



WELCOMING OTTAWA WEEK

SEMAINE D'ACCUEIL À OTTAWA

Stories and Faces of a Welcoming City: The WOW Ambassador Project



What Makes Us Feel Welcome? The Qualities of a WOW Ambassador

1. Genuine Respect: A feeling of openness, curiosity, interest in others
2. Intercultural bridging: Sharing information and advice to help immigrants understand cultural nuances and the local way of life
3. Hospitality: Embracing newcomers as individuals and as families
4. Opening doors to community: Helping newcomers grow roots in the community through new social and professional networks
5. Friendship & Generosity of spirit: Listening, understanding, reassuring that difficulties will pass.

Ambassador: Abai Coker

Nominator: Salome Atandi

'I told him my story, my hopes, my goals, my needs. He told me a lot about settlement, about studying, working and community. Being welcomed like that means being treated with dignity, having somebody to listen to you, somebody who will give you a helping hand... That open door was so important.'

— Salome





Ambassadrice: Vicki Trudel

Co-ordonnatrice des programmes jeunesse

Nominatrice: Claudia Pinto et quatres autres nominateurs

'Être avec elle m'apprend que je n'ai pas besoin de changer ma personnalité ou mes valeurs pour m'intégrer à un nouveau pays. Être accueillie comme ça me fait sentir chez moi et me donne un sentiment d'appartenance.'

— Claudia

Ambassadeur: Charles Tshimanga

Conseiller en emploi, WorldSkills

Nominatrice: Elise Edimo

'Charles inspire à ces clients la confiance dont ils ont besoin pour réussir... Chaque fois que j'apprends qu'une personne vient d'arriver à Ottawa, je lui dis qu'il faudra absolument rencontrer Charles.'

— Elise





Ambassador: Wendy Alexis

Teacher

Nominator: Paul and O'Chang Galuak

'All it takes is one gesture from one person and you receive back 1,000 times what you give. I've learned about resilience from Paul, I've learned about transcendence and the incredible power of the human spirit. Welcoming is the thread that connects us all.'

— Wendy

Ambassadors: Ann & Roger Bird
Artist & journalism professor

Nominator: Alice Musabende

'Ann and Roger opened my eyes to a different way of life and allowed me to see my own place here. That's what it is to be welcomed - it's a window into the real lives of people that allows you to craft your own life here.'

— Alice





Ambassador: Heather Pugh

Owner, Flow Pilates

Nominator: Carrie Cuhaci

'If you don't have a community welcoming you, you can feel alone and disenfranchised... Heather introduced me to dozens of people, told me where to shop, what I needed to keep me warm in the winter, and made me part of her family. Getting to know Heather was the first time I thought my new life could be as rich and full as the one I left.'

— Carrie

Ambassadors: Beatrice & Ben Osome

Retired nurse and retired physiotherapist

Nominator: George Ogwelo

'When you meet that person, you open yourself fully to understand who he is and how we can help him. I like to say that Canada brings people in and then we take over.'

— Ben





**Ambassadrice: Mélanie
Gamache**

Enseignante

Nominatrice: Yvonne
Katchunga

‘Mélanie a mis un sourire sur les visages de mes enfants de par l’amour qu’elle leur prodiguait ... Lorsqu’on ressent la présence de quelqu’un à vos côtés, cela vous donne le courage d’avancer.’

— Yvonne

Ambassador: Eleanor Henderson

Retired ESL teacher

Nominator: Grace John

'Eleanor found a job for me when I first came. She is my second mother and my whole family loves her. I was lucky that when I arrived, Eleanor was waiting for me. I was never lost.'

— Grace





Ambassador: Pierre Charest
Agronomist

Nominator: Ephrem Nisrane

'If someone like Pierre hadn't helped me, I would have ended up continuing in maintenance — and I would wonder why I ever studied chemical engineering. He made me feel strong and confident. I just got a job in my field. It's a dream come true and it's thanks to Pierre's advice.'

— Ephrem

Ambassador: Yvette Yende-Ashiri

PR & communications professional

Nominators: Rawan Dallahseh,
Sabine Daniel and others

'By having cultures helping other cultures, you build each other. When a community responds to immigrants in a positive way and embraces them, they will only do well. This is why Canada is a country of choice. The more welcoming we are, the more we all win.'

— Sabine



With Deepest Appreciation

to

J. David Andrews, Photographer

With Thanks
To Our Sponsors

canvaspopTM

With Thanks To Our Sponsors

Imagine your name here!

Contact OLIP to host the WOW
Ambassador Exhibit in your
workplace, community hall or
place of worship