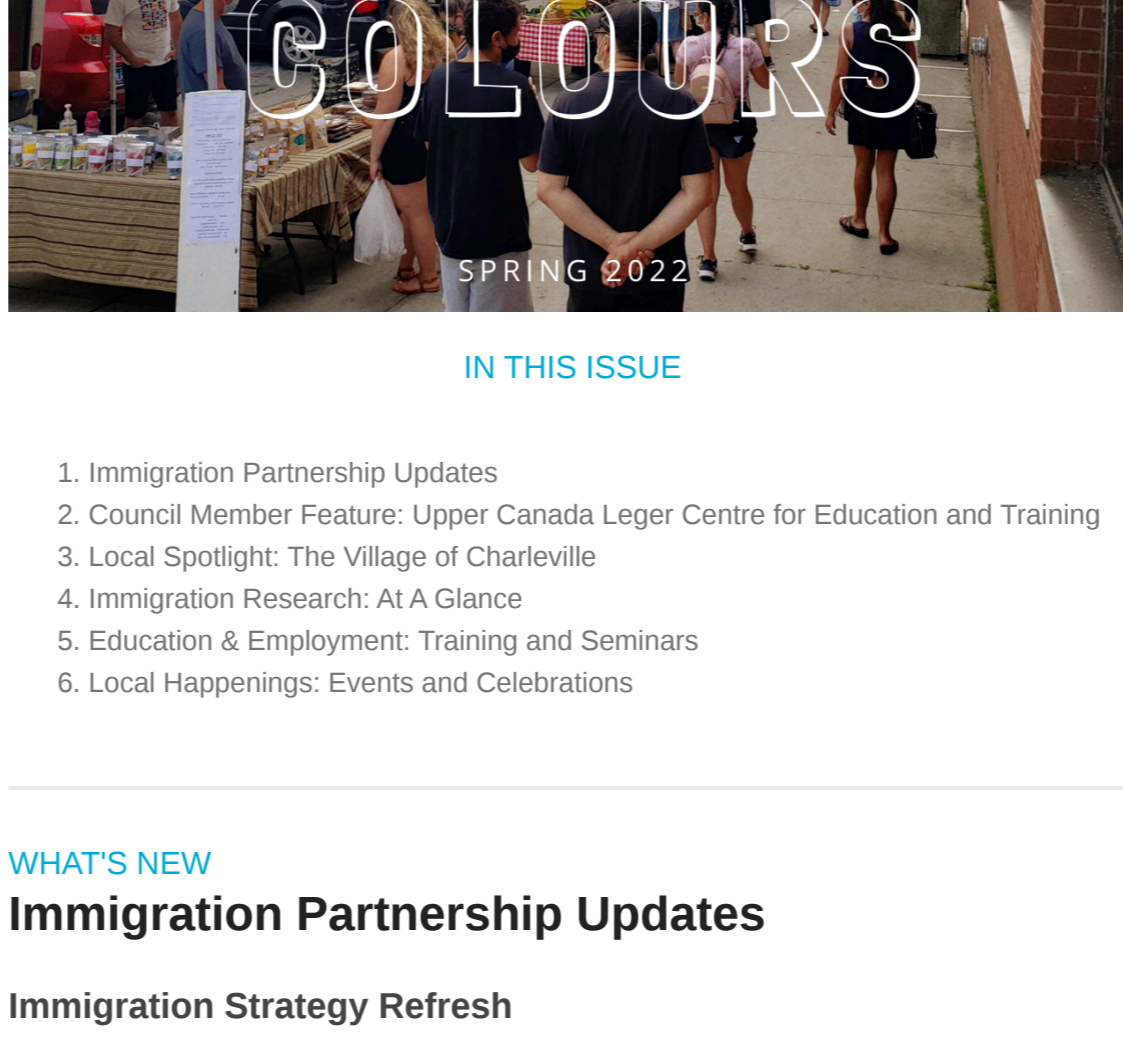


Spring Newsletter



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WHAT'S NEW

Immigration Partnership Updates

Immigration Strategy Refresh

The Leeds and Grenville Immigration Strategy Report is being finalized and will soon be available in print and online. The report itself, created through community feedback, surveys, focus groups, key stakeholder conversations, and facilitated by Loretta Corbett, is an update on the old Immigration Strategy from 2011. Much has changed in Leeds and Grenville since the development of the initial Strategy. The local labour market has experienced significant challenges, a large influx of refugees have arrived and settled in our local communities, the popularity of Leeds and Grenville for international student education has continued to rise, and COVID has created its own set of very unique economic and social challenges. The Immigration Strategy provides our community with a framework that reflects these local realities while enabling the successful welcome, integration, and retention of newcomers in Leeds and Grenville.

Leeds and Grenville Immigration Strategy 2022-2027

Accomplishments

Focus Groups

Strategic Priorities and Goals

Key Informant Interviews

3 Strategic Priorities

Leeds and Grenville Immigrant Entrepreneur Award

This is the 8th year of our Annual Leeds and Grenville Immigrant Entrepreneur Award. As always, we're looking to celebrate and recognize the amazing immigrant entrepreneurs that we have locally! See below for more information and our poster: you can nominate more than one person, and self-nominations are allowed.

- Who is eligible?**
- *Have been born outside of Canada
 - *Be an owner/operator of an active business in Leeds and Grenville
 - *Live in Leeds and Grenville
 - *Demonstrate characteristics of a successful entrepreneur
- How do I nominate?**
- By submitting the name of the owner and their business by September 9, 2022.
- Where do I nominate?**
- Social Media: @LGIImmigration
Email: lauren@leedscentre.com
Phone: 613-213-4455



We Are Neighbours

Our 2022 We Are Neighbours campaign will be starting soon! This year's theme is focused on Leeds and Grenville business, employment, and labour through the immigrant lens. Our focus is on immigrant employees, employers, and entrepreneurs. We'd also like to hear from service providers who give support, or anyone who is connected with local newcomers in an employment or business setting.

The stories we receive will be shared on social media, and the We Are Neighbours website, which has a new address: www.weareneighbours.ca. You can visit there for more information on We Are Neighbours, to read current and past stories, or to find additional ways to contact us.

If you have a story you'd like to share, would like to be interviewed by us for We Are Neighbours, know of anyone you think would like to participate, or would like to be involved in any way, contact us at lauren@leedscentre.com or call/text 613-213-4455. You can also find some additional info on the draft of this year's poster above. We look forward to sharing your stories!

We Are Neighbours 2022: Diversity in Business

What is it?

Who Can Participate?

2022 Theme?

How Will Stories Be Shared?

What Do I Need To Do?

Contact Us

www.weareneighbours.ca

Ukrainian Crisis Article

As part of the refreshed Leeds and Grenville Immigration Strategy, the Immigration Partnership will be writing and contributing immigration and diversity themed articles to local media sources. This is an effort to raise awareness, and educate local communities about current topics. Below is our first article, focused on the Ukrainian refugee crisis. We will include future articles in our newsletters as well. For more information, if you'd like to publish this article or any others, or if you have a topic you'd like to have us write about, please contact us at lauren@leedscentre.com.

The Ukrainian refugee crisis continues to worsen. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began on Feb. 24, 2022, more than 10 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes. That's a quarter of the country's population. 4.7 million of those have fled the country entirely and are now refugees in their neighbouring countries.

The Canadian government has offered an unlimited number of special temporary residence visas (CUAET) for Ukrainian refugees to come to Canada. To date, the government has approved over 91,000 applications for Ukrainian refugees.

Locally, three refugee families have already arrived and at least two more will arrive soon. More are likely to come as the government continues to approve further CUAET applications and these newcomers look for more affordable regions to live and work, whether temporarily or permanently.

The biggest challenge with regards to the arrival of refugees, and is the case with anyone arriving, is the housing shortage. This is not an issue that can be solved quickly and is a problem not just in Leeds & Grenville, but across the country.

Ukrainian newcomers are eligible for settlement supports such as ESL classes, assistance in finding work, and registering children in school. Many local service providers have already stepped up to offer their assistance.

Local refugee sponsorship groups, including United Welcome, as well as the umbrella organization Belong for Brockville, are already working to assist any refugees who may be arriving to the area.

For anyone looking to get involved with assisting refugees in general, or the Ukrainian refugees specifically, you can get in contact with Belong for Brockville through its Facebook page ([Belong for Brockville / Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/belongforbrockville)). A Google Form link is posted for those wishing to help that allows you to choose the ways you want to help.

Tax-deductible financial donations to support these families are being received by United Welcome (by e-transfer to finance@welcomesupport.ca, marked "local Ukrainian Welcome").

The St. Lawrence-Rideau Immigration Partnership is also looking for local Ukrainian speakers to join its volunteer translator list. They can be contacted at lauren@leedscentre.com or 613-213-4455.

The government of Canada website https://www.international.gc.ca/ukraine/ukraine-devlopment-cvare-devlopment-cvare-certificat-rapport_conflictruss-criseukraine-assesclangence, provides more information about the government measures taken for the assistance and support of the Ukrainian refugees and how you can help.

COUNCIL MEMBER FEATURE

Upper Canada Leger Centre for Education and Training

Upper Canada Leger Centre for Education & Training (UCLC) is a charitable organization. It is program-based and self-funded. The organization's major focus areas are the Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB) International Education Program and Student Transition Programs throughout Eastern Ontario. UCLC partners with the Canada HomeStay Network (CHN) to provide accommodation, care, and support for students of the UCDSB International Education Program throughout our local communities.

With restrictions easing, UCLC is focused on renewing the UCDSB International Education Program and is working hand-in-hand with CHN to do so. There is great interest amongst international students to return to our local communities and there is growing excitement to welcome them back in larger numbers. UCLC is dedicated to ensuring the sense of community, learning, and fun experiences for students and their host families. Because of COVID-19, they have had to be dynamic and creative in how they engage students and host families, such as offering weekly virtual "Stops & Sessions", and creating online clubs. UCLC and CHN have been able to do more trips and experiences in person as the year has progressed and as health and safety restrictions have eased. It is exciting to see students engaging in local activities and experiences as they did prior to the pandemic.

UCLC and CHN are now able to offer more opportunities and experiences for students and host families including community-based activities, trips to nearby Cities and tourist attractions, and schools are once again offering a full suite of sports, clubs, and other activities. There has been constant change throughout the pandemic, including how students are welcomed and UCLC and CHN have worked diligently to keep students and host families safe during the travel process. The safety procedures established have been highly successful. The rate of infection of students was significantly lower than the national and international averages and there have been no cases of host families becoming sick as a result of welcoming an international student.

This year, UCLC has welcomed students from 30 different countries and has placed students at 20 UCDSB high schools. The students are coming to learn, to experience our local culture and communities, and to experience what we know and love about our region. The program isn't possible without the caring host families who welcome students into their homes and families. It's a mutually beneficial relationship. It helps create lifelong friendships, new experiences, and learn valuable lessons for the family, as well as experiencing Canadian culture through the students' eyes. The families also receive a stipend to offset the cost of having another family member in the household.

There is a real need for homestay hosts in the area. Homestay hosts are supported through a world-class service model, complete with a local homestay manager who liaises with students and their host families regularly and a dedicated support team that is available 24/7. The homestay experience is enhanced and supported through the friendships and sense of community created amongst students and hosts. Events and activities for homestay students and families are regularly offered, including things like a 1000 Islands local cruise, special event parties and gatherings, a First Nations powwow, and tours of local sugar bushes.

As many community members already know from personal experience, when we welcome international students, our school programs benefit, our community benefits, and our local Canadian students and host families are offered life-changing experiences that positively shape their worldviews.

And as homestay hosts will tell you, their lives are changed forever as well. It's common for hosts to be invited to the families of their students overseas, for years afterwards, and for the relationships developed through their hosting experience to last a lifetime.

For more information about being a host, please contact: lauren@canadahomestaynetwork.ca, call 613-441-4442 ext. 2176, or visit www.whyhostcanadahomestaynetwork.ca

To apply to host, visit <http://canadahomestaynetwork.ca/apply-to-be-a-homestay-host/> or to apply.

Immigration Research

At A Glance

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / **Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada**

RESEARCH en a Glance
RECHERCHE en un coup d'oeil

IRCC shares immigration related studies and articles through the Research at a Glance email list. Research at a Glance is designed to inform the IRCC community and other interested parties about recently published reports and policy-relevant research from government, academia and non-governmental organizations.

Here is one such release:

- [Persistent Overqualification Among Immigrants and Non-Immigrants](#)

You can subscribe to Research at a Glance by emailing research@ic.gc.ca (Note: articles arrive daily).

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

The Village of Charleville

DID YOU KNOW?

- The village was originally called Sebastopol.
- Canadian abolitionist Samuel Beals lived here with his wife Lydia at one point.
- The Charleville Cheese Factory was constructed in 1903 and ran until the 1920s.
- Photo credit: Google Maps

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Training & Seminars

Acing the Interview
June 29th, 10am-11am
KEY'S Job Centre (Zoom Workshop)

Aprons or trainees can go a long way in getting you the job. Learn how to demonstrate your strengths, manage your interview anxiety, and answer questions with confidence.

Topics Covered:

- How to prepare for the different types of interviews (in-person, virtual, phone)
- Managing interview stress
- Identifying your strengths
- Do's and don'ts of interviewing
- Practice questions

To learn more or to register, click [here!](#)
Check out their website for more information or to register [here!](#)

Resume Rescue
June 29th, CSE Consulting South Grenville

Need help with your resume? Want to make yourself more appealing to employers? Check out the Resume Rescue workshops, happening at CSE Consulting!

Click [here](#) for more information or to register

Better Jobs Ontario Info Session
July 12th, 10am-12pm
Employment + Education Centre

Join us to learn more about the Better Jobs Ontario program including eligibility factors, the application process, and more!

For more info or to register, click [here!](#)

RentSmart
July 18th-20th, Employment+Education Centre

"This course is designed to teach important life skills to individuals, build tenancy knowledge, and help to increase confidence while providing tools to prepare for and maintain stable housing."

To register, click [here!](#)

Coursera
Offering online courses from top universities and companies, including many free ones!
Upgrade your skills, follow your interests, and earn certificates/degrees from home!

For more info, click [here!](#)

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Events & Celebrations

June is National Indigenous History Month
Month
June 1st to June 30th

We commemorate National Indigenous History Month in June. During the month, take time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples across Canada.

June is Pride Month
June 1st to June 30th

Celebrate the 25th LGBTQIA+ community, heritage, and stand as allies! Look for local events to go out and show your pride and support!

1000 Islands Ribfest
June 30th - July 3rd
Ganarogue & TLI Recreation Centre - 600 King Street, East

On June 30, July 1, 2, & 3 of 2022 we are excited to be bringing back all of the same great fun, food, beer, music, and excitement that comes along with this great event.

This amazing community event raises funds on behalf of the Rotary Club & Lions of Ganarogue. 100 percent of the money supports charities, families, projects, and other causes right here in Ganarogue and area. 1000 Island Family Ribfest will continue to provide a safe and clean event.

For more info, click [here!](#)

1000 Islands Regatta
July 1st to July 3rd
Block House Island, Brockville

Look no further for an action packed weekend of heart-pumping excitement! World class boaters, largest and most exciting amateur/semi-pro/regatta racing in North America!

For more info, click [here!](#)

Tea and Tales of Romance
July 17th, 1pm to 3pm and 3pm to 4pm
Spencerville Mill & Museum, 11 Water Street, Spencerville

Wear a fancy hat & dress as swish as you wish in vintage or modern attire. Tea includes sweet treat to take home.

Live music and entertainment by talented story teller Deborah Dunlop at Tea & Tales of Romance.

For more info, click [here!](#)

Contact Us Today To Get Involved!

Funded by: **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada**

Financed par: **Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada**

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