

Winter Newsletter



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WHAT'S NEW

Immigration Partnership Updates

Leeds and Grenville Immigrant Entrepreneur Award

A huge congratulations to this year's **Leeds and Grenville Immigrant Entrepreneur Award Winner, Ujjval of Pizza Pizza Brockville!** Ujjval was announced as the winner at the Bridges to Better Business hosted by the Leeds Grenville Small Business Centre. Ujjval, who is originally from India, first came to Canada as an international student. During his studies, he worked at Pizza Pizza as a cook. He later returned to India, got married, and then immigrated with his wife. During the pandemic, they purchased the Pizza Pizza franchise and despite all the hardships due to COVID-19, were able to make it a success!

And a huge thank you and congratulation to all of our amazing finalists! They are:

Sam of M & M Food Market (Brockville)
Nataliia of Natasha's Ukrainian Cuisine (Elizabethtown-Kitley)
Wajahat of Sunset Grill (Brockville)

We look forward to next year's award, and hope to see more of our amazing local immigrant entrepreneurs recognized!



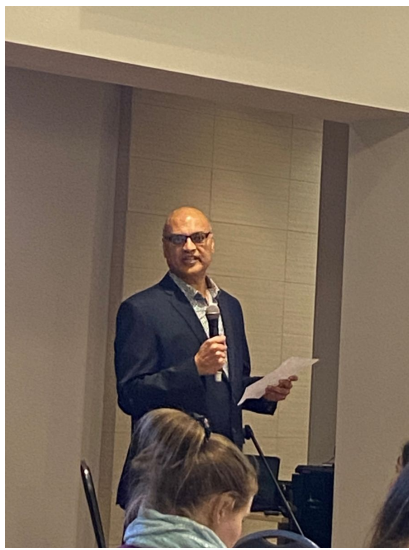
Ujval Prajapati and his wife (left) and Melissa Francis (Right) of the St. Lawrence-Rideau Immigration Partnership

Diversity Day

Diversity Day 2022 was held at the beginning of December at Heritage Hall in Kemptville. A great event that attracted people from Leeds and Grenville, Kingston, and the surrounding areas, it featured local speakers from Chile, the Netherlands, and India! The focus was on the attraction and retention of immigrants locally, not just as communities, but as local businesses, schools, and how Leeds and Grenville can be welcoming in general.

Speakers shared their settlement experiences with the audience in addition to opinions on what Leeds and Grenville can do to attract and welcome more immigrants. Information about the new Eastern Ontario Immigrant Attraction and Retention Strategy was shared by Jodi Bucholtz from the Renfrew Lanark Immigration Partnership. In partnership with other Immigration Partnerships in the region, the St. Lawrence – Rideau Immigration Partnership has been reaching out to local communities for feedback on the development of this strategy. Diversity Day participants also took part in a game that enabled them to learn more about the intricacies of attracting and retaining immigrants to communities.

It was a wonderful event, and we look forward to running Diversity Day again in 2023 with a new topic to focus on. A big thank you to everyone who attended!



Photos:

Top Left: Akash (Immigrant Business Owner Speaker)

Top Right: Matthjis (Recent Immigrant Speaker)

Middle Left: Matt Raby (Upper Canada Leger Centre) and Paulina (International Student Speaker)

Middle Right: Priti (Immigrant Business Owner Speaker)

Bottom: Participants enjoying the attraction and retention of immigrants simulation game

Free Employer Training

HIRING IMMIGRANTS

A free online training series for employers

Are you struggling to find staff? Do you want to diversify your workforce, or are you interested in making international connections? Then check out our free training series focused on the needs of Leeds and Grenville employers!

Each session focuses on a different topic, and you can register for as many or as few of the sessions as you'd like. To register, go to:

www.eventbrite.ca/e/hiring-immigrants-free-employer-training-tickets-510684108917.



AN OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT LABOUR MARKET CONTEXT AND BUSINESS DRIVERS

Hire Immigrants Ottawa
January 18 | 9:00-10:00am



FOREIGN WORKER SOLUTIONS TO A DOMESTIC PROBLEM

Recruit Without Borders
February 1 | 1:00-2:30pm



DEVELOPING CULTURALLY COMPETENT INTERVIEWING SKILLS TO ATTRACT TALENT

Hire Immigrants Ottawa
February 16 |
10:00-11:00am



BUILDING A CULTURE OF BELONGING

Hire Immigrants Ottawa
February 23 |
9:00-11:00am



The St. Lawrence-Rideau Immigration Partnership is partnering with several other agencies to run free online training for employers about hiring immigrants.

Each session focuses on a different topic, and you can register for as many or as few of the sessions as you'd like. All sessions will be done over Zoom. Our sessions are:

January 18th, 8-9am: An Overview of the Current Labour Market Context and Business Drivers

Are you thinking of hiring immigrants, but are unsure if that would fit your business, industry, or plans for the future? Are you worried about labour shortages? This one-hour session will give you an overview of not only the current labour market and how business is changing, but give you an idea of the potential benefits of hiring immigrants.

February 1st, 1-2:30pm: Foreign Worker Solutions to a Domestic Problem

If you're interested in the potential talent pool abroad, but are unsure of what requirements and red tape you need to work through, check out this session! Our expert will go through not only the different types of immigrants and visas, but how they will affect their employment eligibility, and all about those already here.

February 16th, 10-11am: Why developing Culturally Competent Interviewing Skills to Attract Talent

To ensure you can hire immigrants, you must ensure your hiring practices reflect a culturally competent approach, or risk losing out on talent. Learn how you can change big and small things to ensure your hiring process is as inclusive and attractive as possible both locally and internationally.

February 23rd, 9-11am: Building a Culture of Belonging

We all long to belong; but how do we build this experience at work? In this introductory module, we explore what it means to feel a sense of belonging in our workplaces, what it looks like, why it matters, and the foundational components for building it.

To register, head over to EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/hiring-immigrants-free->

LOCAL INITIATIVE FEATURE

Ukrainians in Leeds and Grenville



The current conflict in the Ukraine has caused many of its people to be displaced, and some have arrived to this area. As we've heard from United Welcome, one of our local groups:

We have welcomed 19 people from Ukraine. There are others in the community (we have met at the parties we held) but we're unsure of the exact number here. The support from the Brockville community has been incredible. We've raised over 25 thousand dollars to help them.

All of the adults we have welcomed have found jobs. The Employment+Education Centre was very helpful, especially by arranging for translators.

All of the Ukrainian newcomers are in their own accommodation now, except the latest arrivals (one mom with 2 kids and her friend, who were brought to Brockville by someone outside of United Welcome). Several of them live on Perth Street.

One family moved to Ottawa, where she got work in her field of Early Childhood Education. Her son was given a full scholarship to Trinity College School in Port Hope. Another family moved to Oshawa to be closer to family. We do not have plans for any more to come at the present time.

It has been a really rewarding experience. The host families especially deserve our gratitude. This was not easy for them, but they have been very gracious and hospitable.

United Welcome is a team of about 15 people, from local churches and the community. We meet monthly at Wall Street United Church. We receive donations through Wall Street United Church. United Welcome was established to sponsor refugees during the Syrian crisis. At that time we sponsored 14 people (Syrian, Liberian and Afghan).

PROGRAM FEATURE

English Conversation Club

EVERY
WEDNESDAY
FROM 6-8PM

PRACTISE ENGLISH

**FOR NEWCOMERS TO CANADA
AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Improve your English and learn skills that will help you apply to jobs, have a great interview, connect with other employees, and more!



 SCAN ME



CONTACT US!



613-498-2111



manny@eecentre.com



The Employment and Education Centre in Brockville is now offering a weekly “English Conversation Club” for Newcomers to Canada who are keen to develop their English language skills through this new opportunity.

The English Club offers a casual, supportive, and non-judgmental environment, for participants to practice and develop their English-speaking skills through basic conversation exercises and games.

Manny Dizwani, the Immigrant Services Coach at the EEC, and facilitator for the English Club says: “We wanted to give our Newcomer clients here at the EEC an additional opportunity to practice their English and strengthen their prospects of securing and retaining employment locally.

We wanted to offer something that will benefit them when interviewing for jobs, with work-related communications and generally engaging with employers, customers, and co-workers.

But apart from our clients, we’re also offering this opportunity to the Newcomer community at LARGE, including international college students. The English Club is open to any, and all newcomers to Canada whose first language is not English, and who have a desire to improve their English-speaking skills. They are most welcome to come and check out our English Conversation Club, whether it’s to drop in occasionally, or as a regular participant.”

These sessions are not ESL classes and we recommend that newcomers contact TR Leger to register for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. The group meets every Wednesday from 6pm to 8 pm at the Employment and Education Centre, which is at 105 Strowger Blvd, Brockville.

Interested Newcomers are encouraged to register via the Employment and Education website and go to the “English Conversation Club” link.

Or contact Manny at:
manny@eecentre.com

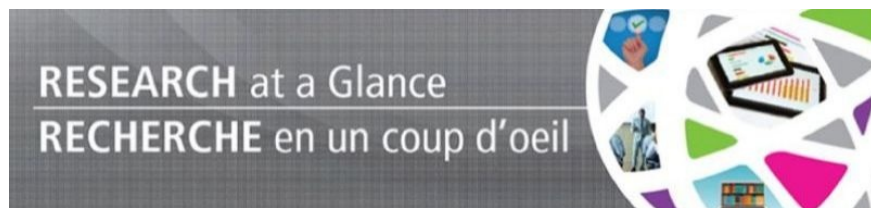
Immigration Research

At A Glance



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



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-recherche@cic.gc.ca (Note: articles arrive daily).

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

The Village of Maynard

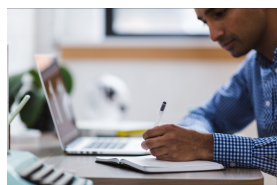


DID YOU KNOW?

- The village was known as Heck's Settlement and Chippenhook before Maynard.
- In 1817, the township's only church, Augusta Chapel, was built in Maynard and was the only church for some time.
- Photo credit: August Township

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Training & Seminars



LinkedIn for Beginners

October 26th, 10am-11:30am

KEYS Job Centre (Zoom Workshop)

A strong LinkedIn profile can attract employers to you and help you discover new and exciting opportunities to grow your career. Whether you're new to LinkedIn or are just looking for tips to get the best out of your profile.

Join us for a step by step workshop on how to build your profile and create a strong online presence.

To learn more or to register, click [here!](#)



Interview Prep

October 28th, 10-11:30am

CSE Consulting North Grenville

Need help with your interview skills? Want to make yourself more appealing to employers? Check out the Interview Prep workshop, happening at CSE Consulting!

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



Virtual Reality Career Exploration

November 1st, 9am-11am

Employment + Education Centre

Dive into career exploration and decision making through the power of VR! You can experience over 25 careers to help you making serious decisions about your next steps.

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



Canadian Workplace Expectations and Employment Standards

November 9th, 9am - 12pm

Employment+Education Centre

Broaden your knowledge about Employment Standards, your rights, legal requirements and what is expected in the workplace within Canada!

To register, click [here!](#)



Coursera

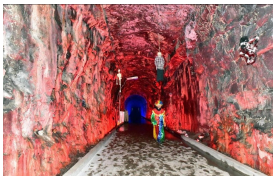
Offering online courses from top universities and companies, including many free ones!

Upgrade your skills, follow your interests, and earn certificates/degrees from home!

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

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Events & Celebrations



Tunnel of Terror

October 20th-30th

Brockville Railway Tunnel

The Tunnel of Terror is back! Canada's First Railway Tunnel is transformed into a half-kilometer Haunted walk! Thursday October 20th-Sunday October 23, 2022 6-10pm. Thursday October 27th-Sunday October 30th, 2022 6-10pm. \$10 Admission, tickets go on sale soon, stay tuned! For tickets and more info, click [here!](#)



Bridges to Better Business

October 27th, 4-8pm

Brockville Country Club

Join us for our annual Bridges to Better Business conference that will bring many of our small business community together! Network, learn, and be inspired as we dive into relevant topics and celebrate some of our local small businesses!

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



Halloween Fun Fest

October 29th, 4pm

345 Herbert St, Gananoque, ON

TRUNK OR TREAT * PUMPKIN CARVING * MOVIES
LASER TAG * CLIMBING WALL * PLAY STRUCTURE

No reservations required!

Please share... and get excited!

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

Christmas Craft Show

*Saturday, November 12th
10am-3pm*



-Admission-

\$ 2 or Donation to the Food Bank

BBQ Lunch and Beverage Will Be Available For Purchase

Christmas Craft Show

November 12th, 10am-3pm

Prescott Golf Club

Entry \$2 or a donation to the Food Bank. Come and check out the amazing goods by local artists and crafters, and get some unique gifts for the upcoming holidays!

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



Economic Development Summit

November 18th, 9am-3pm

North Grenville Municipal Centre

Join us for a day focused on Economic Development and Leadership.

This event is in partnership with Michael Barrett, M.P., Hon. Steve Clark, M.P.P., the Eastern Workforce Innovation Board and the 1000 Islands, Grenville and Valley Heartland Community Futures Development Corporations.

This year's in-person event welcomes the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Ontario's Minister of Finance, who will give the keynote address.

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

IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

Member Organizations

These are the organizations that provide leadership to the St. Lawrence-Rideau Immigration Partnership.

- Brockville & Area YMCA
- Brockville & District Multicultural Council
- Brockville Police Service
- Chinese & Canadian Heritage Cultural Association
- City of Brockville Economic Development
- CSE Consulting
- Eastern Workforce Innovation Board
- Employment + Education Centre
- Every Kid in Our Communities
- Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario
- Frank Onasanya: Immigrant Representative
- Fulford Academy
- Immetis - Services d'Immigration au Canada
- Kashif Riaz: Immigrant Representative
- KEYS Job Centre
- Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit
- Leeds Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Foods & Rural Affairs
- Refugees for Brockville Committee
- St. Lawrence College
- Town of Prescott
- TR Leger Immigrant Services/TR Leger Services aux Immigrants
- United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
- Upper Canada Leger Centre
- Volunteer Centre of St. Lawrence-Rideau

Contact Us Today To Get Involved!

Funded by:

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Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



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Our mailing address is:

105 Strowger Blvd., Brockville, ON K6V 5V2

P.O. Box 191

Call us: 613-498-2111

Email us: diversity.matters@eecentre.com

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