



**Toronto East Quadrant**  
**Local Immigration Partnership**  
Working Together for a Diverse & Inclusive Community



# Newcomer Accessibility Council (NAC)

**A Cross-Regional Approach to Serving Newcomers with Disabilities - Promising  
Practices and Learnings**

**Pathways to Prosperity 2024 - November 27, 2024**

# Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are currently presenting from the unceded traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓wú7məš (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. While we are on a virtual platform, with attendees from across the land, we would like to acknowledge that we are all calling in from places we call home that are the traditional territories of diverse First Nations. The work of NAC is centered on and situated in Tktoronto on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg (ah-nish-naw-bek), the Chippewa (chi-puh-waa), the Haudenosaunee (hoodt-en-oh-show-nee) and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit (i·nyoo·uht), and Métis (may-tee) people, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

# Roadmap for today

1. About the TEQ LIP and Durham LIP
2. Context setting
3. About the NAC
4. Let's chat

# About Us

The Toronto East Quadrant Local Immigration Partnership (TEQ LIP) is a project that supports service coordination, partnership building, and community-based planning to address the needs of newcomers in Scarborough.

The project is led by a consortium of four organizations:

- ACCES Employment
- Agincourt Community Services
- Catholic Crosscultural Services
- Warden Woods Community Centre



# About the Durham LIP



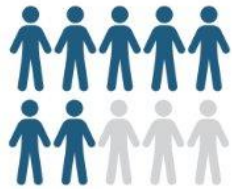
- Established in 2009.
- Over 140 Durham LIP community partners representing a broad cross-sector of sectors and systems.



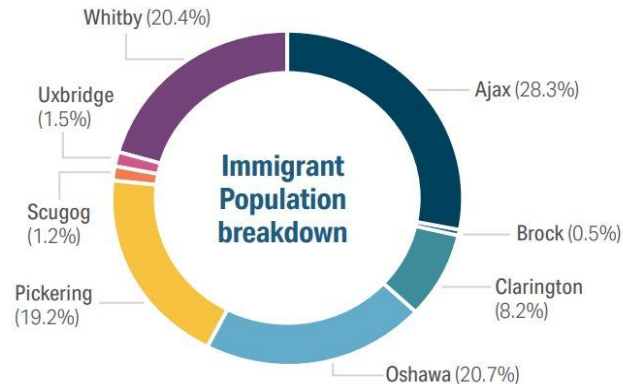
# About Durham



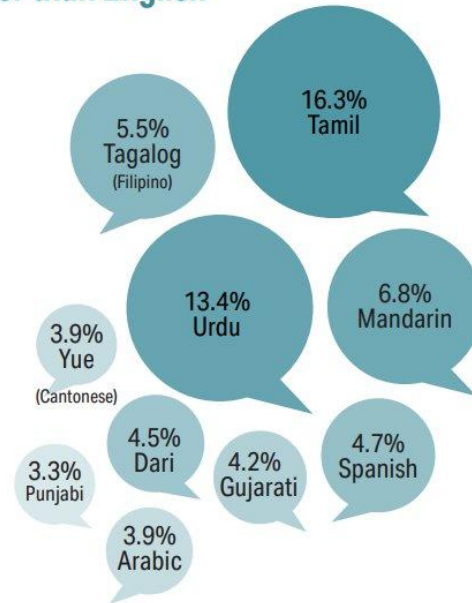
1 in 4 residents  
in Durham are  
immigrants (26.8%)



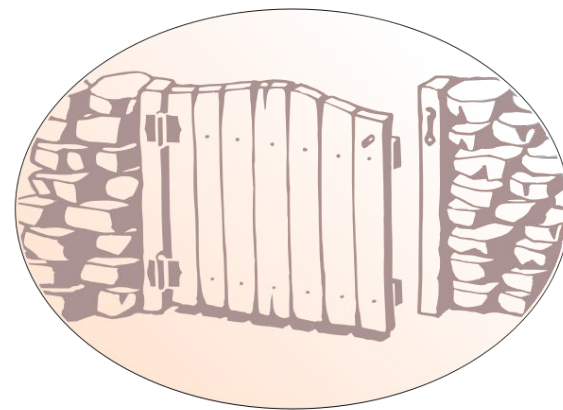
7 in 10 new residents moving  
into Durham in the last 5  
years are immigrants



## Languages spoken most often at home other than English



# Context



# The Canadian Context

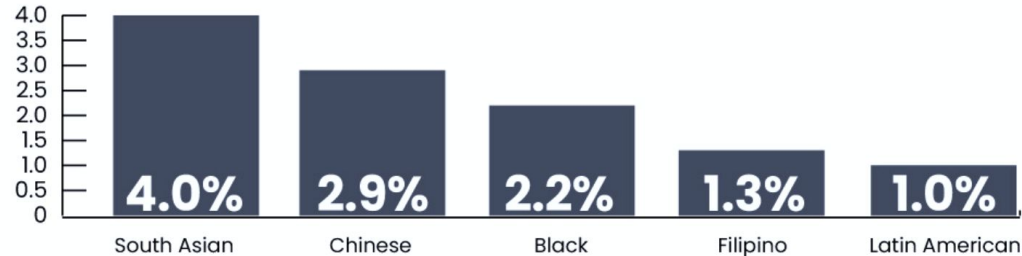
**8,000,000**

Canadians 15 years old and older have a disability

**YOUTH**

experienced the largest increase in disability rate in 2022 (13% to 20%)

Breakdown by select visible minority group:



**14%**

of people with disabilities belong to a visible minority group

**62%**

of working age adults with disabilities are employed



# Newcomer Accessibility Council

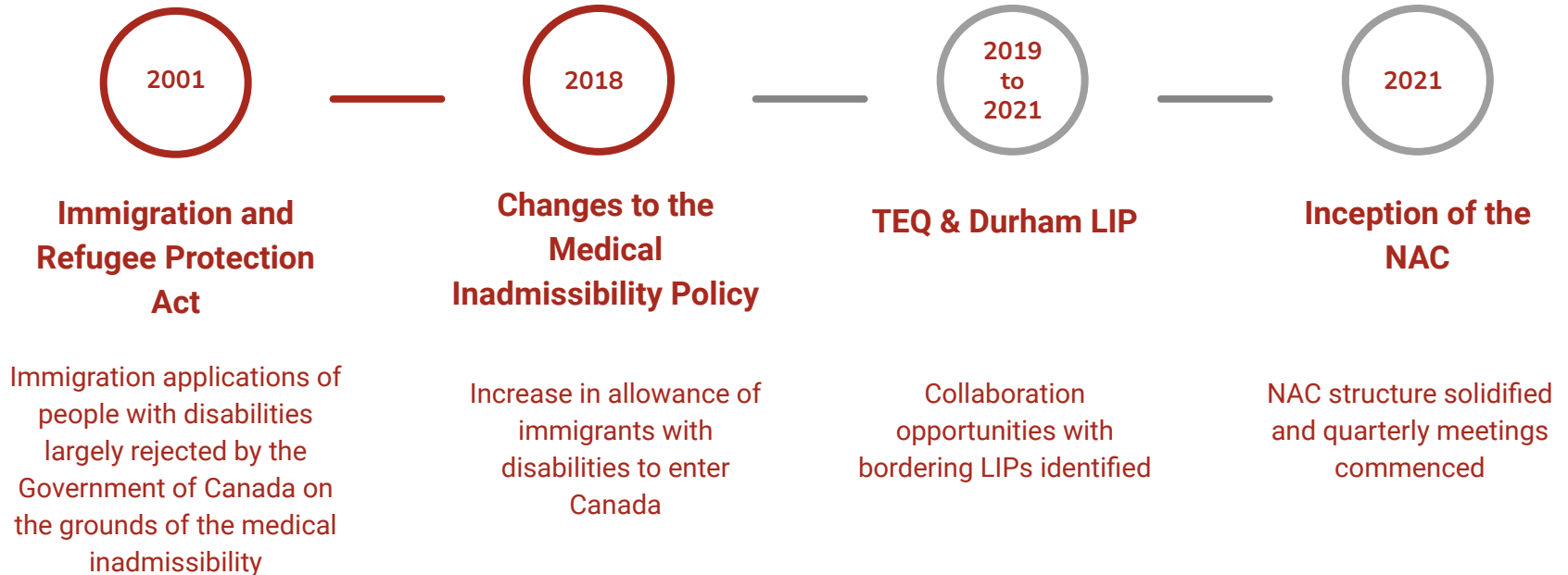
## **Who are we?**

A cross-jurisdictional advisory working group developed by the Toronto East Quadrant and Durham Local Immigration Partnership.

## **What's Our Aim?**

To implement a place-based model for an accessible, and responsive service system for newcomers with disabilities, their families and caretakers.

# How the NAC came to be



# Models of Disability - Frameworks for Understanding Disability

## Medical Model

Disability is based on individual symptoms and conditions



## Charity Model

Disabled people are a burden and/or pitied. People who “help” are benevolent heroes and know better than us what we need.



## Social Model

Disability is created by inaccessible environments and discrimination (created as part of the disability rights movement)



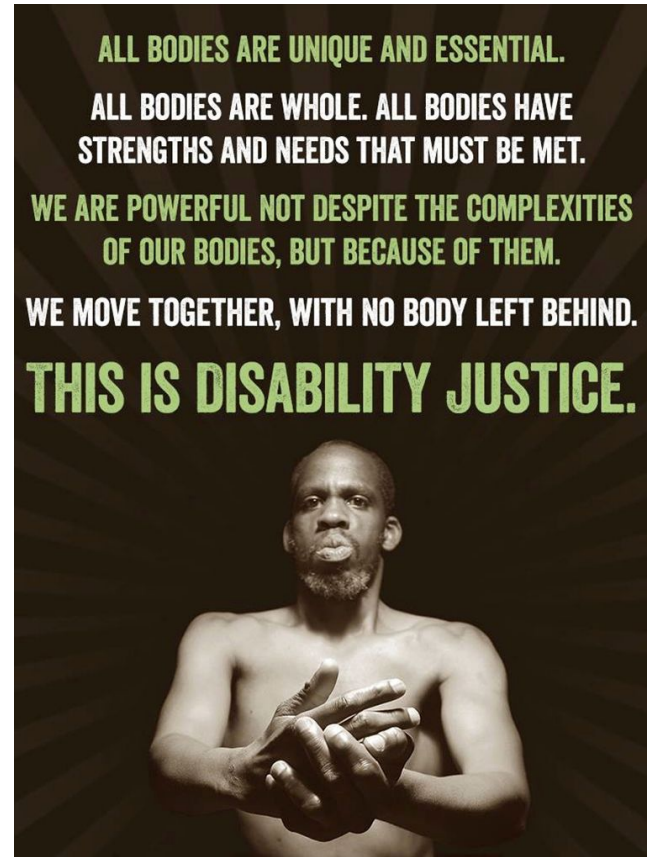
# Independent Living and Disability Rights

People with disabilities have the right to:

- live in community (deinstitutionalization)
- examine choices
- make decisions
- take risks and make mistakes
- be experts on one's own needs
- and take responsibility for one's own life.

# Disability Justice

- **An intersectional cross-disability framework**, coined by Sins Invalid, that examines disability and ableism as it relates to other forms of oppression and identity.
- **A response to further expand the work of the Disability Rights movement** which initially focused heavily on the rights of white people with physical disabilities
- **An understanding that all bodies are essential**, and are affected by ability, race, gender, sexuality, class, nation state, religion, and more.



# Who's in the NAC

	DURHAM	TORONTO EAST
Settlement	Region of Durham Local Immigration Partnership	Toronto East Local Immigration Partnership
	Ajax Welcome Centre	Warden Woods
	Pickering Welcome Centre	Catholic Crosscultural Services
	United Way Greater Toronto	Community Family Services of Ontario
Accessibility	Abilities Centre	Centre for Independent Living Toronto
	Municipality of Clarington	Renewed Family Services
	City of Pickering	SMILE Canada
	Grandview Kids	Newcomer representatives

# Our work done to-date



## Meetings

Met 9 times (once per quarter, twice in Q3 2022)



## Membership

Welcomed 5 new members from 3 different organizations



## Guest speakers

Welcomed 3 guest speakers to NAC for professional development and capacity building



## Activities

1. Conducted environmental scan on research/resources for newcomers with disabilities
2. Developed inventory of organizations serving newcomers, people with disabilities, and newcomers with disabilities
3. Shared inventory with 211 Ontario for upload on their website – now integrated!
4. Helped refine consultation survey on mental health and disability
5. Planned and delivered *Disability Inclusion: Coming Together to Support Newcomers with Disabilities*: Plenary Discussion and Information Sharing Event to 45 attendees
6. Coordinated NAC Learning Series
  - Delivered 1<sup>st</sup> workshop: Foundations of Disability Inclusion to 48 attendees

# Our learnings to date

- Settlement and accessibility sectors still need to get to know each other
- Need for better referral pathways remain
- Path towards accessing and finding the right services for newcomers with disabilities starts with **eliminating stigma and providing education about disability**
  - **Understanding and acceptance of disability is tightly linked to cultural norms**
- Parent/caregiver/support network are critical partners in serving newcomers with disabilities - emphasis on community vs. individuality



# Let's chat - submit your responses to the poll and share your experiences in the chat or audio

## **POLL SLIDE**

**On a scale of 1 to 10, how well do you think our sector is serving newcomers with disabilities?**

\*\* pause for discussion about why \*\*

**On a scale of 1 to 10, how confident do YOU feel as a service provider in your capacity and knowledge to serve newcomers with disabilities?**

- If you don't feel as confident, what resources or training would help you feel more confident in serving newcomers with disabilities?
- If you do feel confident, what has helped you feel that way?

\*\* pause for discussion about why \*

# Let's chat

- **What are you or your community partners doing to support newcomers with disabilities?**
  - a. What is being done to support newcomers with disabilities in addressing stigma and accessing culturally competent services and resources?
- **As a LIP, what kind of supports have community partners sought from you to support newcomers with disabilities?**
  - a. What are they struggling with?
  - b. What are they doing well?

# Let's chat

- **Any stories of effective practices that have emerged in your communities?**
- **What would you like to see in this area/space that hasn't been done? Or is still missing?**
  - a. What type of partners or expertise are you looking for?
- **Are there emerging trends that we should be aware of that could impact newcomers with disabilities?**

# Wrap Up

1. Share-back Discussion
2. Link to Resource Folder:
3. Connect with Us!
  - a. Azreen Sikder [azreens@wardenwoods.com](mailto:azreens@wardenwoods.com) & <https://scarboroughlip.com/>
  - b. Danielle Pineda [Danielle.Pineda@durham.ca](mailto:Danielle.Pineda@durham.ca) & <https://www.durhamimmigration.ca/en/index.aspx>
  - c. Rebecca Wood [rebecca.wood@cilt.ca](mailto:rebecca.wood@cilt.ca) & <https://cilt.ca/>
4. International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024: December 3rd 2024
  - a. CILT: **International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024: Amplifying the leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future** When: December 3, 2024, 1:00-3:00 PM EST  
**Register in advance for this meeting at:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArd-GoqzktHd39Pb88CZaSHweYyTXhSjvQ>