

# Welcome to Canada



**BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY**



Finding a sense of community, connection and belonging will help you feel more at home in Canada.

## GET CONNECTED

Joining programs offered by settlement service providers and community centres or getting involved in local sports and volunteering can help you meet new people and make friends. These connections may also further your professional goals by creating a network of people to help you find meaningful work.

## SETTLEMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Settlement service providers are a great place to meet people and learn more about your community. These organizations offer programs that can match you with volunteers or mentors to help you feel more at home. Settlement service providers also offer a variety of other programs and social activities, such as conversation circles, sports events and workshops on different topics.

## LOCALLY RUN PROGRAMS

Cities and towns offer many programs that anyone can join. They have programs for children, youth and adults. Examples of these activities include sports, visual arts, music, cooking classes and leadership classes. These programs may vary by season, with summer programs offering more events outside and winter programs focusing on indoor activities. Programs can vary in length of time they are offered. Some are free and others charge a registration fee.



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

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## COMMUNITY CENTRES AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Community centres are places where people of all ages can gather for social activities, recreation, fitness and other programs.

Public libraries provide books, CDs, DVDs, computer access, Internet access, workshops, classes and education to everyone in the community—and their services are completely free! All you need to get a library card is proof of your address. You can then use your library card to borrow books and access services at your local library.

## VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers provide services without pay. Volunteering is very common in Canada, and is a great way to meet new people, experience Canadian workplaces, and practise your English or French skills.

## OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Attending local events, like festivals, will help you meet people and learn about your community and Canada. You can also join neighbourhood associations, and online or in-person social clubs. Examples include cultural clubs, book clubs, game clubs, music clubs, art clubs and dance clubs.

Introduce yourself to your neighbours and tell them you are new to the community. You and your children can meet other families at neighbourhood playgrounds.

Getting involved in your child's school is a great way to meet people, become a part of the school community and support your child's education.

Places of worship can also help you meet people who share similar faiths. Canadians gather in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and private residences to practise their faith.

You can also call 211, check your city's website, explore [Volunteer Canada](https://www.volunteer.ca) online, and visit local libraries, community centres and your local settlement service provider to learn more about getting involved in your community.



## MORE INFORMATION



For more info about building your community visit [canada.ca/newcomers-build-your-community](https://canada.ca/newcomers-build-your-community).



To find newcomer settlement services in your area, visit [canada.ca/find-newcomer-services](https://canada.ca/find-newcomer-services).

