Communication Update

To:	Mayor and Members of City Council
Date:	November 23, 2026
Subject/Report No.:	Invitation to Participate in the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council's Annual Community Forum (City-Wide)
Ward(s) Affected:	City Wide
Submitted By:	Simon Gill Director Economic Development Division Planning and Economic Development Department
Signature:	

Summary

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 will be hosting a Community Forum on December 1, 2026.

Background

The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council is a community table that seeks to create a seamless settlement experience for newcomers in Hamilton. With partners from various sectors – including settlement, education, business, health, social services, municipal affairs, and persons with lived immigration experience – we work together make Hamilton a welcoming community where newcomers have a positive settlement experience and feel a sense of belonging. The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and housed within the City of Hamilton's Economic Development Division.

The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council also serves as the City of Hamilton's Community Liaison Group for immigrants and refugees. In this role, the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council is committed to hosting public forums that provide opportunities for

immigrants, refugees, and community partners to share their input and help inform local decision-making.

The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council has hosted annual Community Forums since 2024 with the goal of bringing together newcomers, community members, service providers, organizations, and community partners for knowledge sharing, relationship-building, and community dialogue.

Details

The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council Community Forum: Exploring Diverse Newcomer Experiences, Community Challenges, and Collective Action is a full day event connecting diverse community voices in Hamilton to better understand newcomer experiences from an intersectional lens, identify emerging challenges and opportunities, and strengthen our collective response in a changing policy landscape.

Date: Tuesday December 1, 2026
Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Location: David Braley Health Sciences Centre, 100 Main Street West (downtown Hamilton)
This event is free and open to all. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration is required.

The morning program will include remarks from Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Joe Martin; a keynote address by Dr. Vinh Nguyen, author of Migrant Rain Falls in Reverse, the Hamilton Reads 2026 title; a presentation by the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council staff; and a plenary session on immigration and settlement. Moderated by Dr. Jemimah Amos, Senior Advisor, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at Good Shepherd, the panel will feature representatives from the Afro Canadian Caribbean Association, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, Refuge Newcomer Health, and Wesley.

The afternoon program will feature facilitated Community Conversations on four priority areas: anti-discrimination, employment, health, and housing. These breakout sessions will bring participants together to share perspectives, identify community priorities, and explore opportunities for collective action. Sessions will be facilitated by representatives from the City of Hamilton, Good Shepherd, Wesley, Goodwill Industries Ontario Great Lakes, Workforce

Planning Hamilton, YWCA Hamilton, and Abrar Trauma and Mental Health Services, with select presentations from Mohawk College and the Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre.
Who should attend?

- Newcomers to Hamilton;
- Community members with lived experience of migration;
- Community members who care about newcomers;
- Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council members and community partners;
- Staff members of organizations that work with newcomers; and,
- Decisionmakers who want to support newcomers.

All interested attendees must register through the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council Eventbrite page.

Next Steps

Following the Community Forum, the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council will produce a report documenting key findings and community input. The report will be shared with forum attendees and made publicly available to support transparency, inform local decision-making, and help identify practical actions to strengthen newcomer welcoming, settlement, and belonging in Hamilton. Reports from previous forums are available on the Hamilton Immigration Partnership website.

If you have any questions respecting this communication, please contact Mohammad Araf, 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 – Invitation to Participate in the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council's Annual Community Forum (City-Wide)