



OLIP OTTAWA LOCAL
IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

PLIO PARTENARIAT LOCAL POUR
L'IMMIGRATION D'OTTAWA



WELCOMING OTTAWA WEEK

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



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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:

- ❖ Guided Tours
- ❖ Business & Entrepreneurship
- ❖ Sports Activities & Tournaments
- ❖ Food Related Events
- ❖ Design & Creativity
- ❖ Cultural Activities
- ❖ Poetry, Music & Story Telling
- ❖ Learning Events
- ❖ Civic Engagements
- ❖ Documentary/ Film Screening



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Guided Tours:

- Plan walking tours of significant public sites, such as the Parliament of Canada, City Hall, Rideau Hall, museums, historic sites, etc.
- Conduct restaurant tours in business communities such as China town & Little Italy.



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Business & Entrepreneurship:

- Organize a job searching networking event to discover the immigrant talent pool.
- Organize entrepreneurship events such as entrepreneurship debates, startup fairs, venture competitions to promote immigrant entrepreneurs.
- Plan a lunch & learn session at your workplace to celebrate diversity in the workplace and to learn more about your colleagues.
- Organize employer meet & greet to learn about your employees' diverse cultures.



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Sports Activities

Host a sporting tournament/event that brings together old and new residents such as:

- Soccer
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Rugby
- Cricket
- Tai chi
- Yoga
- Badminton



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Food Related Events

- Arrange picnics or food tastings in your neighborhood; at your workplace; or for your volunteers.
- Organize cooking classes.
- Organize restaurant tours.
- Organize employee potlucks.



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Design & Creativity:

- Organize a fashion show featuring non-mainstream clothing styles, such as African fabric and fashion, Islamic modest fashion; antique jewelry from different parts of the world.
- Organize events showcasing artistic and intellectual contribution of immigrants.



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Cultural 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.



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Poetry, Music & Story Telling

- Organize a theatrical segment to bring attention to particular challenges encountered by immigrants in their integration journey.
- Plan concerts featuring diverse take 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.



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Learning 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.
- Organize an open house to be more accessible to immigrants and refugees.
- Organize webinars / seminars on topics related to diversity and welcoming communities.



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Civic Engagement Events:

- If you are an elected official, organize meet-and-greets for your constituents and get to know the 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.
- Hold your fundraising dinner during the Welcoming Ottawa Week and dedicate part of the proceeds to supporting immigrant settlement and integration.
- Register your citizenship ceremony as a WOW event and record new citizens' reflection on formally joining the Canadian citizenship; and share these stories.
- Use the WOW platform to launch a new community initiative that fosters a welcoming environment for newcomers.



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Documentary / Film Screening:

- Hold a film / documentary screenings to generate discussion on topics related to aspects of a welcoming community & immigration integration
- Organize a documentary screening followed by a panel discussion on topics adversely affecting marginalized communities such as the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health, racism, housing, etc.



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Deadline: Saturday, May 31, 2025

For more information contact

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