



Ideas on types of Welcoming Ottawa Week (WOW) events you can host



Need ideas for what type of event to host?

Plan an event that showcases your involvement with immigrants and refugees; celebrates what immigrants and refugees contribute to our community; or creates new bonds between neighbours.

There is a wide range of types of events you can hold. This document will suggest ideas that fit into the WOW categories of events, which are:

- ❖ Educational
- ❖ Engagement
- ❖ Arts, Culture & Entertainment
- ❖ Formal
- ❖ Sports
- ❖ Celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary



Educational Events

- Organize a book launch and invite your favorite author to speak to your colleagues, friends, or neighbours about a topic related to immigration, refugees, settlement, and integration.
- Plan walking tours of significant public sites or neighbourhoods, with an attention to history and the contribution of immigrants.
- Hold film/documentary screenings to generate discussion on topics related to aspects of a welcoming community & immigration integration.
- Organize an open house to be more accessible to immigrants and refugees.
- Organize academic seminars on topics related to diversity and welcoming communities.

Engagement Events

- Arrange picnics or food tastings in your neighborhood, at your workplace, or for your volunteers.
- If you are an elected official, organize meet-and-greets for your constituents and learn more about new immigrants and refugees in your riding.
- Plan a town hall meeting to discuss community challenges or opportunities in relation to immigrant / refugee settlement and integration.
- Organize on-campus or in the community get-togethers for international students and help new students find connections in the community.
- Plan a lunch & learn session at your workplace, for example, employee potlucks to celebrate diversity in the workplace and to learn more about your colleagues.

Arts, Culture, and Entertainment Events

- Organize art or photo exhibitions that portray Ottawa residents' migration and integration stories.
- Organize a theatrical segment to bring attention to particular challenges encountered by immigrants in their integration journey.
- Hold hands-on, learning workshops on painting, quilting, dancing, or cooking - to discover new ways of doing things.
- Plan concerts featuring diverse takes on the same genre of music, or showcasing diverse musicians.
- Organize a poetry, writing, or comedy contest for youths to tell stories of their families' migration histories.
- Conduct restaurant tours in business communities such as Chinatown and Little Italy.

Formal Event

- Register your citizenship ceremony as a WOW event and record new citizens' reflections on formally obtaining the Canadian citizenship, and share these stories.
- Use WOW to launch a new community initiative that fosters a welcoming environment for newcomers.
- Hold your fundraising dinner during the Welcoming Ottawa Week and dedicate part of the proceeds to supporting immigrant settlement and integration.
- Organize a fashion show featuring non-mainstream clothing styles, such as African fabric and fashion, Islamic modest fashion, or antique jewelry from different parts of the world.

Sport Events

Host a sporting tournament/event that brings together old and new residents. For example:

- Soccer
- Tai chi
- Badminton
- Cricket



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Canada's 150th Anniversary



- Demonstrate your national pride by hosting an event that celebrates the contributions of immigrants to our shared history.
- Host a pre-Canada Day birthday street party and invite newcomers to participate in the festivities by sharing food, music or a cultural dance performance from their native country.
- If you are already hosting a Canada 150th anniversary event, just involve immigrants or refugees and it can also be a WOW event!



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WELCOMING OTTAWA WEEK



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