

GREATER VICTORIA LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

The Greater Victoria Local Immigration Partnership (GVLIP) is a coalition of newcomers, community organizations, government agencies, businesses, and institutions focused on improving the integration, belonging and inclusion of newcomers in the Greater Victoria area.

Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) are funded by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). There are currently about 80 such coalitions in Canada.

The GVLIP has three main points of engagement

Partnership Council: consists of community leaders who represent different sectors (e.g., government, public services, education, business, health care, housing, and settlement) and provide strategic direction to the GVLIP;

Immigrant Advisory Team: consists of a diverse group of newcomers who advise the council and sector tables.

Sector Tables: sector-specific working groups who focus on implementing specific annual action plans and foster changes in the community to support the overall strategic goals of the GVLIP.

GVLIP STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Priority 1

CULTIVATE BELONGING & LEARNING

Goal: Greater Victoria is a welcoming, anti-racist, inclusive, and well-connected community in which everybody has opportunities to thrive, learn, live, work, and play in safety.

Priority 2

PROMOTE MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

Goal: Greater Victoria has a vibrant economy where employers and businesses fully realize the benefits of immigration, newcomers are economically integrated, and their skills and expertise are recognized.

Priority 3:

PROMOTE GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Goal: Greater Victoria has culturally competent health services that effectively work in collaboration with community partners to ensure that everybody is healthy in mind, body, and spirit.

Priority 4:

ACCESS TO HOUSING AND THE COMMUNITY

Goal: Everyone, regardless of their background has access to suitable appropriate and affordable housing in a community that has well-connected and thriving neighborhoods with adequate access to basic services, transit, green spaces, and the area as a whole.

GVLIP GUIDING PRINCIPLES



COLLABORATE

We are founded on collaboration and partnership.



RESPOND

We are responsive to the needs and aspirations of newcomers and the communities we live in.



EVALUATE

We are results oriented and dedicated to make a real difference in the community.

Get involved!

Florentien Verhage, GVLIP Coordinator

Email GVLIP@icavictoria.org

Web <https://www.icavictoria.org/community/local-immigration-partnership/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GVLIP/>



Inter-Cultural Association
of Greater Victoria



Greater Victoria
Local Immigration
Partnership



Funded by:
Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Financé par :
Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

SYNOPSIS OF OUR OBJECTIVES

Belonging and Learning

- Highlight the contributions and assets of newcomers;
- Address discrimination by working towards equity and inclusion, and engage in decolonial, intersectional, racial justice, and social justice work in collaboration with community partners;
- Increase awareness of the specific needs of vulnerable newcomer populations and effectively meet the needs of newcomer and other communities in Greater Victoria;
- Build relationships between newcomers, Indigenous, and settler communities and actively contribute to the ongoing decolonisation of the Greater Victoria area.

Meaningful Employment

- Promote the benefits of hiring immigrants at all levels, enhance workplace integration, and ensure understanding of the local labour market and employment service needs;
- Increase mentorship, co-ops, work experience, supervision, and volunteer programs and placements for newcomers;
- Develop tools and information for employers to increase their ability to effectively assess foreign education, certifications and work experience;
- Improve employers' ability to address discrimination happening at the work place and adopt equitable hiring processes;
- Collaborate with the local business sector to develop strategies and practices to attract and include more immigrant business.

Health and Well-Being

- Improve access to health screenings, primary healthcare, oral health, and mental health care for newcomers;
- Improve the cultural competency of all health care services and ensure adequate use of translation and other needed services among health professionals;
- Create tools and connect services to better inform health services of the diverse health needs of newcomers;
- Encourage participation of newcomers in youth, elderly, and recreational services.

Access to Housing and the Community

- Support actions to address policies and processes that act as barriers to making suitable, affordable, and attainable housing more available for newcomers;
- Bring awareness to invisible homelessness among newcomers and advocate for adequate housing for diverse family structures;
- Advocate for changing housing regulations that create barriers for newcomers to accessing housing;
- Highlight the importance of avoiding housing segregation and advocate for the alignment of housing, recreation, and transit opportunities.

(Please see [our website](#) for the full strategic plan)

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STRATEGIC PLAN

2020-2025