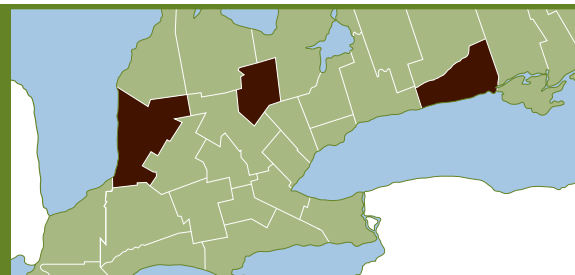


Newcomer Engagement and Social Capital in Rural Communities

SUMMARY



202
PARTICIPANTS



97 FROM DUFFERIN COUNTY

39 FROM HURON COUNTY

66 FROM NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

METHODS USED:



FOCUS GROUPS



IN PERSON



PHONE INTERVIEWS



ONLINE SURVEYS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEWCOMER ENGAGEMENT

PROVIDE INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Conscious efforts by municipalities to create welcoming communities through advocacy and sustained political action.



Newcomer-focused municipal policies and mandates



Commissioning studies and sponsoring initiatives



Networking events



Building and maintaining online tools (i.e. websites and social media)

REDUCE SYSTEM BARRIERS

Commitment to minimize systemic challenges (e.g. employment, housing, language, schools, transportation) to create strong opportunities for newcomers.



Providing information and service referrals



Organizing volunteer driver networks



Facilitating parent orientation and supports for children in schools



Fostering intentional community outreach and information sharing



Positive communication about the importance and value of newcomers

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Creating opportunities for newcomers to interact in meaningful ways with other community members to build relationships and enhance social networks.



Multicultural festivals



Welcome packages for newcomers



Mentoring programs



Supporting volunteers in leadership and skill-sharing roles



Inviting newcomers to social activities, recreation, and sports clubs

DEVELOP ROBUST SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Developing strong and accessible support systems to help newcomers obtain the services they require in the community.



Cultivating newcomer business networks



Fostering inclusive faith communities



Developing community, social, and settlement services



Connecting community members and established newcomers to recent arrivals



Offering information and referrals