



For Immediate Release

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2022 Collaboratory focuses on inclusion and equity in the workplace

Event features keynote speaker from Victoria's Inclusion Project and facilitator from the Comox Valley's Human Nature Development

COMOX VALLEY/CAMPBELL RIVER – Join the Immigrant Welcome Centre's **Welcoming Communities Coalition** in February for their 2022 Collaboratory to learn, discuss, and reflect on *Creating Inclusive Workplaces for the Recruitment and Retention of Newcomers*.

Community members are invited to register for an online event featuring keynote speaker Ruth Mojeed Ramirez, the Chief Equity Officer at **The Inclusion Project** in Victoria. Mojeed Ramirez brings extensive lived experience and grounded expertise to her work in racial equity, diversity and inclusion. She is a nation builder and community organizer who has been widely recognized for her role in supporting newcomers and racialized people on the path to finding a sense of belonging within Canadian institutions and communities.

Liz Wootton from Comox Valley-based **Human Nature Development** will then facilitate small group discussions that will help reframe how we think about inclusion in the workplace. Wootton is a business consultant and leadership coach whose mission is to make the world a better place for people in business, not by changing the world but by guiding and supporting change for those people. Her approach to excellence in business is a human-centric one, encouraging people to work with their human nature to get the best from themselves and their teams.

The event also features a guest from the B.C. **Provincial Nominee Program**, Aireen Luney. Luney, the manager of program development and promotion with the Immigration Programs Branch, will share some of the tools available for newcomers and employers.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Employment equity
- Overcoming unconscious biases
- Inclusive workplace cultures
- Impacts of the pandemic on existing gaps
- Actions and recommendations for making our organizations more welcoming

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“Through the Coalition’s conversations and research, we are hearing there is a desire in our communities to learn more about how to attract and retain a diverse workforce. Increasingly, organizations are realizing that immigration, diversity, and inclusive cultures are all part of the solution to labour gaps and economic growth,” Immigrant Welcome Centre Executive Director Jim Brennan said.

Added Coalition coordinator Julie Keumbehdjian: “At this event, we are also looking forward to the discussions with participants about what we can do in the workplace and beyond to create more welcoming communities.”

The Coalition’s work is funded by Immigration, Refugees, & Citizenship Canada (IRCC). The Collaboratory is free to attend and advanced registration is required.

Date: February 24, 2022

Time: 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Where: Online

Register at: collaboratory2022.eventbrite.com

[Learn more on our website](#)

About the Welcoming Communities Coalition

The Immigrant Welcome Centre’s Welcoming Communities Coalition is an initiative supporting service coordination, local partnerships, and community-based planning around the needs of newcomers in the North Island. Through community-level research and strategic planning, the WCC identifies barriers facing newcomers, raises awareness around newcomers’ ideas, and collaborates with local stakeholders to reduce these barriers. Learn more at immigrantwelcome.ca/community-leadership/welcoming-communities-coalition

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