cooking, sewing, seniors, children, youth, parenting, tax clinic and conversation circles). The program also provides social mentoring opportunities and cultural events.

KEYS Job Centre provides specialized services for immigrants to settle with an emphasis on employment needs. Their services include individual and group employment services, job search workshops, a professional mentorship program (including a specialized refugee women mentorship program), an annual 'Diversity Works symposium', 'hire smart' workshops providing strategies for immigrant recruitment and retention, and an immigrant led working group.

ACFOMI Immigrant services provide settlement support and employment counselling for Francophone immigrants.

Refugee Resettlement Services

As of May 18, 2016, Kingston officially became a Refugee Assistance Program (RAP) Centre welcoming and supporting government-assisted refugees moving to the community. Kingston was selected to support Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs). The program is administered by KEYS Job Centre, working in close partnership with KCHC. The program offers support, workshops, guidance and accompaniment to new GARs in Kingston.

Once arrived, newcomers receive temporary accommodation, orientation to life in Kingston and Canada, and connections to essential government, educational and community services. They also receive support to find and rent suitable accommodations.

English/French Language Classes (Adults)

There are various federally and provincially funded language class opportunities in Kingston that newcomers can access free or for limited costs after receiving a language assessment. The initial placement tests are required for enrolment in government funded English language training classes. The following language training program options are available:

- Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) is funded by the Federal government (IRCC) and is provided by both Kingston Literacy and Skills and KEYS;
- English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are funded by the Provincial government and provided by Loyola School of Adult and Continuing Education and Limestone

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Community Education;

- Eligible immigrants can access government funded French language training courses online through Cours de langue pour les immigrants au Canada (CLIC); and
- There are other language training opportunities at Queen's University, St. Lawrence College and private language schools (for a fee).

Indirect Settlement Initiatives

Kingston has three programs (integrated planning tables) with a goal to building a more attractive, welcoming and inclusive community.

- Kingston Immigration Partnership - founded by KCHC, Kingston Economic Development Corporation and KEYS, is the community planning table with over 30 community agency members providing leadership to the Kingston community through implementing the KIP Strategic Action Plan developed in 2010;
- Réseau de Soutien à l'immigration francophone de l'est de l'Ontario is the French Immigration network supporting the attraction and welcoming of Francophone immigrants in the Kingston area; and
- Refugee Service Provider Coalition - network of those agencies working directly and indirectly with recent refugees and sponsors.

Highlights of Projects and Initiatives

In order to attract, welcome and settle newcomers in Kingston, there are many different projects and initiatives in the community. Below is a brief overview of some of the highlights:

Education and Social Services

- Various innovative language training opportunities through the various language schools (online and in person hybrids, workplace specific, various time availability).
- Celebrating international student contributions through bi-annual Global Talent Local Business publication (KIP).
- Immigrant early learning and parenting programming (KCHC).
- Shared Journey Program – sharing of resources and providing cultural liaison services to better help immigrant families (collaboration between KCHC, FACSFLA & ISK).

Employment and Entrepreneurship

- Professional Mentorship program matching established professionals with immigrant professionals (KEYS).
- Business Basics sessions for aspiring or existing immigrant entrepreneurs (Kingston EcDev and KEYS).
- 'Doing business sessions' with India and African countries (KIP, Kingston EcDev and local business owners).

Transportation and Recreation

- Welcome gift including bus pass, recreation pass & Grand Theatre pass (see below - Newcomer Welcome Gift).
- Transit orientation sessions (Kingston Transit).

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- Immigrant cycling educational programs through Cycle Kingston and Yellow Bike.
- First year YMCA free memberships for newly arrived refugees.

Racism and Discrimination

- Change the Conversation project including the “Kingston Includes You” survey (KIP & City of Kingston). Additional details on this initiative will be provided in a future Council report.

Welcoming/Sense of Belonging

- “Meet your Neighbour” campaign, showcasing Kingston’s diversity by highlighting individual residents of different backgrounds in personal profiles and portraits (KIP & City of Kingston).
- Kingston Multicultural Arts Festival, celebrating the community’s diversity through food and art, 8th year (KIP).
- Access Without Fear Campaign (Solidarity Kingston).
- Multicultural roundtable dinners (twice/year) sharing information and building capacity with over 20 ethno cultural associations (KIP).

Newcomer Welcome Gift

In 2016, Council made some enhancements to this program which:

- Changing a 6 ride transit pass to a one month pass including an “on board” orientation experience; and
- Changing a 6 month fit pass to a one year pass for the entire family.

In 2016, 123 welcome packages were distributed. Almost all of the 137 (adult and youth) transit passes distributed were utilized and when the program switched to a one month pass, the participation in the transit information sessions reflected the high usage. For recreation passes, ninety-one of the six month passes were utilized. Only thirteen of the Grand Theatre passes were utilized and there were no museum visits. To encourage newcomers to use their cultural passes to the Grand Theatre and museums, volunteers are now accompanying groups of newcomers on excursions as a group activity which should improve the participation rates for this service.

Opportunities and Challenges

With the attraction and integration of immigrants to Kingston, there are several opportunities and some challenges. Some of these are described below:

International Students

Over the last few years, there has been a strong growth of international students in Kingston due to the various attraction efforts. This is creating a strong skills base and opportunity to tap into a much more global market. In order to retain the students after finalizing their degree, the community needs to continue to explore additional retention and integration activities in partnership between the various organizations involved. The City’s Workforce and In-Migration Strategy is part of this solution.

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Racism and Discrimination

In June 2017, a report was posted on (police reported) hate crimes in Canada. Kingston is rated in the top ten cities for hate crimes in Canada. Results of the recent "Kingston Includes You" survey are currently being analyzed and the results will help guide an anti-racism campaign over the next two years. More information on this initiative will be provided to Council in an upcoming report.

Housing

With the arrival of more newcomer families in the last two years, there is an increased need for larger sized affordable housing in an already limited rental housing market.

Employment

With an increase of highly educated newcomers moving to Kingston from a variety of places in the world, and a population projection that is shrinking, Kingston can explore new market opportunities. Two recent examples are the Feihe and Frulact plants being built in Kingston.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

Not applicable

Notice Provisions:

Not applicable

Accessibility Considerations:

Not applicable

Financial Considerations:

Not applicable

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Not applicable

Others External Individuals Consulted:

Ruth Noordegraaf, Manager, Immigrant Services, Kingston Community Health Centre

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Exhibits Attached:

Not applicable