

IMMIGRANT ISSUES AT-A-GLANCE

The following provides examples of current barriers many immigrants face when arriving in Calgary as well as the impact those barriers have on The City. There are key areas The City of Calgary can work in to minimize the barriers and assist with the successful integration of immigrants into the Calgary community.



HOUSING

Difficulty finding and maintaining affordable, appropriate housing include⁶:

- Limited affordable housing supply

- High levels of precarious housing
- Increased neighbourhoods of concentrated poverty

- Find innovative ways to provide an adequate supply of affordable and appropriate housing which includes home-ownership and rental

ECONOMIC

Struggles in the Canadian labour market include⁷:

- Lack of foreign credential recognition
- Official language skills
- Foreign work experience

- Deepening levels of poverty⁸
- Increased levels of emigration

- Improve assessment and recognition of foreign credentials for City employment opportunities
- Develop partnerships with educational institutions, corporations, immigrant serving agencies to create employment opportunities

SOCIAL

Immigrant and visible minority youth sometimes face a range of challenges placing them at risk of poor developmental outcomes. These include:

- Pre-migration stressors
- Language and cultural barriers
- Racism and inter-cultural tensions

- Increased social exclusion and isolation
- Continued disproportionate contact with the criminal justice system⁸

- Effectively communicate with diverse communities to create awareness about City programs and services.

⁶ Tanasescu, A., Classens, M., et al. 2009. *Hidden in Plain Sight: Housing Challenges of Newcomers in Calgary*. Calgary: Calgary Homeless Foundation.

⁷ Larose, G. and Tillman, G. 2009. *Valorizing Immigrants' Non-Canadian Work Experience*. Ottawa: Canadian Council on Learning. Online: http://www.ccl-cca.ca/pdfs/WLKC/WLKC_valorizing_EN.pdf.

⁸ Pruegger, V., Cook, D. and Richter-Salomons, S. 2009. *Inequality in Calgary: The Racialization of Poverty*. Calgary: The City of Calgary.