

VISION: System Change
Inclusive and equitable democracy where newcomer, immigrant and refugee voices play a greater role in shaping Canada

LONG-TERM OUTCOME:
Immigrants and refugees are empowered and have a voice in civic discourse and institutions, including at leadership level

Immigrants are actively engaged in community and/or politics

- Volunteerism • Community Engagement • Political Engagement • Advocacy • Leadership • Voting •



Developing capacity for civic engagement



Immigrants and refugees...

- volunteer
- believe that their participation can bring about change
- participate in formal and informal groups
- use and further develop their civic skills and knowledge

Rebuilding foundations



Immigrants and refugees...

- know how to navigate life and systems in Canada
- access opportunities
- build networks
- join peer groups/communities
- have their basic needs met
- understand their rights and responsibilities

Acquiring a sense of belonging



Immigrants and refugees...

- become confident that they can be contributing members
- begin to develop a new sense of identity
- have opportunities to contribute skills, knowledge, experience
- feel accepted, heard, and valued
- trust their fellow citizens and the system

Influencing factors:

Overarching influencing factor: Previous or current experiences of oppression, discrimination, marginalization.

Individual/personal assets:

education, literacy, language proficiency, health, family, values and attitudes, civic experience, previous ties to Canada

Individual attributes:

open-mindedness, self-confidence, willingness to learn, readiness to change

Motivation to engage:

desire to contribute one's skills and give back, desire to help others, motivation to address issues and negative experiences, belief in the impact of civic participation

Experiences:

The extent to which one's group is represented in organizations, democratic institutions and official politics; the quality of one's experiences with institutions and engagement; feelings of being accepted, heard, understood and respected.

Access:

Access to learning, engagement and economic opportunities, community services, and settlement information.

Intermediaries:

Individuals, mentors, and peer-to-peer models—native-born individuals or of the same ethnic origin with shared immigrant experiences, lived experiences, and/or values.