

How do I create a Welcoming Neighbourhood for Newcomers?





















About Newcomers in HRM

HRM welcomes over 2,000 new immigrants each year from a wide range of countries around the world, including Africa and the Middle East, Asia & Pacific, Europe, UK and the US. Newcomers represent many languages, customs, beliefs and backgrounds. They may come to HRM as family and business immigrants, refugees, international students, temporary workers or visitors. Many will make HRM their permanent home and bring skills and experiences that contribute to our economic growth and community development.

Why is a welcoming neighbourhood important?

No matter who they are and where they come from, newcomers help build vibrant neighbourhoods, and a welcoming community plays a big part in helping them build a new life here. Welcoming neighbourhoods build on a tradition of hospitality Haligonians are known for. They help build new relationships, new traditions as well as a sense of belonging, safety and community pride. We all have a role to play in creating welcoming and inclusive communities. If you've wondered what you can do to make newcomers feel part of your neighbourhood, this Tool-Kit is for you! If you have other ideas or stories to share please e-mail them to myhrm@halifax.ca.

What can I do to welcome my new neighbours?

-  Say hello! - Introduce yourself and your family;
-  Take the time to learn something about your new neighbours;
-  Learn how to pronounce their names in their language;
-  Try to imagine what it would be like to leave your home and move to a new place;
-  Take an interest in learning about other cultures and traditions;
-  Overcome language barriers by speaking slowly and using simple words (not raising your voice);
-  Share a dish, a recipe or something from your garden;
-  Invite your neighbours for a coffee or a meal;
-  Invite them to attend a quarterly SupperNova (for dates, visit <http://www.isisns.ca/volunteer-community/welcoming-events/>);
-  Let them know about community activities or events taking place (for listings, visit <http://www.halifax.ca/events/>);
-  Organize a sport event, BBQ, a street party or a film night and involve your new neighbours in the event (for some ideas visit <http://myhrm.ca/Toolkit/>);
-  Invite them to HRM's Annual Welcome BBQ (see www.halifax.ca/newcomers) held during Natal Day Weekend;
-  Share with them places to visit, things to see, fun things to do and plan an outing together;
-  If you have kids encourage them to play together or walk to school together;
-  Let them know if there is a neighbourhood association or group they can join;
-  Share the HRM Newcomers Guide available from HRM Customer Service Centres (call 490-4000 or access on-line at www.halifax.ca/newcomers);
-  Answer questions about garbage pick-up, recycling, composting, seasonal home decorating etc. (see <http://www.halifax.ca/CitizenGuide>);
-  Make them feel like they're part of the community!



Learn More

Nova Scotia Office of Immigration works with the government of Canada to bring immigrants to Nova Scotia. They want newcomers from around the world to make Nova Scotia their home.

Phone: 424-5230

www.novascotiainmigration.com

Immigrant Settlement & Integration Services (ISIS) is a community-based organization that has many services for newcomers including orientation and settlement support, language training, and employment and business development services, available onsite and online. Newcomers often come here soon after they arrive.

Phone: 423-3607

www.isisns.ca

YMCA Immigrant Programs is a community based organization that helps newcomers with new language, culture, community, recreation and similar services.

Phone: 457-9622

www.ymcahrm.ns.ca

Immigration Francophone - Francophone Immigration provides settlement and integration services to French-speaking immigrants to Nova Scotia.

Tel. (902)433-0439

www.vienouvelle-ecosse.ca

Halifax Public Libraries ESL for Adults offers language training for newcomers

Telephone: (902) 490-5990

<http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca>

Metro Region Immigrant Language Services (MILS) provides Canadian Language Benchmark assessments, English as a Second Language instruction and pre-employment skills.

Tel. (902) 464-2868 / (902) 464-2033

<http://www.milsns.info/contact.php>

Halifax Regional School Board Adult ESL

offers full-time and part-time language instruction in Halifax.

Tel. 421-7779

<http://www.hrsb.ns.ca/content/id/869.html>



Information provided in the Good Neighbours Great Neighbourhoods Tool Kit is accurate as of the date of printing. For the most current information on these and many other HRM programs, please visit www.myhrm.ca or www.halifax.ca

HRM provides a number of links to external websites. HRM is not responsible for the accuracy, reliability, currency or content of the information provided through external sources. Users wishing to rely upon this information should consult directly with the source of the information.

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