

Newcomer Social Capital COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT



Measuring
Rural Community
Vitality

How could your community increase social capital through newcomer engagement?

Newcomer: A person who has moved into the community in the last five years. This includes those that have moved from abroad, from elsewhere in Canada, or moved back after a significant time away.

Social Capital: The resources and associated benefits people have access to through their social networks and relationships.

Use this assessment to start a conversation by highlighting strengths and potential opportunities for improvement. Think big! These ideas are just a beginning.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	ASSESSMENT				
		WEAK			STRONG	
Build Relationships	Leaders and community members create opportunities for newcomers to interact in meaningful ways. We:					
	Organize community events (e.g., fairs, multicultural festivals)	1	2	3	4	5
	Host social and recreational activities for newcomers and families	1	2	3	4	5
	Invite newcomers to participate in recreational, social and community events	1	2	3	4	5
	Deliver welcome packages to newcomers	1	2	3	4	5
	Encourage inclusive faith communities	1	2	3	4	5
	Share information about local community groups	1	2	3	4	5
	Create initiatives that encourage community members and newcomers to connect (e.g., mentoring programs, welcome events, community forums)	1	2	3	4	5
	Cultivate newcomer networks (e.g., newcomer business network)	1	2	3	4	5
	Promote newcomer volunteerism, including developing programs that recruit, train and support newcomers as volunteer leaders	1	2	3	4	5
	Support newcomer leadership, including participation in local politics	1	2	3	4	5
	Use multiple media to support dialogue between newcomers and the wider community (e.g., radio call in shows, online discussion boards, community television)	1	2	3	4	5
Communicate positive messages about the importance, value and contributions of newcomers	1	2	3	4	5	
Know your Community	Leaders and community members understand and make use of...					
	Community demographics	1	2	3	4	5
	Statistics on local economy	1	2	3	4	5
	Attraction and retention strategies	1	2	3	4	5
	Best practices to engage and include newcomers	1	2	3	4	5
	Opportunities to evaluate progress and communicate with stakeholders	1	2	3	4	5
Provide Intentional Community Leadership	County and municipal leaders and staff...					
	Plan and allocate resources to attract, retain and support newcomers	1	2	3	4	5
	Promote newcomer engagement	1	2	3	4	5
	Use multiple media to reach newcomers (e.g., websites, social media, print materials, radio, and television)	1	2	3	4	5

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	ASSESSMENT				
		WEAK			STRONG	
Provide Intentional Community Leadership (continued)	Modify existing structures and planning to meet newcomers' needs	1	2	3	4	5
	Ensure stable funding for newcomer engagement initiatives	1	2	3	4	5
	Host 'listening sessions' to hear newcomers' needs	1	2	3	4	5
	Focus sustained political attention and advocacy on newcomer issues	1	2	3	4	5
	Foster partnerships and facilitate relationships with local groups	1	2	3	4	5
	Commit to creating a more welcoming and inclusive community	1	2	3	4	5
	Acknowledge achievements and contributions of newcomers and newcomer-serving leaders and organizations	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce System Barriers and Develop Robust Supports	Leaders and community members reduce system barriers and develop robust supports. We:					
	Help newcomers connect with employers	1	2	3	4	5
	Fund employment counselling for job-seekers	1	2	3	4	5
	Support newcomers to start and run their own businesses	1	2	3	4	5
	Ensure availability of affordable and appropriate housing	1	2	3	4	5
	Ensure accessible and affordable public transportation (e.g., community buses, volunteer driver networks, bike lanes, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
	Offer skills training, including language classes in English and/or French	1	2	3	4	5
	Foster positive relationships between newcomer communities and emergency services / police	1	2	3	4	5
	Work with schools to identify and support newcomer families	1	2	3	4	5
	Ensure a variety of accessible, suitable child-care services	1	2	3	4	5
	Provide no cost / low cost recreation opportunities for newcomers	1	2	3	4	5
	Provide accessible and responsive health services	1	2	3	4	5
	Provide local settlement services for immigrant newcomers	1	2	3	4	5
	Help newcomers connect with local cultural and faith communities	1	2	3	4	5
	Offer training for service providers regarding barriers and gaps faced by newcomers	1	2	3	4	5
	Provide updated and centralized information about local supports and services (e.g., accessibility, legal, LGBTQ, mental health, seniors, youth)	1	2	3	4	5
	Support a wide continuum of local social services for newcomers with special and/or complex needs (e.g., developmental needs, trauma)	1	2	3	4	5
	Increase coordination and collaboration among service-providers	1	2	3	4	5
Locate services and supports where they are most likely to be accessed	1	2	3	4	5	