



# Halton **NEWCOMER** Strategy

*Halton...  
a welcoming community*

## Report to the Community

# 2015

Halton Newcomer Strategy is an advocacy team that engages the community to empower newcomers to Halton  
[www.welcometohalton.ca](http://www.welcometohalton.ca)

## Capacity Building Training

A project that Halton Newcomer Strategy has focused on over the past year is enhancing the capacity of Halton Newcomer Service Providers. To date, HNS has coordinated 4 successful training sessions with an attendance of over 150 front line staff. Topics covered through the sessions included, Newcomers and Mental Health, Licensing in Ontario's Regulated Professions and Social Media for Newcomers Job Search. The sessions were conducted in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), World Education Services (WES), the Centre for Education and Training and the Burlington Public Library. Front line staff gained direct knowledge and skill that could then be transferred to their newcomer clients in order to support their successful transition in Halton.

The most recent training session, Halton Region Community Services, was held on November 24, 2015 and included information on supports and services available from Employment, Housing, Childcare and Social Services as well as Halton Information Providers. The session was extremely successful having been attended by over 80 service provider staff and having received excellent feedback on session



evaluations. Attendees included community organizations/groups, settlement, non-settlement, local faith organizations, health, public libraries, employment service providers and private refugee sponsoring groups.

A report of the capacity building initiative including the results of applied learning and recommendations is set to be released in 2016.

## Check out [www.welcometohalton.ca](http://www.welcometohalton.ca)

for updated information on the changing world of immigration in Canada including Express Entry, the Syrian Refugee Crisis and programing for newcomers in Halton Region.

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# SUPPORTING SYRIAN REFUGEES

Halton Newcomer Strategy members have taken a number of measures to support those affected by the Syrian refugee crisis.

## Please see below for a list of ways you can help:

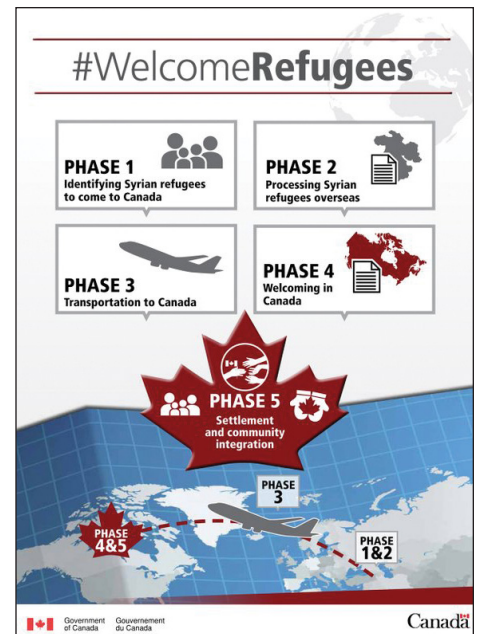
- **Local Faith organizations:** Many of the faith communities across Halton are organizing their efforts to sponsor families. Connect with your local place of worship (i.e., church, mosque, synagogue, temple, etc.) to find out how you can help.
- **HMC Connections** has opened a special line of donations to support refugees in Halton. 100% of donations will be dedicated to support the Interfaith Community Initiative. Visit [www.haltonmc.com](http://www.haltonmc.com) for more information.
- **Lifeline Syria** to help sponsor a family. Lifeline Syria is a community-based initiative that is helping to recruit, train, and match private refugee sponsors in Ontario with Syrian refugees approved for resettlement by the federal government.  
Phone: 647-827-1428  
Email: [info@lifelinesyria.ca](mailto:info@lifelinesyria.ca)  
Website: [www.lifelinesyria.ca](http://www.lifelinesyria.ca)
- If you wish to donate, these established organizations are already providing relief to refugees abroad and assistance to new arrivals in Canada: **United Nations Refugee Agency, Canadian Red Cross**
- **How to Sponsor a Refugee Family: The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program:** Workshops, Webinars and E-Training on sponsoring refugee families.

## Please see below a list of community services for refugees in Halton

- **Halton Region** is committed to enhancing the health and well-being

of all residents through its programs and services. Call 311 for more information.

- **HMC Connections** – Settlement, immigration and translation services
- **Halton Catholic District School Board Newcomer Welcome Centre** – Provide students and their families with guidance and support as they become familiar with the Region of Halton, and their new school environment.
- **Halton District School Board Welcome Centre** – Assists newcomer students and their families, services include registration, academic and language assessment, and resources. Settlement services are also available including resources about community groups, opportunities for volunteering, and community connections.
- **The Centre for Education and Training: Newcomer Information Centre** – Friendly, multilingual staff provides up-to-date information and referrals to various programs and services in the community.
- **Sheridan College** – Offers a variety of free programs and resources specific to immigrant education and job placement for Internationally Trained Professionals.
- **The Centre for Skills Development & Training Newcomer Services** – Provides services at no cost for eligible newcomers in Halton Region.
- **Thomas Merton's Adult Language Programs** – Offers language instruction for newcomers to Canada (LINC), English as a Second Language (ESL) and French as a Second Language (FSL).
- **YMCA** – Offers Immigrant Services including language assessments, newcomer information and orientation services and newcomer youth centres.



By December 31, the Canadian government will identify all 25,000 refugees to come to Canada. Of those selected, the goal is to have 10,000 Syrian refugees arrive in Canada by the end of this year, with the remainder arriving by the end of February 2016.

If you have any questions about the services for newcomers please visit the website [www.welcometohalton.ca](http://www.welcometohalton.ca) or you can call 311.

If you would like more information about how you can help and resources available in our community, email [hns@halton.ca](mailto:hns@halton.ca) and/or follow us on twitter and Facebook to receive daily updates.

- **Public Libraries of Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Georgetown and Acton** – The Newcomer's Corner, located in each library has pamphlets about federal, provincial and municipal programs, including finding a settlement worker, getting ready for Canadian citizenship test, ESL conversation circles, and computer classes.

**Milton Public Library  
Oakville Public Library  
Burlington Public Library**





# Halton Newcomer Recognition Event

The Halton Newcomer Recognition event was held on June 10 at Regional Head office. The event was a great success with over 120 individuals in attendance, including 24 newcomer hero nominees, outside organizations, community members, the Regional Chair – Gary Carr, Milton MPP – Indira Nadoo-Harris and representatives from Citizenship Immigration Canada.

Included in the celebrations, posters with take away postcards of the Newcomer Heroes stories were displayed in 10 different locations

throughout the community including Halton Multicultural Council, Halton District School Board, Halton Catholic District School Board, City of Burlington, Town of Oakville, Town of Milton, Town of Halton Hills, Region of Halton Head office, Halton Police and Burlington/Oakville Libraries.

The nominated Newcomer Heroes were recognized for their contributions to the Halton community. The Heroes included a wide range of individuals from 18 different countries, various backgrounds and occupations and each with a story of success that

conveyed significant community impact.

The newcomer heroes received a certificate in recognition of their contribution as a newcomer to Halton Region and supporting the Region to be the best place to work and live. "Their stories reflect what newcomers can achieve, from settlement to establishing their lives, in Halton," Halton Newcomer Strategy (HNS) Chair Barb Krukowski said about the newcomer recognition event. "They are positive role models for current and future newcomers and for all of us."

# HNS Recognized by Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA)

Halton Newcomer Strategy was recognized by the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) with a Local Municipal Champion Award. The work and community impact of HNS was highlighted at OMSSA's Learning Symposium on June 21 – 24, 2015 in Chatham-Kent. A display of the work of HNS was set up at the conference which allowed attendees the opportunity to read, browse and engage with HNS members in order to better



understand what makes a Local Municipal Champion. OMSSA also highlighted the achievements of the Local Municipal Champions from the podium throughout the Learning Symposium and on the OMSSA website. The award was accepted on June 24th. "The Halton

Newcomer Strategy plays such an important role in our community as an advocacy team that engages the community to help eliminate barriers to newcomers in Halton," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr. "I'm proud of our commitment to removing barriers to employment for our newest residents and I'm honoured that our commitment as part of the Halton Newcomer Strategy has been recognized through this Local Municipal Champion Award."

## E-Mentoring International Students

The Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade has provided funding to Halton Newcomer Strategy to create mobile versions of [www.welcometohalton.ca](http://www.welcometohalton.ca) and the E-Mentoring Programs to enhance E-Mentoring for International Students. The focus of this project is on increasing accessibility through the conversion of the current programs to mobile friendly applications and broadening the audience reach of the existing online mentoring platform and functionality to support international students.



The role of the Employment Working Group with this project is to create and support a communication/marketing plan, recruit employers to pilot the technology and create a sustainability plan early 2016.

The Program Lead for the project is currently working with IT companies and partners to coordinate the technology enhancement. An International Student Advisory Council will pilot the technology and assist

with conducting focus groups and content development.

Please contact [hns@halton.ca](mailto:hns@halton.ca) to find out how you can be part of this initiative.



# Newcomer Youth Report



The research for the Newcomer Youth Report has been completed including 9 focus groups with over 80+ newcomer youth as well as survey responses from over 30 youth program providers in Halton.

The final report will aim to:

- Identify youth program demographics in Halton region and current best practices
- Highlight strengths in the provision of service to newcomer youth in Halton
- Identify the needs, as well as, challenges and gaps in program and service delivery to newcomer youth in Halton

- Recommend strategies to build and support the capacity of youth programs in Halton to best meet the needs of newcomer youth
- Recommend strategies to address the program challenges and service gaps experienced by newcomer youth in Halton

It is the hope of the Halton Newcomer Strategy, that the report assist and support HNS members, partners and the community to actively work toward improving service and support to newcomer youth in Halton. The report will be made available to the community in 2016.

## Halton Newcomer Strategy & Social Media



### VIDEO TESTIMONIALS

Watch the video testimonials from newcomers about their settlement experiences and why they chose Halton Region as their place to settle.



[haltonnewcomerstrategy.com](http://haltonnewcomerstrategy.com)

Visit our website for information about HNS, our working groups and information to join.



**LIKE us on Facebook**  
**FOLLOW us on TWITTER**  
for the latest posts & tweets on Canadian immigration, newcomer resources and community events.