



**SOUTH OKANAGAN  
IMMIGRANT AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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# **PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY CONFERENCE - 2024**

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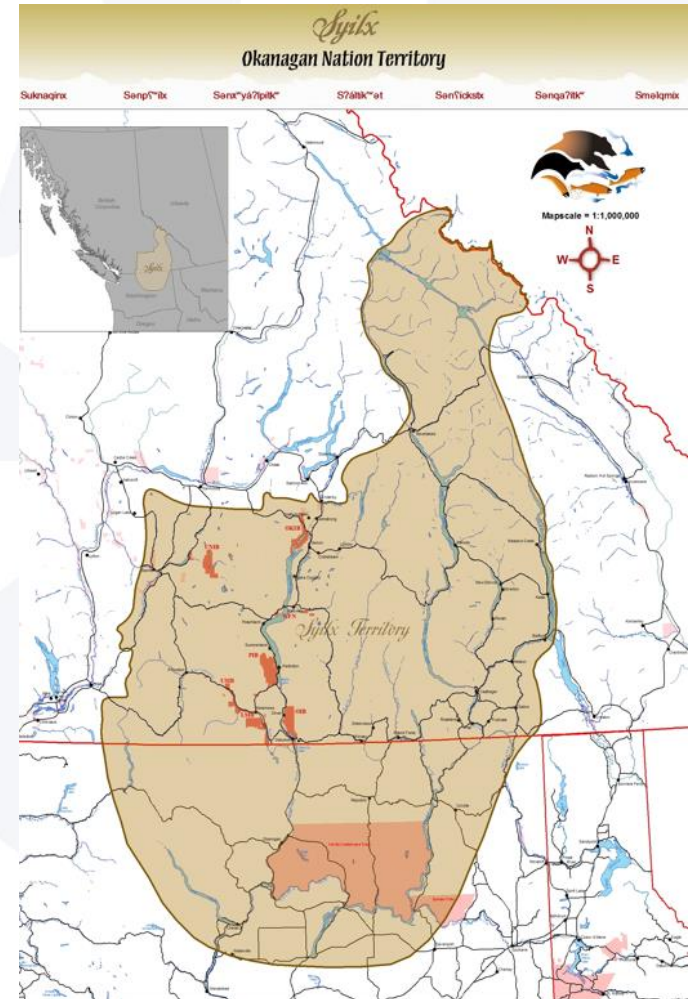


Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

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# South Okanagan-Similkameen Region

*South Okanagan-Similkameen is the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the **Syilx people of the Okanagan Nation**. I am grateful to the Okanagan Nation who have always cared for these lands, water, and air and continue to do so today. This land acknowledgement is just a first step on my journey of learning the truth and working towards reconciliation.*



# Integration Services

- ▶ English Language Training
- ▶ Career Planning & Job Search
- ▶ Settlement & Application Processes
- ▶ Community Connections & Mentors
- ▶ Life Skills Workshops
- ▶ Local Immigration Partnership
- ▶ Citizenship Preparation
- ▶ OneWorld Multicultural Festival

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# Settlement

- Settlement Supports
  - Employment
  - Community Connections
  - Settlement in Schools
- Language Enhancement
  - Language Instruction for Newcomers in Canada (LINC)
  - Workplace & Targeted Language Learning
- Belonging
  - Civic Education
  - Social & Professional Networking Opportunities
  - Intergenerational Programming



## What could help with belonging?



# Local Immigration Partnership (LIP)

Partnership table that brings together community members to create and implement a Strategy for successful immigrant settlement and integration in the region.

**Members:** government, businesses, non-profit organizations, residents, school boards, public health, faith groups, etc.

## Why?

Immigrant settlement and integration is a community effort. One organization (SOICS) cannot be responsible for all social and economic integration aspects, including employment, social and civic participation. Everyone's effort counts.

# Newcomer Attraction Projects

- BC Provincial Nominee Regional Pilot
- Project Welcome – pre-arrival mentoring
- Welcome Guide
- Employer Guide & learning events



# Newcomer Retention Projects

- Community Champions
- Workplace EDI
- HappiPad
- Anti-racism education
- Community Connections
- Civic Education



# BCPNP Regional Pilot Project

- Partnership: SOICS/LIP, City of Penticton, Community Futures
- SOICS: Pre-screening; initial interviews
- All: Exploratory visits
- SOICS/LIP: ongoing information support during the application process
- Settlement services & connections upon arrival
- Six families arrived





# Community Champions - 34 stories





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