




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	December 8, 2025
SUBJECT:	Release of the 2025 Immigrant Survey Report (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Phil Caldwell, Acting Director, Economic Development Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this Communications Update is to advise Council that the City of Hamilton's Planning and Economic Development Department's Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council has released the 2025 Hamilton Immigrant Survey Report.

Hamilton Immigrant Survey 2025 is the second large-scale survey of immigrants in Hamilton conducted bi-annually. The Hamilton Immigrant Survey was first conducted in 2023 and was re-launched on May 30, 2025, at the Hamilton Newcomer Day event and open until the end of June 2025. The survey included overall 32 questions, and was translated into four languages: Arabic, French, Persian and Spanish. While we do aim to translate the survey into most common languages spoken by newcomers in Hamilton, we recognize not all languages have been represented and will work to address underrepresented groups in the next iteration.

In this survey, "immigrant" refers to anyone who was born outside Canada and lives, works, or studies in Hamilton. This includes economic class immigrants, family-sponsored immigrants, refugees, international students, refugee claimants, temporary foreign workers, and others. Anyone 16 years of age and above who was born outside Canada and lived, worked, or studied in Hamilton at the time of data collection was eligible to complete the survey.

Over 630 participants completed the 2025 Immigrant Survey, sharing their experiences,

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

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challenges, contributions, and suggestions for improving outcomes for immigrants in Hamilton. Findings from this survey provide an understanding of how immigrants are doing in various aspects of life and how these outcomes differ from those we observed in 2023 as well as across markers such as immigration category, length of time in Canada, racialized status, gender, age, and more.

Key findings from the 2025 survey revealed that cost of living, housing affordability, and lack of employment were still the top three challenges facing newcomers. Compared to 2023, employment was a more prominent challenge facing participants, which reflects the changed labour market conditions where unemployment rates are significantly higher than two years ago. Further, the proportion of participants who lived in unaffordable (62%) and unsuitable (33%) housing has substantially increased since 2023.

This survey is an important platform through which the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council engages immigrants and newcomers to share their voices, experiences, challenges, contributions, and suggestions. As a knowledge broker on immigration locally, the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council hopes that the survey findings help service providers, policy makers, decision makers, and other community leaders have a better understanding of the experiences of immigrants in Hamilton and use this information to guide their work. This report aims to guide future collective actions and initiatives by the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council and its community and municipal partners in order to ensure newcomers are welcomed and supported in Hamilton.

In the coming weeks, the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council will be promoting the 2025 Hamilton Immigrant Survey findings through a social media campaign. This campaign will introduce the survey and the findings from the report. We will look for opportunities to explore certain aspects of this survey in more depth, deliver presentations on the findings, and respond to any questions from our municipal and community partners. A summary report will be launched in early 2026.

The complete report and the infographic can be accessed at:

www.hamiltonimmigration.ca/immigrantsurvey.

If you have any questions respecting this communication, please contact Mohammad Araf, Acting Senior Project Manager, Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council by email at Mohammad.Araf@hamilton.ca or by phone at (905) 546-2424 Ext.4359

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A – Hamilton Immigrant Survey 2025 Infographic

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

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HAMILTON IMMIGRANT SURVEY 2025

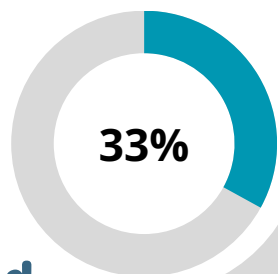


Housing Affordability and Suitability



More than **6 in 10** participants said their **housing** was **unaffordable** compared to 4 in 10 in 2023.

One-third of participants said their **housing** was **not suitable** for their needs, a 10% increase from 2023.



Cost of living, finding work, and finding affordable housing continue to be **top challenges** facing participants.

Over 600 immigrants participated in the **largest bi-annual survey** of immigrants in **Hamilton**



Income and Employment



More than **7 in 10** participants reported that their **income** was **not sufficient** for their needs.



Less than half of participants reported that they were **employed**, which is 20% lower than in 2023.

Among those employed, **only half** of participants said their job **matched their qualifications**.



Services Used

Most services were rated **positively**.



Public transit was the **top service** used by participants, followed by **health**.

Well-being Indicators



72% of participants reported having a **positive settlement** experience.

About three quarters of participants reported a **strong sense of belonging**.



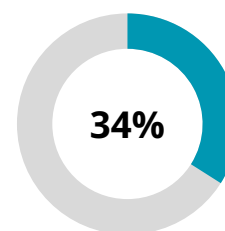
Younger participants were **less likely** to report a **strong sense of belonging**.

49% of participants described **Hamilton** as **very welcoming**, giving it a rating of 8-10.



7 in 10 participants reported **excellent** or **good** health.

Refugees were **less likely** than other immigrant groups to rate their **health positively**.



Over one-third of participants reported feeling **very isolated**.

This was **higher** among **international students, youth** (ages 16-24), and **refugee claimants**.

Just over half of the participants said that they felt **extremely** or **very safe** in **Hamilton**.

About **one-third** of participants reported they experienced **discrimination** mainly due to **race or skin colour**, and in **public spaces** and **employment contexts**.





Community Contributions

Volunteering was one of the **most frequently** mentioned **contributions** by participants.



"I volunteer regularly at the Eva Rothwell Centre. The staff there are excellent, and I'm **proud to help** others feel at home."



Solutions and Suggestions to Community Leaders

Read what participants had to say, in their own words:

"Provide more information about job opportunities and facilitate interaction with employers. Strengthen the processes that allow for the recognition of academic degrees."



"Even though I worked in retail, I **helped** many Afghan families with translation, finding housing, and resumes **because I understand their struggles.**"



"Improve access to resources: Ensure immigrants have easy access to information about housing, healthcare, education, and employment."

"Acknowledge and address systemic barriers like racism."

"Extend services to temporary residents (students and workers)."

"A one-stop newcomer centre would help us find jobs, housing, and support without going to ten different places."



Scan here to read the complete report!

www.hamiltonimmigration.ca
immigration.partnership@hamilton.ca

   Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council

Funded by:

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