

Immigration 101: Keeping Conversations Positive

We share similar values whether we were born in Canada, or arrived here as immigrants:

- We want our families to be safe and secure
- We use our skills in business, the workplace and our communities
- We contribute to a common tax base by spending money on goods and services
- We participate in our communities through sports, volunteering, and engaging in cultural and recreational activities
- We want to help others in need including those affected by war, persecution and human rights abuses



Key Messages

Immigrants to our country

- Offer communities and businesses a window into new knowledge and practices
- Can help companies build international business ties
- Are more likely to be self-employed than Canadian-born individuals
- Increase the tax base by spending money on goods and services

Statistics



- Approximately 85% of all immigrants become Canadian Citizens
- Almost 1-in-5 Canadians has at least one parent that is an immigrant
- Canada's ratio of workers to retirees is 4-to-1 in 2016 and expected to be 2-to-1 by 2035
- (Statistics Canada, 2016 Census)

Stories

Meet Shreya



Shreya and her husband, Narbir, moved here to Halifax, Canada from India with four bags. They came because they wanted to live in a country they respect and a city that is a good place to live.

Shreya says resettling isn't new, as she grew up in a military family that moved every three years. She earned her undergrad degree in journalism in India, worked in Istanbul, and then completed her Master's in Education at the University of Edinburgh. She traveled throughout Europe and Australia before returning to India.

"I always wanted to work for myself in something I could believe in," says Shreya,

As a diversity and inclusion consultant in India, specializing in intercultural management and communication, she facilitated workshops, consulted, and coached people in the business, education, and military sectors.

The couple chose Canada because it has a growing economy and encourages skilled multicultural professionals. "Our lives in India were good, but we came here to make our lives better."

"In whatever form it comes, I will work towards making Nova Scotia more diverse, inclusive, and equitable. What is most important is to do what I'm passionate about and add value to the community."

After only two weeks here, she began a six-week placement at the Nova Scotia Community College, IT campus, in the office of Diversity and Inclusion. "It's been an amazing experience; everyone is so warm and welcoming." She says her skill set has been appreciated. "Knowing that is good for me; it's been a great place for me to grow." Shortly after her placement, Shreya accepted a short-term instructor position at Dalhousie University. She also now volunteers.

Narbir meets with an employment specialist to work on how to enter the Canadian market as an entrepreneur with businesses in sport management and infrastructure, and business consulting.

As their work lives fall into place, so do their personal lives. "Every evening we walk along the waterfront; that's a luxury we didn't have in our city in India." Shreya is optimistic about her contribution. "In whatever form it comes, I will work towards making Nova Scotia more diverse, inclusive, and equitable. What is most important is to do what I'm passionate about and add value to the community."

Sources

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