



For Immediate Release

December 28, 2022

What is it like settling in Campbell River and the Comox Valley as an immigrant?

The public is invited to a virtual event on *Building Empathy: Immigrant Experiences*

COMOX VALLEY/CAMPBELL RIVER – What is it like to make your home in Campbell River and the Comox Valley as a newcomer? Join the Immigrant Welcome Centre’s **Welcoming Communities Coalition** on January 25 for their 2023 Collaboratory where participants will learn, discuss, and reflect on *Building Empathy: Immigrant Experiences*.

New and longtime residents are invited to register for the free online event where they will hear from newcomers about the unexpected challenges they faced as they settled in their new communities on Vancouver Island. Themes of social isolation, finding meaningful employment, and addressing basic needs will be further explored in small group discussions.

“We see recurring needs and challenges emerge time and again through our public forums, dialogues, and research,” Coalition coordinator Julie Keumbehjdian says. “This event is an opportunity for the public to listen to the lived experiences of immigrants first-hand and talk about how we can build empathy in our communities for newcomers.”

The Collaboratory is also an opportunity for the public to learn about the Welcoming Communities Coalition, a community-driven Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) that collaborates with local people and organizations to create more welcoming and inclusive communities. Come to the event to learn more about the Coalition’s recent research, projects, and partnerships, and how to get involved.

Date: January 25, 2023

Time: 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Online

Register for free at: bit.ly/2023Collaboratory



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

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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IWC/WCC Media Contact:

To arrange an interview with a spokesperson contact:

Ann McLeod

250-830-0171

Ann.McLeod@ImmigrantWelcome.ca

Public Contact:

Campbell River 250-830-0171

Comox Valley 250-338-6359

North Island 855-805-0171

Campbell River

200-1170 Shoppers Road

Campbell River, B.C. V9W 2C8

T: 250-830-0171 | F: 250-830-1010

The Comox Valley

407A 5th Street

Courtenay, B.C. V9N 1J7

T: 250-338-6359 | F: 250-338-6359

www.ImmigrantWelcome.ca

info@ImmigrantWelcome.ca