

Immigration 101: Flexible and Innovative Programs

Flexible and innovative programs ensure immigration brings assets and opportunities to Canada. Atlantic Canada has the oldest population in the country, and low birth rates, which make unique and context-specific programming incredibly important to support immigration to the region. Through innovative and flexible immigration programming and services, we build a region with unique perspectives, voices, lived experiences that foster a more resilient Atlantic region and Canada.



Key Messages

- Immigration creates a larger economic pie for all Canadians. Through immigration, we build jobs, increase global competitiveness, and help build economic growth.
- Offering a range of programs and services allows for a holistic, wrap-around support for immigrants and create programming that is unique to Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada.
- Innovative programs and services empower, build newcomers' skills, and reflects their unique journey and goals.

Statistics



- The number of immigrants who settle in small and midsize communities is **growing**
- Immigration in the Prairies and Atlantic Canada has **more than doubled** in the last 15 years
- **About 85%** of newcomers become citizens. Canada has one of highest naturalization rates in the world.

Flexible and Innovative Programs at ISANS

Using a client-informed approach, ISANS seeks to respond to the needs of those we serve—immigrants. ISANS' programming and services are highly adaptive, allowing the organization to innovate to meet client demands, service gaps and opportunities to build a community where all can belong and grow.

SOPA

An ISANS innovation, Settlement Online Pre-Arrival (SOPA) offers customized orientation, courses, and counselling delivered by six settlement organizations across Canada. SOPA provides unique pre-arrival employment-focused

services preparing newcomers for the Canadian workplace with local expertise, knowledge, resources and networks.

Community Gardens

Growing Strong Neighborhoods Community Gardens are unique spaces where people of all ages come together, overcome barriers between communities, and build new relationships and skills. From 15 families in 2012 to nearly 150 in 2018, this innovative program provides a safe intergenerational space to build or rebuild their sense of belonging and community.

Bridge to Entrepreneurship Pilot Program

An innovative customized counselling, coaching and training program for vulnerable clients groups, particularly refugees with lower language (CLB 2-4). In partnership with the Halifax Seaport Farmers Market, clients have opportunities to test market products suitable for sale to the public.

Arts Based Programs

With our innovative Arts Based programs, ISANS collaborates with local, provincial and national organizations to offer arts-based activities to families, adults, children and youth. Benefits to clients include enhanced connections with others, art expression and the mental health benefits of that, and greater understanding of community activities and resources.

Sources

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