



For Immediate Release

July 26, 2023

Survey aims to understand Comox Valley residents' perceptions of immigration

Take the survey between now and August 11 for a chance to win a prize

COMOX VALLEY – What does the community need more of for the successful integration of immigrants and refugees? Do you think our community has a reputation for being open and welcoming for newcomers? Have you experienced discrimination while living in the community?

Local residents are invited to tell the Immigrant Welcome Centre's Welcoming Communities Coalition (WCC) their perceptions about immigration and how we can make our communities more welcoming for immigrants and refugees.

If you were born in Canada or are a newcomer who has lived in the Comox Valley or Campbell River regions for more than five years, you are invited to fill out the WCC's 2023 Community Survey until August 11. Participation helps the Coalition and other local organizations better understand what the community needs more of for the successful settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees.

The survey is voluntary and anonymous, and participants can enter a draw for prizes such as a "ride and dine" summer scenic chairlift and lunch package for two from Mount Washington Resort. An in-depth survey for newcomers who have lived in the community for five years or less was held earlier in the summer.

Input from both surveys will be summarized in a report that will be available to the community at the end of the year. "Local organizations can then use this report to inform their policies and programs to better support immigrants in Campbell River, the Comox Valley, and surrounding regions," WCC Coordinator Julie Keumbehdjian said.

The survey is online, but paper copies can be available if needed. The survey and further details are posted on the IWC website at <https://bit.ly/2023CommunitySurveyCVCR>.

For more information, please contact WCC coordinator Julie Keumbehdjian at julie.keumbehdjian@immigrantwelcome.ca or by phone at 250-830-0171.



The Immigrant Welcome Centre and Welcoming Communities Coalition are funded by Immigration, Refugees, & Citizenship Canada and the province of British Columbia.

About the Welcoming Communities Coalition

The Immigrant Welcome Centre provides settlement and support services to newcomers to Canada settling in Campbell River, the Comox Valley, and the North Island. The IWC'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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Submitted photo attached. Caption: Fill out the Welcoming Communities Coalition's 2023 Community Survey to share your perceptions of immigration and for a chance to win a prize.

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