



Exploring Collaboration Opportunities to Foster Community Cohesion

Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI)
January 29, 2014

Vision and Responsibilities

Vision:

- A diverse and inclusive society where all people contribute to a strong economy, caring society and enhanced quality of life

MCI has lead responsibility for matters related to:

- Immigration and newcomer integration
- Volunteerism and the not-for-profit sector
- Provincial honours and awards
- Women's issues
- Senior's issues

Areas of Responsibility

Immigration

Implementing initiatives outlined in **Ontario's Immigration Strategy**

Leading the development of provincial policies/programs to support the successful integration of newcomers into Ontario

Providing settlement and language training services

Supporting internationally trained individuals to get licensed and find employment in their field of expertise

Ensuring that registration practices of Ontario's regulated professions are transparent, objective, impartial and fair (Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act, 2006)

Providing information to prospective immigrants and to newcomers in Ontario

Supporting municipalities to address their local immigration priorities

Enabling employers to attract skilled immigrants who meet their business and human capital needs

Immigration Programs / Activities

Program	Description
Ontario Bridge Training Programs	Help skilled newcomers to access licensure and employment in their field, without duplicating previous training and education. MCI currently has about 100 active bridge training projects.
Global Experience Ontario (GEO)	Assists internationally trained individuals by providing information and referrals regarding the non-health regulated professions in Ontario. Since opening its doors in December 2006, GEO has served over 12,000 clients.
Adult Non-credit English and French as a Second Language (ESL/FSL)	Funds Ontario Public and Catholic District School Boards to deliver ESL / FSL programs to immigrants. The program helps more than 120,000 immigrants gain the language skills they need to work and live in Ontario.
Newcomer Settlement Program (NSP)	Funds community-based delivery of settlement services to an estimated 80,000 newcomers each year. Services are provided in over 90 languages to newcomers from over 100 countries in over 30 communities across the province.
Language Interpreter Services Program	Funds agencies to deliver spoken and sign language interpretation on a 24/7 basis to victims of domestic and sexual violence as well as individuals exploited by human trafficking. Over 6,000 clients are served annually.

Immigration Programs / Activities (Continued)

Program	Description
Orientation to Ontario (O2O)	Provides standardized orientation information to newcomers in workshop, online and print formats, pre-arrival and on-arrival.
Municipal Immigration Information Online (MIIO)	Funds municipalities to develop and maintain local portals that link newcomers, prospective immigrants and employers to information and resources and offers municipalities opportunities to showcase their communities and provide relevant local information.
Francophone Municipal Immigration Information Online (MIIO)	Eighteen (18) municipal governments have developed Francophone portals to promote their communities to newly arrived and potential Francophone immigrants and provide information in French on French language services in their communities.
Minister's Employer's Table & Regional Roundtables	Annual Minister's Table established to better understand employer immigration needs and challenges and to solicit employer feedback .
Ontario Award for Leadership in Immigrant Employment	Annual Employer Award recognizes champions and builds employer engagement in integration of immigrants.

Areas of Responsibility Citizenship

Helping the not-for-profit sector build capacity in areas such as communications, coordinated service delivery, volunteer management, training and governance

Promoting active citizenship and volunteering

Recognizing the contributions Ontarians make to their communities and to the province

Citizenship Programs / Activities

Program	Description
Partnership Project	<p>Initiative to strengthen the relationship between the Ontario government and the province's 45,000 not-for-profit organizations. Six (6) key recommendations have been accepted by the government as a vision for a continued partnership with the not-for-profit sector.</p> <p><i>Partnership Grant Program:</i> funding to help build sector capacity through collaboration and supporting networks</p> <p><i>Partnership Forum:</i> Cross-sectoral collaboration of leaders from the non-profit sector, government and private sectors</p> <p><i>Government Online Channel:</i> one stop access point for non-profit organizations</p>
Volunteerism	<p>The Ministry supports initiatives to encourage and promote volunteerism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Change the World: Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge</i> engages over 38,000 youth • <i>DiverseCity: The Greater Toronto Leadership Project</i> is helping to change volunteer leadership to better reflect community diversity • <i>Pan Am Games Volunteer Legacy Strategy:</i> certification /recognition program to help volunteers transition to paid employment <p><i>Volunteer Service Awards</i> recognize over 9,000 Ontarians for their volunteer contributions across Ontario</p>

Citizenship Programs / Activities

Program	Description
Honours and Awards	<p>Ontario's honours and awards programs recognize outstanding achievement and service to the community, promote volunteerism and the accomplishments of outstanding Ontarians.</p> <p>Fifteen recognition programs include the Order of Ontario, Ontario's highest award and the Ontario Volunteer Service Award.</p>
Commemoration and Celebrations	<p>The Ontario Government observes special celebrations and commemorations on behalf of the people of Ontario. These include Canada Day and Remembrance Day.</p>

Collaboration Opportunities to Support Community Cohesion

Libraries and library staff are tremendous community resources as:

- ***Place Resources***: offering on-line and physical space for programs, training, workshops, orientation for volunteers and newcomer groups
- ***Information Resources***: repository of information and resources including multilingual materials
- ***Experts***: about local information services, program and resources; and local history
- ***Connectors***: developing partnerships with non-profit, volunteer and immigrant organizations to foster community cohesion

Discussion